CITY of ALBUQUERQUE
TWENTY-FIRST COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO.   F/S M-14-6   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

4   ELECTION BALLOT: FIRST, THE PROPOSITION ASKING VOTERS WHETHER

5   THE COUNTY SHOULD IMPOSE A ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PERCENT COUNTY

6   GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ADULTS

7   AND CHILDREN IN THE ALBUQUERQUE; AND, SECOND, THE PROPOSITION

8   ASKING VOTERS WHETHER THEY SUPPORT STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS

9   TO DECRIMINALIZE POSESSION OF ONE OUNCE OR LESS OF MARIJUANA.

10   WHEREAS, the City Council understands the critical need to expand

11   behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services for adults and

12   children residing in Bernalillo County; and

13   WHEREAS, the community must invest in prevention and intervention

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

17   developmentally disabled, the problems in our 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, the Behavioral Health Task Force completed their deliberations

23   on October 2, 2014 and prioritized the following services to address the critical

24   behavioral health care needs in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County: A

25   stabilization response center for those experiencing sub-acute symptoms of

26   mental or behavioral health crisis; intensive case management services; and

27   housing service; and

1   WHEREAS, a one-eighth of one percent county-wide gross receipts tax

2 would generate $20 million each year that will provide badly needed additional

3 behavioral health and substance abuse services for at-risk adults and

4 children; and

5   WHEREAS, because behavioral health and substance abuse services are

6 so important, voters should be allowed to weigh in and advise their elected

7 officials of their opinion on the matter; and

8   WHEREAS, making criminals of individual who are in possession of small

9 amounts of marijuana is not good public policy and wastes tax resources that

10 could be used for a better purpose; and

11   WHEREAS, many cities and states have reduced the penalties for

12 marijuana possession, and that trend is accelerating; and

13   WHEREAS, reduced penalties for the possession of one ounce or less of

14 marijuana will relieve many of the current stresses on APD and the

15 Metropolitan Detention Center; and

16   WHEREAS, reduced penalties for marijuana is an important step in creating

17 more sensible drug policies; and

18   WHEREAS, because is the issue of reduced penalties is so important,

19 voters should be allowed to weigh in and advise their elected officials of their

20 opinion on the matter.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF

22 ALBUQUERQUE, STATES:

23   Section 1. That the Albuquerque City Council supports the placement of

24 two advisory questions on the general election ballot, one related to the

25 imposition of a one eighth percent tax for Behavioral Health Services and one

26 related to reducing penalties for possession of one ounce or less of

27 marijuana.

28   Section 2. That the Albuquerque City Council encourages voters to study

29 these issues seriously and to vote in the November 4, 2014 general election so

30 as to give their elected officials the best sense of the voters opinion on these

31 two important issues facing our community.

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