CITY of ALBUQUERQUE TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. <u>0-20-19</u> ENACTMENT NO.

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton and Lan Sena, by request

1 ORDINANCE 2 AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 9, PART 1 OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES 3 OF ALBUQUERQUE, "CIVIL EMERGENCY POWERS," TO ADD NEW SECTIONS CREATING THE ALBUQUERQUE EMERGENCY ANTI-PRICE GOUGING 4 5 ORDINANCE. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE 6 7 **CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:** 8 SECTION 1. Chapter 2 R.O.A. 1994 is amended to renumber and replace 9 Section 2-9-1-8 and add Sections 2-9-1-9 through Section 2-9-1-17, the 10 Albuquerque Emergency Anti-Price Gouging Ordinance, as follows: § 2-9-1-8 FINDINGS AND INTENT. The City Council finds that, pursuant to Chapter 2, Article 9 R.O.A. 1994 et seq., during a declared state of emergency, it is in the public interest to prohibit price gouging in the conduct of any trade or commerce in the City. During times of emergency, some sellers may take unfair advantage of consumers by greatly increasing prices for vital goods and services. The City Council also finds that, during times of emergency, the public health, safety, and welfare are best served when the community unites to protect and serve all Albuquerque residents, including our most vulnerable populations. Price gouging during an emergency must not put vital goods and services, such as food, medicine, and emergency supplies, out of the reach of the Albuquerque residents who need them.

While under ordinary conditions the pricing of consumer goods and
services is generally best left to the marketplace, when abnormal disruptions
of the market result from a declared state of emergency, the public interest
requires that excessive and unjustified increases in the prices of vital goods

1 and services be prohibited, pursuant to Chapter 2, Article 9 R.O.A. 1994 et.

2 seq.

The City Council finds that an anti-price gouging ordinance will protect the City of Albuquerque and its residents from excessive and unjustified increases in the prices charged for goods and services that are vital and necessary to the health, safety, or welfare of consumers during or shortly after a declared state of emergency.

8 § 2-9-1-9 SHORT TITLE.

9 These sections shall be referred to as the "Albuquerque Emergency Anti10 Price Gouging Ordinance" and may sometimes be referred to herein as "the
11 anti-price gouging ordinance."

12 § 2-9-1-10 DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of the anti-price gouging ordinance, the following terms shall
have the stated meaning unless the context clearly requires a different
meaning:

PERSON. Any person, agent, firm, partnership, association, corporation,
company, organization, or entity of any kind, except a governmental body or
entity.

19 TRADE OR COMMERCE has the meaning it has under NMSA 1978, § 57-1220 2 and as New Mexico regulation or case law has interpreted the term(s) under
21 NMSA 1978, Chapter 57 and includes the advertising, offering for sale or
22 distribution of any services and any property and any other article,
23 commodity, or thing of value, including any trade or commerce directly or
24 indirectly affecting the people of the City of Albuquerque.

CITY ATTORNEY. The City Attorney or their attorney designee.

ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY. A Zoning Enforcement Officer, as defined under Chapter 14, Article 16, Part 6, Section 2(B)(1)(c) R.O.A. 1994, other City Planning Department personnel, including, but not limited to, Building Safety personnel; Environmental Health Department personnel; the Fire Marshal or their authorized personnel; and other City personnel designated by the City Attorney to conduct inspections and related duties pursuant to the anti-price gouging ordinance.

33 § 2-9-1-11 PRICE GOUGING PROHIBITED.

1 Upon the declaration of a state of emergency by the federal government, 2 the Governor of New Mexico, or the Mayor of the City of Albuquergue, or any 3 extension thereof, and for a period of 30 days following the last date of 4 termination of any such declared state of emergency, it is unlawful for any person to sell or offer to sell any consumer good, or provide any service, 5 6 including, but not limited to, food items or goods, goods or services used for 7 emergency cleanup, emergency supplies, medicine, medical supplies, 8 sanitation supplies, personal hygiene products, home heating oil, firewood, 9 heating or cooling device or related energy source material, building 10 materials, radios and other communication devices, batteries, generators, 11 housing, transportation, freight, storage services, gasoline, or other motor 12 fuels:

A. For a price of more than 20 percent greater than the price charged by
 that person for those goods or services immediately prior to the first
 declaration of emergency; or

B. If the person did not sell such goods or provide such services within the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of the first declaration of emergency, for a price of more than 20 percent greater than the average price in the local Albuquerque market immediately prior to the first declaration of emergency.

§ 2-9-1-12 EXCEPTIONS.

