CITY of ALBUQUERQUE TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-23-183 ENACTMENT NO. SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton, Tammy Fiebelkorn, Renée Grout 1 RESOLUTION 2 REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES TO 3 PLAN, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCT AN OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL SPACE AT 4 THE WESTSIDE EMERGENCY HOUSING CENTER. PROVIDING AN 5 APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. 6 WHEREAS, homelessness is a pressing and ongoing issue affecting 7 individuals and families in our community, and it is our moral and social 8 responsibility to address this crisis effectively; and 9 WHEREAS, the largest homeless shelter in our community, the Westside 10 Emergency Housing Center (WEHC), has been serving those in need for many 11 years, but it is in need of significant improvements to better meet the basic 12 needs and safety of its residents; and 13 WHEREAS, a safe and supportive shelter environment is essential to help 14 individuals experiencing homelessness regain their stability and work towards 15 self-sufficiency; and 16 WHEREAS, the recent economic challenges and unforeseen circumstances **17** have led to an increase in the number of people seeking shelter and services. 18 making it crucial to enhance our shelter facilities; and 19 WHEREAS, investing in the WEHC is a long-term solution that can contribute 20 to improving the quality of life for all residents; and 21 WHEREAS, every person who lives in Albuquerque deserves a safe and 22 inviting outdoor recreational space to improve their physical and mental well-23 being; and WHEREAS, creating an improved outdoor recreational space is an 24 25 opportunity to foster a sense of community, belonging, and hope among shelter 26 residents, which can be a crucial element in their journey toward stability and

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self-sufficiency; and

1	WHEREAS. Enhancing the outdoor recreational space of the WEHC aligns
2	with our commitment to providing holistic and comprehensive support to those
3	in need, recognizing that their well-being extends beyond just shelter and food;
4	and
5	WHEREAS, by investing in the outdoor recreational space at the WEHC, we
6	are investing in the resilience and potential of individuals experiencing
7	homelessness, which will contribute to their ability to transition into stable
8	housing and employment; and
9	WHEREAS, it is our responsibility to create a shelter environment that not
10	only provides for the basic needs of residents, but also supports their personal
11	growth, social connections, and future opportunities.
12	BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
13	ALBUQUERQUE:
14	SECTION 1. The Department of Family and Community Services is directed
15	to plan, design, and construct an outdoor recreational space at the Westside
16	Emergency Housing Center (WHEC) with the following objectives:
17	1. To create a safe and welcoming environment that promotes the well-
18	being and social interaction of shelter residents.
19	2. To provide facilities and amenities suitable for recreational activities,
20	exercise, relaxation, and community gatherings.
21	3. To ensure adequate outdoor shade and seating, making the space
22	suitable for year-round use for shelter residents.
23	4. To provide spaces for pets of WEHC residents to exercise.
24	5. To ensure the outdoor space is accessible to all shelter residents,
25	including those with disabilities.
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