

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-22-36 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Fiebelkorn, Benton, Davis

1 RESOLUTION

2 DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP OPERATING
3 PROCEDURES FOR SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES

4 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque's most recent 2021 Point-In-Time
5 Count showed at least 1,567 people in Albuquerque were experiencing
6 homelessness; and

7 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque currently does not have enough
8 shelter space to house the entire homeless population in Albuquerque; and

9 WHEREAS, the current crisis of homelessness is impacted by a broad
10 number of other societal challenges, including the growth of poverty and
11 inequity, and the erosion of state and federal investments in our criminal
12 justice, mental health, substance abuse, foster care, and safety net systems,
13 which have compounded a crisis that requires the response of not just
14 government, but the entire community; and

15 WHEREAS, unregulated homelessness encampments can be found in all
16 areas of the City in various, often unsafe, places; and

17 WHEREAS, service providers report difficulty in providing services to
18 homeless individuals on an ongoing basis due to the transient nature of
19 homeless; and

20 WHEREAS, many individuals who are experiencing homelessness report
21 barriers to staying in congregate shelters where they are forced to separate
22 overnight from a spouse or an animal; and

23 WHEREAS, individuals experiencing homelessness deserve safety with
24 ability to maintain similar autonomy to what housed individuals might enjoy;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, many cities nationally are experiencing great success with Safe
2 Outdoor Space concepts; and

3 WHEREAS, the City's focus on solutions for people who are homeless
4 should be a roof-over-head and services to connect individuals with a pathway
5 toward long-term housing, however, the current capacity of our housing and
6 homeless services continuum cannot meet the needs of all those who are
7 homeless and, as an alternative, Safe Outdoor Spaces can offer a sense of
8 safety and community while seeking longer-term housing options; and

9 WHEREAS, Safe Outdoor Spaces would be a first step in stabilizing a
10 homeless individual's situation so the individual can focus on longer-term
11 stability, including permanent housing and wrap-around services; and

12 WHEREAS, the 2021 annual update to the City's Integrated Development
13 Ordinance contemplates the addition of a specific land use designation titled
14 "Safe Outdoor Spaces" that would be allowed either conditionally or
15 permissively in certain zone districts; and

16 WHEREAS, the implementation of the Safe Outdoor Spaces concept will
17 require certain procedures and safeguards to be in place that may be beyond
18 the general scope of the IDO; and

19 WHEREAS, the intent of this resolution is to direct the development of such
20 procedures and safeguards to help ensure that the Safe Outdoor Spaces
21 concept can be implemented as effectively as possible while managing the
22 potential impacts of these unique land uses.

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
24 ALBUQUERQUE:

25 SECTION 1. The Family and Community Services Department, the
26 Environmental Health Department and the Albuquerque Community Safety
27 Department, and/or any other relevant department as determined by the City
28 Administration, are directed to develop operating procedures for Safe Outdoor
29 Spaces that promote the health, safety, and welfare of the served population,
30 while helping to mitigate potential impacts on the surrounding communities.
31 The operating procedures for safe outdoor spaces should, at a minimum,
32 address the following:

- 1 1. Management plans or security agreements to ensure the safety of
- 2 individuals occupying the designated spaces.
- 3 2. Guidance on the layout and spacing of tent sites
- 4 3. A description of the types of social services and support facilities
- 5 required at each Safe Outdoor Space
- 6 4. A good neighbor agreement with directly impacted neighbors.
- 7 5. Ongoing community and resident involvement programs.

8 SECTION 2. The City Administration shall submit the operating procedures
9 described in Section '1' to the City Council for its receipt. This submission
10 shall be made to the Clerk of the Council in the form of an Executive
11 Communication by no later than August 1, 2022.