

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY FIRST COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. F/S R-14-73 ENACTMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton and Brad Winter

1 RESOLUTION

2 SUPPORTING A PROJECT WITH BERNALILLO COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE  
3 OF IMPLEMENTING A HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR PERSONS  
4 WITH MENTAL ILLNESS BEING RELEASED FROM THE METROPOLITAN  
5 DETENTION CENTER.

6 WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted M-14-5 affirming the seriousness  
7 of the mental health crisis within the State of New Mexico and Bernalillo  
8 County; and

9 WHEREAS, a 2006 Bureau of Justice Statistics report estimated that 64% of  
10 persons who were incarcerated had a mental health problem; and

11 WHEREAS, there are approximately 970 individuals on the Psych Services  
12 Unit caseload at the Metropolitan Detention Center; and

13 WHEREAS, several studies have shown that mental illness among  
14 incarcerated persons is associated with higher incidences of homelessness  
15 and that these individuals have mental health and substance abuse issues at  
16 10% – 22% higher rates than incarcerated persons without prior  
17 homelessness; and

18 WHEREAS, persons incarcerated at the Metropolitan Detention Center  
19 receive physical and mental health care but upon release these services often  
20 are no longer available; and

21 WHEREAS, the County of Bernalillo is desirous of collaborating with the  
22 City of Albuquerque in providing housing, behavioral health and social  
23 services to persons with mental illness upon release from the Metropolitan  
24 Detention Center; and

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1 WHEREAS, the City is committed to participating with the County in  
2 providing critically needed services to those persons being released from the  
3 Metropolitan Detention Center; and

4 WHEREAS, the City has significant experience in administering housing  
5 programs based on the Housing First model; and

6 WHEREAS, the City Council, through M-14-5, has established a Task Force  
7 that will identify needs and opportunities for service strategies that will benefit  
8 our community, including addressing the mental health crisis and  
9 homelessness.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF  
11 ALBUQUERQUE:

12 Section 1. That the City Council is committed to a collaborative effort  
13 with the County of Bernalillo to improve services for persons who are being  
14 released from the Metropolitan Detention Center and are homeless and  
15 experiencing mental health issues.

16 Section 2. That in addition to those persons being released from  
17 incarceration, there are a yet-to-be determined number of people who are  
18 homeless who also suffer from mental illness and are in need of housing and  
19 supportive services. The City Council is also committed to applying its  
20 resources to meet the needs of the homeless and persons with mental illness  
21 not addressed by the proposed project.

22 Section 3. That the City Council is also committed to the transparent,  
23 objective and collaborative process outlined in M-14-5 involving the Task  
24 Force and Working Group to develop strategies and provide the City Council  
25 with recommendations regarding services and programs that will benefit not  
26 only our community but especially people with mental health issues.

27 Section 4. That the City Council will determine the exact amount of its  
28 participation in the County program upon receipt of the recommendations  
29 from the Task Force and the Working Group.

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