CITY of ALBUQUERQUE TWENTY-FIRST COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. <u>M-14-6</u> ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Klarissa Peña, Isaac Benton, Ken Sanchez

1 **MEMORIAL** 2 SUPPORTING BERNALILLO COUNTY'S ADOPTION OF TWO PROPOSITIONS 3 PLACING ADVISORY QUESTIONS ON THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 GENERAL **ELECTION BALLOT: FIRST, THE PROPOSITION ASKING VOTERS WHETHER** 4 THE COUNTY SHOULD IMPOSE A ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PERCENT COUNTY 5 6 **GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ADULTS** 7 AND CHILDREN IN THE ALBUQUERQUE; AND, SECOND, THE PROPOSITION ASKING VOTERS WHETHER THEY SUPPORT STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS 8 9 TO DECRIMINALIZE POSESSION OF ONE OUNCE OR LESS OF MARIJUANA. 10 WHEREAS, the Bernalillo County Commission understands the critical 11 need to expand behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services for 12 adults and children residing in Bernalillo County; and WHEREAS, the community *must* invest in prevention and intervention 13 14 programs and accessible inpatient and outpatient mental health 15 services. Without addressing these needs and the lack of other services such 16 as services relating to homelessness, substance abuse and to the developmentally disabled, the problems in our community will persist; and

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, a one-eighth of one percent county-wide gross receipts tax will
generate an additional \$20 million each year that will provide badly needed
additional behavioral health and substance abuse services for at-risk adults
and children; and

1 WHEREAS, making criminals of individual who are in possession of small 2 amounts of marijuana is not good public policy and wastes tax resources that 3 could be used for a better purpose; and 4 WHEREAS, many cities and states have decriminalized marijuana 5 possession, and the trend towards decriminalization is accelerating; and 6 WHEREAS, decriminalization of the possession of one ounce or less of 7 marijuana will relieve many of the current stresses on the Metropolitan 8 **Detention Center; and** 9 WHEREAS, decriminalization of marijuana is an important step in creating 10 more sensible drug policies; and 11 WHEREAS, because it is so important, voters should be allowed to weigh 12 in and advise their elected officials of their opinion on the matter. 13 NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF 14 ALBUQUERQUE, STATES:

Section 1. That the Albuquerque City Council supports the Bernalillo
County Commission in placing two advisory questions on the general election
ballot, one related to the imposition of a one eighth percent tax for Behavioral
Health Services and one related to reducing penalties for possession of one
ounce or less of marijuana.

Section 2. That the Albuquerque City Council encourages voters to study these issues seriously and to vote in the November 4, 2014 general election so as to give their elected officials the best sense of the voters opinion on these two important issues facing our community.

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