

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY-SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. O-24-3 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Joaquín Baca and Klarissa J. Peña, by request

1 **ORDINANCE**

2 **DESIGNATION OF THE CENTRAL AVENUE BRIDGE CROSSING SITE AS A**
3 **CITY LANDMARK.**

4 **WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 3-22-3 NMSA 1978 of the Historic District**
5 **and Landmark Act the City Council, the governing body of the City of**
6 **Albuquerque, has the authority to adopt zoning districts designating certain**
7 **areas as historical areas and to adopt and enforce regulations and restrictions**
8 **within such districts relating to the erection, alterations and destruction of**
9 **those exterior features of buildings and other structures subject to public view**
10 **from any public street, way or other public place; and**

11 **WHEREAS, the authority conferred by the Historic District and Landmark**
12 **Act is consistent with the authority of the City Council to amend the zone map**
13 **for the physical development of the areas within the planning and platting**
14 **jurisdiction of the City as authorized by Section 3-19-5 NMSA 1978, and by the**
15 **City of Albuquerque's home rule powers; and**

16 **WHEREAS, the protection, reuse, and enhancement of significant**
17 **buildings, districts, and sites is a goal of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County**
18 **Comprehensive Plan; and**

19 **WHEREAS, the property owner, consents to the designation of the property**
20 **as a City of Albuquerque Landmark; and**

21 **WHEREAS, the Central Avenue Bridge over the flood-prone Rio Grade was**
22 **essential for transcontinental highway traffic to travel through New Mexico**
23 **with every vehicle that went through Albuquerque on Route 66 from 1937 to**
24 **1983 traveling over two versions of the Central Avenue Bridge; and**

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1 WHEREAS, the Landmarks Commission, in its advisory role on historic
2 preservation matters has recommended City Council approval of the landmark
3 designation; and

4 WHEREAS, the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) Subsection 14-16-
5 6-7(C) provides for designation of landmark sites and structures; and

6 WHEREAS, the Landmarks Commission, on April 12, 2023, recommended
7 that the City Council approve a designation of City Landmark Site on Central
8 Avenue between Tingley Drive and Sunset Road; and

9 WHEREAS, the construction and implementation of the bridge in 1930 was
10 the final event that helped federal officials accept the Santa Rosa-Laguna
11 shortcut in New Mexico and realign Route 66 east-west through Albuquerque;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the construction of the Central Avenue Bridge in 1930 was the
14 final state funded structure that motivated federal officials to reroute Route 66
15 and save 107 miles of travel.

16 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
17 ALBUQUERQUE:

18 SECTION 1: That the Central Avenue Bridge Site be designated a City
19 Landmark, as shown in Exhibit A.

20 SECTION 2: SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, paragraph, sentence,
21 clause, word or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or
22 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
23 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance. The Council
24 hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section,
25 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
26 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

27 SECTION 3: OFFICIAL ZONING MAP. The City Planning Department shall
28 update the official Zoning Map to reflect the adopted City Landmark
29 designation for the Central Avenue Bridge Crossing Site over the Rio Grande
30 River.

31 SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect five days
32 after publication by title and general summary.

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