CITY of ALBUQUERQUE TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-23-183 ENACTMENT NO. R-2023-099

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton, Tammy Fiebelkorn, Renée Grout

| 1 | RESOLUTION |
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| 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 |
| 20 | contribute 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 |
| 24 | WHEREAS, creating an improved outdoor recreational space is an |
| 25 | opportunity to foster a sense of community, belonging, and hope among |
| 26 | shelter residents, which can be a crucial element in their journey toward |
| 27 | stability and 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
- 3 those in need, recognizing that their well-being extends beyond just shelter
- 4 and food; 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
- 11 personal 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.
- 26 SECTION 2. The following appropriation is hereby made to the Capital
- 27 Program to the specific funds and projects as indicated below for Fiscal Year
- 28 2024:

| 29 | | | Increase |
|----|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 30 | <u>Department</u> | Source | (<u>Decrease</u>) |
| 31 | Family & Community Services | | |
| 32 | Homeless Encampments | 2021 GO BOND | (75,000) |
| 33 | WEHC Outdoor Rec Space | 2021 GO BOND | 75,000 |
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