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1 of Consistency, where the existing pattern of uses, density, and intensity is to
2 be maintained and reinforced over time; and

3 WHEREAS, the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) was drafted as
4 part of a citywide effort to update and replace the City’s 40-year-old, 1970s-era
5 Comprehensive Zoning Code, and as the primary regulatory tool to implement
6 the Comp Plan for land within the municipal boundaries of the City of
7 Albuquerque; and

8 WHEREAS, the IDO’s stated purpose is to implement the Comp Plan;
9 ensure that all development in the City is consistent with the intent of other
10 plans and policies adopted by City Council; ensure provision of adequate
11 public facilities and services for new development; protect quality and
12 character of residential neighborhoods; promote economic development and
13 fiscal sustainability of the City; provide efficient administration of City land
14 use and development regulations; protect health, safety, and general welfare
15 of the public; provide for orderly and coordinated development patterns;
16 encourage conservation and efficient use of water and other natural
17 resources; implement a connected system of parks, trails, and open spaces to
18 promote improved outdoor activity and public health; provide reasonable
19 protection from possible nuisances and hazards and to otherwise protect and
20 improve public health; and encourage efficient and connected transportation
21 and circulation systems for motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians; and

22 WHEREAS, the IDO was drafted to be consistent with and implement Comp
23 Plan goals and policies; and

24 WHEREAS, the IDO helps to implement Comp Plan goals and policies by
25 providing a set of zone districts (§14-16-2) that range from low intensity to
26 high intensity and designating the appropriate mix of land uses in each zone
27 district; and

28 WHEREAS, with the adoption of the IDO, the City Council adopted zoning
29 conversion rules for approximately 750 categories of Special Use zones that
30 were site-specific (i.e. SU-1 zones), approximately 450 Special Use zones
31 established by the adoption of Sector Development Plans (i.e. SU-2 and SU-3
32 zones), and approximately 20 base zones from the Comprehensive Zoning
33 Code to convert pre-existing zone districts to base zone districts established

1 by the IDO in the Official Zoning Map (§14-16-1-6) that matched as closely as
2 possible the permissive uses in each zone; and

3 WHEREAS, the intent of the IDO was to update the City’s land use and
4 zoning framework to protect the character of existing development and to
5 regulate future development without eliminating or limiting the ability of
6 lawful, existing land uses to continue after the IDO’s adoption; and

7 WHEREAS, the City understands that predictability of zoning and
8 compatibility of land use and zoning are essential in order to maintain and
9 strengthen economic value and viability for property owners and businesses,
10 and to ensure appropriate and adequate protections for neighboring
11 properties; and

12 WHEREAS, the Official Zoning Map is used to apply land use regulations in
13 the IDO to development throughout the city and in decision-making for zoning
14 map amendments and long-range planning; and

15 WHEREAS, an accurate and transparent Official Zoning Map is critical to
16 the City’s role in providing for the health, welfare, and safety of the public; and

17 WHEREAS, updating the Official Zoning Map to better match zoning with
18 existing land uses is consistent with the objectives of the IDO and the Comp
19 Plan and benefits the City and property owners by eliminating
20 nonconformities where appropriate and improving the accuracy of information
21 and regulatory requirements for individual parcels; and

22 WHEREAS, many uses developed legally on properties either before City
23 zoning was established in 1959, before City zoning actions in subsequent
24 years that disallowed particular uses in particular zones, or before the IDO
25 established different allowable uses in the new zone districts, making such
26 existing uses legally nonconforming; and

27 WHEREAS, many properties in the City have developed with a low-density
28 residential use (e.g. townhouse, duplex, or single-family detached house) in
29 zones that otherwise would have allowed more dense and more intense uses,
30 and converting these properties to a zone district that allows less dense and
31 less intense uses with the permission of the property owner will help preserve
32 neighborhood stability and land use predictability – thus advancing two
33 leading objectives of the City’s in the area of land use regulation; and

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1 WHEREAS, there are many properties with two or more zone districts
2 covering a single lot (whether based on plat or deed) for a variety of historical
3 reasons, which has resulted in a floating zone line that cannot accurately be
4 associated with any actual recorded boundary for purposes of implementing
5 the respective zoning requirements of the multiple zones; and

