CITY of ALBUQUERQUE TWENTY-FIRST COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. <u>R-14-55</u> ENACTMENT NO. SPONSORED BY: Klarissa Peña, Ken Sanchez, Isaac Benton 1 RESOLUTION 2 COMMISSIONING A STUDY TO ASSESS THE GAPS IN THE CITY'S FUNDING 3 FOR CERTAIN SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS; APPROPRIATING FUNDING FOR THAT PURPOSE; EXPRESSING PRIORITIES FOR THE USE OF THE 4 PORTION OF THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TAX AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL 5 **IMPROVEMENTS.** 6 7 WHEREAS, it is important that the City Council begins to restore the 8 public's confidence in APD by resolving some of the underlying issues that 9 have plagued our community and that have led us to this point; and 10 WHEREAS, while not part of their formal recommendations, the DOJ Deletion 11 mentioned the need to address the mental health crisis we have in the city; +Bracketed/Underscored Material+] - New 12 and 13 WHEREAS, we can longer use the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) to -Bracketed/Strikethrough Material-] -14 house our residents with severe mental health and substance abuse issues: 15 and 16 WHEREAS, we *must* invest in prevention and intervention programs and 17 accessible inpatient and outpatient mental health services. Without 18 addressing these needs and the lack of other services such as services 19 relating to homelessness and to the developmentally disabled, the problems 20 in our community will persist; and 21 WHEREAS, families throughout the city struggle to find help for family

members who suffer from the above-mentioned issues and are forced to deal
with them alone. More often than not, the individual never receives the help
they need and families anguish over how best to help their loved ones; and
WHEREAS, there are only six psychiatric hospital beds available at UNM;
and

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WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Detention Center is the largest mental health
 institution in our state. 60% of the MDC population is either mentally ill, has
 severe substance abuse problems or both; and

WHEREAS, mentally ill individuals released from the MDC receive only
three days' worth of medication and no other follow up assistance is provided;
and

7 WHEREAS, 70% of the homeless struggle with mental illness and/or
8 substance abuse issues; and

9 WHEREAS, we need to develop coordination efforts between

10 governmental, quasi-governmental, community based and non-profit mental

11 health providers with local law enforcement and incarceration

12 agencies/institutions to ensure the safety of the mentally ill and the public;

13 and

WHEREAS, the City Council has proposed a new "Essential Services Tax",
from which 50% of the revenue generated will pay for the types of programs
that are needed to help reverse the mental health crisis here in Albuquerque.

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF18 ALBUQUERQUE:

Section 1. The Director of Council Services is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with a consultant to study and assess the gaps in the City's funding for inpatient and outpatient mental health services, services related to homelessness, the developmentally disabled, substance abuse and at-risk populations. As a part of the study, the consultant will hold at least one public forum with the community at large and one public forum with service providers to gather their input and suggestions.

The consultant will then submit the results of the study, together with recommendations for areas which may need additional funding through the Essential Services Tax, to the City Council within 120 days.

Section 2. The Council hereby declares that the priority for the use of the
revenue generated by the 50% portion of the Essential Services Tax dedicated
to capital improvements shall be for either cash or bond funding of projects
that relate to behavioral health, homelessness, the developmentally disabled,
substance abuse and at-risk populations. Examples of such projects might

1	include, but not be limited to, the conversion of the winter emergency shelter
2	into a year-round homeless facility and/or the construction of, or assistance in
3	the construction of, an inpatient mental health facility on the west side.
4	Section 3. Thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000) is hereby appropriated
5	within the General Fund (110) to the Council Services Department in FY/13 to
6	carry out the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution.
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