

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIRST COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-14-105 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

1 RESOLUTION

2 IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR THE
3 CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE.

4 WHEREAS, certain conduct of the Albuquerque Police Department relating
5 to use of force and tactical approaches to law enforcement has been heavily
6 criticized; and

7 WHEREAS, improvement of the police department will require a refocus on
8 certain key principals of law enforcement, including but not limited to those
9 focused on preventative action, trust building, and peacekeeping as opposed
10 to reaction and escalation; and

11 WHEREAS, certain key principles of quality, effective law enforcement have
12 been known for centuries, including “Sir Robert Peel’s Principles of Law
13 Enforcement” from 1829; and

14 WHEREAS, Peel’s principles remain relevant to Albuquerque’s law
15 enforcement needs; and

16 WHEREAS, when considered together with other key principles of law
17 enforcement, including but not limited to principles of community policing,
18 constitutional policing and the policies and principles that may result from the
19 City’s cooperation with the Department of Justice, consideration of Peel’s
20 principles will be helpful in developing a higher quality police function; and

21 WHEREAS, when considered with the aforementioned principals, Peel’s
22 principles will be helpful in defining the desired relationship between our
23 community and its police force; and

24 WHEREAS, both the residents of the City and City’s law enforcement
25 officers deserve to be part of a cooperative and effective law enforcement

1 system based on respect for community rights and values as well as respect
2 for the authority and role of the police, and Peel's principles embody this
3 principle.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
5 ALBUQUERQUE:

6 Section 1. In addition to other appropriate policies and principles
7 resulting from the City's cooperation with the Department of Justice and
8 Community Stakeholders, Sir Robert Peel's Principles of Law Enforcement are
9 hereby identified as useful and important principles and shall help guide the
10 City's policing philosophy:

11 "Sir Robert Peel's
12 Principles of Law Enforcement
13 1829

14 1. The basic mission for which police exist is to prevent crime and
15 disorder as an alternative to the repression of crime and disorder by military
16 force and severity of legal punishment.

17 2. The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon
18 *public approval* of police existence, actions, behavior and the ability of the
19 police to secure and maintain *public respect*.

20 3. The police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in
21 voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain public
22 respect.

23 4. The degree of cooperation of the public that can be secured
24 diminishes, proportionately, to the necessity for the use of physical force and
25 compulsion in achieving police objectives.

26 5. The police seek and preserve public favor, not by catering to public
27 opinion, but by constantly demonstrating absolutely impartial service to the
28 law, in complete independence of policy, and without regard to the justice or
29 injustice of the substance of individual laws; by ready offering of individual
30 service and friendship to all members of society without regard to their race or
31 social standing, by ready exercise of courtesy and friendly good humor; and
32 by ready offering of individual sacrifice in protecting and preserving life.

1 6. The police should use physical force to the extent necessary to
2 secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of
3 *persuasion, advice and warning* is found to be insufficient to achieve police
4 objectives; and police should use only the minimum degree of physical force
5 which is necessary on any particular occasion for achieving a police objective.

6 7. The police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public
7 that gives reality to the historic tradition that *the police are the public* and *the*
8 *public are the police*; the police are the only members of the public who are
9 paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen
10 in the intent of the community welfare.

11 8. The police should always direct their actions toward their functions
12 and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary by avenging individuals
13 or the state, or authoritatively judging guilt or punishing the guilty.

14 9. The test of police efficiency is the *absence* of crime and disorder, not
15 the *visible evidence* of police action in dealing with them.”

16 Section 2. SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause,
17 word, or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or
18 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
19 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this resolution. The Council
20 hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution and each section,
21 paragraph, sentence, clause word phrase irrespective of any provisions being
22 declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.