

# **CITY of ALBUQUERQUE**

## **TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL BILL NO. M-22-4 ENACTMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**SPONSORED BY: Klarissa Peña**

**1 MEMORIAL**

**2 CONSIDERATION OF AN EXEMPTION FOR THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE**  
**3 FROM NEW MEXICO STATE STATUTE 3-12-1.1, WHICH REQUIRES CITY**  
**4 COUNCIL DISTRICTS TO BE CONTIGUOUS.**

**5 WHEREAS, New Mexico State Statute, NMSA 1978, § 3-12-1.1 requires in**  
**6 part that “members of governing bodies, excluding mayors, of municipalities**  
**7 having a population in excess of ten thousand shall reside in and be elected**  
**8 from single-member districts... Such districts shall be compact and**  
**9 contiguous and composed of populations as nearly equal as practicable”; and**

**10 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures defines of**  
**11 contiguity as “All parts of a district being connected at some point with the**  
**12 rest of the district”; and**

**13 WHEREAS, in the 2020 Census, Albuquerque has a population of 564,550**  
**14 residents; and**

**15 WHEREAS, the City Charter established nine City Council districts for**  
**16 Albuquerque; and**

**17 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande runs north/south through the middle of city, and**  
**18 bisects the municipal footprint with only a relatively narrow connection across**  
**19 the two sides; and**

**20 WHEREAS, the east-west division is heightened by the few number of**  
**21 Council districts that cross the river; and**

**22 WHEREAS, Albuquerque has a unique geography and could benefit from**  
**23 City Council districts that are compact, and meet other traditional principles of**  
**24 redistricting, but the contiguity requirement can be overly burdensome and**  
**25 may not be in the best interest of the City given its unique geographic**  
**26 footprint.**

**BE IT MEMORIALIZED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:**

**Section 1. The Albuquerque City Council supports the consideration of an  
exemption to New Mexico State Statute 3-12-1.1 to exempt City Council  
Districts in Albuquerque from being required to be “contiguous”.**

**Section 2. The City Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Memorial to  
the City of Albuquerque State Legislative Delegation.**