

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-23-97 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

1 RESOLUTION

2 PRIORITIZING THE MAINTENANCE, RESTORATION, AND ACTIVE USE OF THE
3 ATCHISON, TOPEKA, AND SANTA FE RAILWAY FIRE STATION.

4 WHEREAS, the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Fire Station
5 (Firehouse) was built in 1920 and is part of the 27 acre Rail Yards site; and

6 WHEREAS, the Firehouse is the oldest remaining fire station in the city;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the Firehouse was built to house the Atchison, Topeka, and
9 Santa Fe Fire Department, to serve the railroad's shop and roundhouse
10 complex; and

11 WHEREAS, the Firehouse was designed by E. A. Harrison, in the
12 picturesque revival style, and conveys the railroad architect's romantic
13 images of the Southwest; and

14 WHEREAS, the Firehouse is made from rough, random ashlar
15 sandstone, quarried from Laguna Pueblo, and salvaged from the Rail Yard's
16 original 1881 roundhouse; and

17 WHEREAS, the Firehouse became a City Landmark in 1987, with
18 development guidelines adopted in 1990; and

19 WHEREAS, the Firehouse is a contributing structure within the Historic
20 Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Locomotive Shops Historic District,
21 which was added to the State Register of Cultural Properties and the National
22 Register of Historic Places in 2014; and

23 WHEREAS, the Firehouse is noted in the Rail Yards Master Plan (2014)
24 as a structure for preservation; and

25 WHEREAS, the Rail Yards Master Plan includes the following policy,
26 Architecture and Historic Rehabilitation Policy 5.2.1 "Rehabilitate and/or

[+Bracketed/Underscored Material+] - New
[-Bracketed/Strikethrough Material-] - Deletion

1 adaptively re-use historic resources: The historic resources represented by
2 the Rail Yards should be rehabilitated and adaptively reused in plans for
3 economic ventures, cultural amenities, and physical changes to the site.”; and

4 WHEREAS, the City has been working on physical improvements to the
5 Rail Yards, including the replacement of the Boiler Shop and Tender Repair
6 roofs in 2021, rehabilitation of the Blacksmith Shop in 2013 and the creation of
7 the Plaza in 2019; and

8 WHEREAS, the Firehouse has become increasingly dilapidated; and

9 WHEREAS, the Firehouse’s prominent location on the 2nd Street edge of
10 the property makes the building vulnerable to vandalism; and

11 WHEREAS, given the Firehouse’s unique history and architectural style,
12 it’s prominent location on the edge of the site, the Firehouse is an appropriate
13 priority for maintenance, restoration, and active use.

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
15 ALBUQUERQUE:

16 SECTION 1. The maintenance, restoration, and active use of the
17 Firehouse on the Rail Yards site shall be a priority for 2023, and for the work
18 on the Rail Yards site. The building shall be secured from unlawful entry and
19 vandalism.

20 SECTION 2. The Administration shall present on a six monthly basis to
21 the City Council on progress on the restoration of the building, and potential
22 future uses and tenants for the building.

23 SECTION 3. Maintenance, and restoration of the Firehouse shall be a
24 funding priority for the City, including in the Capital budget and State Capital
25 Outlay.