6 WHEREAS, there are many undeveloped properties that had former Special
7 Use (SU) or R-D zoning, which often required further review and decision
8 processes to define allowable uses, that converted in Phase 1 to zones that
9 may not accurately allow uses matching those that were previously
10 anticipated and that may be otherwise inconsistent with surrounding land use
11 and zoning patterns; and

12 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Phase 1 conversion rules, many properties
13 were converted to PD (which properties may or may not have an approved Site
14 Plan) or NR-BP (which properties may or may not have an approved Master
15 Development Plan) even though they do not all meet the size thresholds for
16 those zone districts established by the IDO, and although this may not impact
17 the ultimately usability of those properties, it does present a nonconformity
18 that can otherwise be cured; and

19 WHEREAS, City Council Resolution 18-29 directed the Planning
20 Department to create a Phase 2 zoning conversion process to evaluate,
21 analyze, process, and recommend citywide zoning conversions consistent
22 with the Comprehensive Plan and the IDO implementation goals, wherein
23 property owners would voluntarily convert the zoning on their properties to
24 address one or more of 5 following issues that were known at the time of the
25 IDO adoption but not resolved by the initial zoning conversion that became
26 effective as of May 17, 2018: 1) Nonconforming use(s), 2) Voluntary downzone,
27 3) Floating zone line(s), 4) Prior Special Use (SU) or R-D zoning, and 5) Size
28 thresholds for PD and NR-BP; and

29 WHEREAS, City Council Resolution 18-29 directed the Planning
30 Department to evaluate each property whose owner submitted a request and
31 agreement form to determine whether it reasonably falls within at least one of
32 the 5 identified criteria and decline to process those that do not; and

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1 WHEREAS, for properties to be eligible through the nonconforming use
2 criterion, Planning Department staff determined that the existing use had to
3 have been legally allowed when the use began or that the use began before
4 the City established regulations on that use; and

5 WHEREAS, for properties to be eligible through the voluntary downzone
6 criterion, Planning Department staff determined that the property was zoned
7 R-T, R-ML, R-MH, MX-T, MX-L or MX-M and had an existing low-density
8 residential use (e.g. single-family detached house, duplex, or townhouse), and
9 that there was a less intense or less dense zone district that still allowed the
10 existing use and was compatible with surrounding land use and zoning
11 patterns or that the property had a City park or Major Public Open Space in a
12 zone that was not NR-PO; and

13 WHEREAS, for properties to be eligible through the floating zone line
14 category, Planning Department staff determined that the property had to have
15 2 zone districts on one parcel – either a platted parcel (as mapped by AGIS) or
16 deeded parcel (as mapped by the Bernalillo County Assessor); and

17 WHEREAS, for properties to be eligible through the prior Special Use (SU)
18 or R-D zoning criterion, Planning Department staff determined that the
19 property had to be undeveloped (i.e. contained no structure up to the time the
20 Phase 2, Batch 2 properties were submitted to the Environmental Planning
21 Commission (EPC) for review and recommendation) and had previously been
22 zoned SU-1, SU-2, SU-3, or R-D; and

23 WHEREAS, for properties to be eligible through the size threshold criterion
24 for PD or NR-BP, Planning Department staff determined that a property zoned
25 PD had to be less than 2 acres in size or greater than 20 acres in size or that a
26 property zoned NR-BP had to be less than 20 acres in size and not part of an
27 approved Master Development Plan; and

28 WHEREAS, properties zoned NR-BP that are less than 20 acres in size and
29 part of an approved Master Development Plan are governed by the Master
30 Development Plan, and changing the zoning on those properties would make
31 it less transparent to the fact that they would still be governed by the Master
32 Development Plan unless the Master Development Plan were amended to
33 remove those properties from the Master Development Plan boundary; and

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1 WHEREAS, for those properties whose owners requested conversion to a
2 zone district that did not match or that was not compatible with the land use
3 and zoning pattern of the surrounding area, Planning staff recommended a
4 zoning conversion that was more compatible with the surrounding land use
5 and zoning pattern and that still resolved the relevant issues in the criteria of
6 R-18-29; and

7 WHEREAS, there are many properties with lot lines that differ spatially
8 between platted lots (approved by the City, recorded by the Bernalillo County
9 Clerk, and mapped by AGIS) and deeded lots (recorded and mapped by the
10 Bernalillo County Assessor); and

