

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIRST COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. F/S P-14-5 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Klarissa Peña

1 PROPOSITION

2 ADOPTING A PROPOSITION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AT THE
3 NEXT GENERAL ELECTION CONCERNING THE IMPOSITION OF A ONE-
4 EIGHTH OF ONE PERCENT MUNICIPAL GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FOR
5 ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

6 WHEREAS, it is important that the City Council begin to restore the public's
7 confidence in APD by resolving some of the underlying issues that have plagued
8 our community and that have led us to this point; and

9 WHEREAS, while not part of its formal recommendations, the DOJ
10 mentioned the need to address the mental health crisis in our City; and

11 WHEREAS, we can longer use the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) to
12 house residents with severe mental health and substance abuse issues; and

13 WHEREAS, we must invest in prevention and intervention programs and
14 accessible inpatient and outpatient mental health services. Without addressing
15 these needs and the lack of other services such as services relating to
16 homelessness and to the developmentally disabled, the problems in our
17 community will persist; and

18 WHEREAS, families throughout the city struggle to find help for family
19 members who suffer from the above-mentioned issues and are forced to deal
20 with them alone. More often than not, the individual never receives the help
21 they need and families anguish over how best to help their loved ones; and

22 WHEREAS, there are only six psychiatric hospital beds available at UNM; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Detention Center is the largest mental health
2 institution in the state – sixty percent of the MDC population is either mentally
3 ill or has severe substance abuse problems or both; and

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

6 WHEREAS, seventy percent of the homeless struggle with mental illness
7 and/or substance abuse issues; and

8 WHEREAS, the city needs to develop coordination efforts between
9 governmental, quasi-governmental, community based and non-profit mental
10 health providers, and with local law enforcement and incarceration
11 agencies/institutions to ensure the safety of the mentally ill and the public; and

12 WHEREAS, the City Council has proposed a new municipal gross receipts tax
13 (the "Essential Services Tax"), revenue from which will pay for the types of
14 programs that are needed to help reverse the mental health crisis in
15 Albuquerque.

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

18 Section 1. That the City Clerk is instructed to place the following proposal
19 on the next general election ballot in cooperation with Bernalillo County, and
20 the qualified voters of the City of Albuquerque shall be permitted to vote "for"
21 or "against" the following proposal:

22 PROPOSITION

23 PROPOSING TO IMPOSE A ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PERCENT MUNICIPAL
24 GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES, DEDICATED
25 SPECIFICALLY AND ONLY TO THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES: 50% TO
26 PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBLE INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT
27 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SERVICES RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS,
28 THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND AT-RISK
29 POPULATIONS; AND 50% FOR SERVICES OR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
30 RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH, HOMELESSNESS, THE DEVELOPMENTALLY
31 DISABLED, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS.

Section 2. Should the voters approve the imposition of an Essential Services Gross Receipts Tax, no portion of the revenues of the Tax shall be used to pay for any portion of the salaries or benefits of City employees, other than indirect costs and overhead. The Essential Services Tax may only be used for net new services through new providers or the expansion of services from existing providers.

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