EC-26-285

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Office of the Mayor

One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM 87103
Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM September 29, 2026

TO: Klarissa J. Peña, President, City Council

FROM: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

SUBJECT: Mayor's appointment of Ms. Ayanna Zahra to the African American Advisory Board.

I am submitting for your advice and consent the following name for appointment to the African American Advisory Board in accordance with the City of Albuquerque Ordinance 2-6-21-1.

APPOINTEE NAME	**TERM**
Ms. Ayanna Zahra Albuquerque, NM 87123	October 15, 2027

Ayanna Zahra is Director of Strategic Partnerships and Business Operations at Olive Tree Compounding Pharmacy in Rio Rancho, where she has worked since March 2024. She built the pharmacy's marketing department, and under her direction monthly compound revenue grew from about $60,000 to more than $100,000 by the end of 2025. She manages partnerships with New Mexico hospitals, private practices, and other organizations, including an internship-to-employment program that saves the company an estimated $80,000 a year in hiring costs. She also runs mentorship programs with the University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico Community College, and area public schools. Ms. Zahra holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Design from the Savannah College of Art and Design and has completed continuing education in applied business science and AI prompting through UNM. She brings experience in partnership building, mentorship, and community outreach to the African American Advisory Board.

A resident of Council District 9, Ms. Ayanna Zahra will serve as a Community Subject Matter Expert; their first term will expire on October 15, 2027.

The remaining members are:

	Representing	Name	Term
1.	African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico	Rita Powdrell	At Pleasure
2.	Albuquerque Police Department Black Ambassador(s)	Officer Rob Duren	At Pleasure
3.	Albuquerque Public Schools AA Equity & Engagement Coordinator	Vacant	At Pleasure
4.	Baptist Ministers Union	Rev. Darnell Smith	At Pleasure
5.	Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico	Karla Causey	At Pleasure
6.	Center for New Mexico Black Excellence	Patrick Barrett	At Pleasure
7.	Community Subject Matter Expert	Vacant	
8.	Community Subject Matter Expert	Vacant	
9.	Community Subject Matter Expert	Vacant	
10.	Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission	Declined to Participate	At Pleasure
11.	Ministers Fellowship	Bishop David C. Cooper	At Pleasure
12.	NAACP Albuquerque Branch	Clarence Smith	At Pleasure
13.	New Mexico Black Lawyers Association	Felecia Adams	At Pleasure
14.	New Mexico Black Leadership Council	Rachel Mwadi	At Pleasure
15.	State of New Mexico Office of African American Affairs	Jordan Locke	At Pleasure
16.	University of New Mexico African American Student Services	Ava Silver	At Pleasure
17.	University of New Mexico Hospital - African American Community Liaison	Nicole Bedford-Jacobs	At Pleasure

Samantha Sengel, Chief Administrative Officer

10/01/26

Date