11 WHEREAS, Phase 2 zoning conversions will be completed only on lots
12 mapped in the AGIS layer “City Parcel”; and

13 WHEREAS, the Planning Department conducted public outreach efforts
14 that included advertisements in print media, online media, and radio; inserts
15 mailed with the Property Tax Bill to all property owners in Albuquerque; an
16 insert mailed with the water bill to all developed properties; direct mailings to
17 property owners of over 30,000 properties that likely qualify for this process;
18 tabling at community events to distribute information; attendance and
19 presentations at Neighborhood Association meetings; and one-on-one office
20 hour appointments; and

21 WHEREAS, owners of 36 eligible properties signed a Property Owner
22 Request and Agreement Form to opt in to the Phase 2 zoning conversion
23 process by the May 17, 2019 deadline and were subsequently submitted as the
24 third batch of properties for review and recommendation by the EPC; and

25 WHEREAS, Planning staff confirmed the eligibility of these Batch 3
26 properties and recommended zoning conversions to address the applicable
27 issues in R-18-29, meet the goals of IDO implementation, and further the goals
28 and policies in the Comp Plan; and

29 WHEREAS, Planning staff found adopted Comprehensive Plan goals and
30 policies that both supported and conflicted with the request to convert 29
31 properties from MX-L to MX-T; and

32 WHEREAS, Planning staff either confirmed the zoning conversion
33 requested by the property owner as appropriate or recommended a more

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1 appropriate zoning conversion given the existing lawful use of the property
2 and the surrounding land use and zoning patterns; and

3 WHEREAS, the voluntary process established by R-18-29 necessarily
4 results in a phased conversion of various parcels on a citywide basis; and

5 WHEREAS, the City amended the Comp Plan in 2001 via R-01-343
6 (Enactment No. 171-2001) to identify Community Planning Areas and provide
7 goals and policies to protect and enhance distinct community identity in each
8 area; and

9 WHEREAS, the Comp Plan describes a Community Planning Area
10 assessment process to provide opportunities for community engagement and
11 analysis of each of the City's 12 Community Planning Areas every 5 years,
12 culminating in an update to the goals and policies in the Comp Plan, as
13 recommended by the assessments; and

14 WHEREAS, the IDO establishes a Community Planning Area assessment
15 process as the City's new process for long-range planning with communities,
16 intended to provide opportunities on a 5-year cycle to analyze and recommend
17 zoning and regulatory changes in specific geographic areas to better
18 implement the Comp Plan; and

19 WHEREAS, concerns about the resulting changes to zoning patterns from
20 Phase 2 zoning conversions can be addressed through Community Planning
21 Area assessments, which may result in recommendations to City Council for
22 future zoning actions for certain neighborhoods, districts, or corridors, as
23 appropriate; and

24 WHEREAS, on October 10, 2019, the EPC, in its advisory role on land use
25 and planning matters, recommended approval of this request (Project 2018-
26 001843, Case RZ-2019-00035), based on findings that support the 7 voluntary
27 downzone requests on the East Side but that recommend rejection of the 29
28 requests for MX-T (a zone that allows single-family development) on the West
29 Side based on the prior Special Use criterion for undeveloped property; and

30 WHEREAS, the EPC found that the request for 29 properties to convert
31 from MX-L (a zone that allows both non-residential development and
32 residential development but not single-family residential development) to MX-
33 T (a zone that allows both non-residential development and residential

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1 development, including single-family residential development) was not
2 compatible with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan, particularly
3 Policy 5.2.1.k that discourages changes of zoning that would allow more
4 single-family uses on the West Side.

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
6 ALBUQUERQUE:

7 Section 1. ZONING CONVERSION RULES. The City Council hereby adopts
8 zoning conversion rules for the 7 properties in Batch 3 of the Phase 2 zoning
9 conversion process as listed in Exhibit 1.

10 Section 2. OFFICIAL ZONING MAP. The City Planning Department shall
11 update the Official Zoning Map to reflect the adopted zoning conversion rules
12 for the Batch 3 properties in Exhibit 1.

13 Section 3. SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause,
14 word or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or
15 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
16 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance. The Council
17 hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section,
18 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
19 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

20 Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect five days
21 after publication by title and general summary.

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