

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. M-22-8 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Tammy Fiebelkorn and Trudy Jones

1 MEMORIAL

2 THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES THE
3 DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2); HONORS THE
4 SACRIFICES THAT ESSENTIAL WORKERS HAVE MADE TO PROTECT AND
5 SAVE LIVES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES; DECLARES SUPPORT FOR A
6 PERMANENT COVID-19 MEMORIAL TO BE LOCATED IN BERNALILLO
7 COUNTY ON STATE TRUST LANDS TO HONOR THE VICTIMS OF COVID-19.

8 WHEREAS, COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) is an illness caused by a virus that can
9 transmit from person to person and has spread across the world, creating a
10 global pandemic having catastrophic effects on human life, our community,
11 and our economy; and

12 WHEREAS, Local and state governments, health departments, Native
13 leadership, and public servants have taken bold actions to protect residents,
14 support struggling local economies, and find innovative ways to provide
15 services; and

16 WHEREAS, In response to the rapid spread of COVID-19 and stay-at-home
17 orders, essential workers have stepped up to provide critical services to help
18 protect our communities and save lives, sacrificing their own health and
19 safety; and

20 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-income
21 and communities that face systemic racism, exacerbating inequities already
22 prevalent in our systems that we must address as a nation; and

23 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the Native American
24 community, with Native Americans losing 6 years of life expectancy, and has
25 caused the incalculable loss of elders who carried with them the communities'
26 cultures, languages, traditions; and

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1 WHEREAS, Public health guidance and policies targeted at prevention,
2 such as social distancing, wearing masks in public, and staying home help
3 mitigate the spread of COVID-19, prevent illness, and lessen the burden on
4 individuals and society; and

5 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has harmed the health and well-being of children by
6 reducing access to care and health services, disrupting schooling,
7 undermining their sense of safety and security, increasing stress on
8 caregivers, and tragically robbing 250,000 children of a parent or caregiver;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The symptoms and severity of COVID-19 can vary dramatically
11 by individual and the long-term health implications for survivors are largely
12 unknown, as many survivors suffer with lingering side-effects of the disease
13 long after they no longer test positive; and

14 WHEREAS, More than 6.5 million people worldwide and over 1,065,152
15 people in the United States have lost their lives due to COVID-19, and in New
16 Mexico alone, more than 8,607 lives have been lost to this deadly virus; and,

17 WHEREAS, Each life lost to COVID-19 mattered and leaves a hole in the
18 hearts of loved ones, family members, and the surrounding community.

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

21 Section 1. The City of Albuquerque supports the designation of a
22 permanent COVID-19 Memorial to be located in Bernalillo County on State
23 trust land, for those who lost their lives and in honor of those who are forever
24 marked by COVID-19 and continue to suffer from the impact of the pandemic.
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