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A price increase otherwise barred by Section 2-9-1-11 is not unlawful if that person can prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the increase in price is no more than 20 percent greater than the total of the cost to such person selling, plus the markup customarily applied by such person selling that good or service in the usual course of business, immediately prior to the first state of emergency declaration:

A. And was directly attributable to:

- 1. Additional costs imposed on it by the supply chain;
- 2. Additional costs for labor and materials used to provide the services;
- 323. Another market force over which the person does not exercise33control; or

	1	4. Any combination thereof; or
	2	B. The City Economist or their designee documents their finding that,
	3	for reasons of public health, safety, or welfare, it is in the best
	4	interests of the City of Albuquerque and its residents to pay the price
	5	currently offered by the seller.
	6	§ 2-9-1-13 CIVIL INVESTIGATIVE DEMAND.
	7	A. Whenever the City Attorney believes that any person may be in
	8	possession, custody, or control of any document that the City
	9	Attorney believes to be relevant to the investigation of a probable
	10	violation of the anti-price gouging ordinance, the City Attorney may
	11	execute in writing and cause to be served upon the person a civil
	12	investigative demand. A "document" includes, but is not limited to,
	13	an original or copy of any book, record, recording, report,
	14	memorandum, paper, communication, tabulation, map, chart,
	15	photograph, mechanical transcription, or any other tangible or
	16	electronic document or recording.
	17	B. At the City Attorney's sole discretion, the City Attorney may serve a
, u	18	civil investigative demand prior to issuance of a warning letter or
[] - New - Deletion	19	notice of violation, in conjunction with issuance of a warning letter or
		notice of violation, or prior to the institution of a civil proceeding.
teria rial]	21	C. A civil investigative demand requires the person to produce
I Ma	22	documentary or electronic material and permit the inspection and
orec gh l	23	copying of the material. The demand of the City Attorney shall not be
<u>Prou</u>	24	a matter of public record and shall not be published except by order
<u>iket</u>	25	of the court.
[Bracketed/Underscored Material] [Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] -	26	D. Each demand shall:
	27	1. State the general subject matter of the investigation;
	28	2. Describe the classes of documentary and electronic material
	. 29	to be produced with reasonable certainty;
	30	3. Prescribe the return date within which the documentary and
	31	electronic material is to be produced, which in no case shall
	32	be less than ten days after the date of service; and

	1	4.	Identify the members of the City Attorney's staff to whom such
	2		documentary and electronic material is to be made available
	3		for inspection and copying.
	4	E. No de	emand shall:
	5	1.	Contain any requirement that would be unreasonable or
	6		improper if contained in a subpoena duces tecum issued by a
	7		court of this state;
	8	2.	Require the disclosure of any documentary or electronic
	9		material that would be privileged, or that for any other reason
	10		would not be required by a subpoena duces tecum issued by a
	11		court of this state; or
	12	3.	Require the removal of any documentary or electronic material
	13		from the custody of the person upon whom the demand is
	14		served except in accordance with the provisions of
	15		Subsection E.
	16	F. Servi	ce of demand may be made by:
	17	1.	Delivering a duly executed copy thereof to the person to be
, uo	18		served, or if the person is not a natural person, to the statutory
- New Deletion	19		agent for the person or to any officer of the person to be
	20		served;
<u>aterial]</u> t erial] -	21	2.	Delivering a duly executed copy thereof to the principal place
<u>Ma</u>	22		of business in this state of the person to be served; or
ored ah A	23	3.	Mailing by registered or certified mail a duly executed copy of
irsco	24		the demand addressed to the person to be served at their
[Bracketed/Underscored Materia Bracketed/Strikethrough Material]	25		principal place of business in this state, or, if the person has
Stri	26		no place of business in this state, to their principal office or
sted sted	27		place of business.
Brac acke	28	G. Docu	mentary and electronic material demanded pursuant to the
Шф	29	provi	sions of this Section 2-9-1-13 shall be produced for inspection
	30	and c	opying during normal business hours at the principal office or
	31	place	of business of the person served or may be inspected and
	32	copie	d at such other times and places as may be agreed upon by the
	33	perso	on served and the City Attorney.

1 H. No documentary or electronic material produced pursuant to a 2 demand, or copies thereof, shall, unless otherwise ordered by the 3 district court in the county in which the person resides or has his 4 principal place of business, or is about to perform or is performing the trade or commerce method, act, or practice that is alleged to be 5 unlawful under the anti-price gouging ordinance, for good cause 6 shown, be produced for inspection or copying by anyone other than 7 8 an authorized employee of the City Attorney, nor shall the contents 9 thereof be disclosed to anyone other than an authorized employee of 10 the City Attorney, or in court in an action relating to a violation of the 11 anti-price gouging ordinance.

12 I. At any time before the return date of the demand, a petition to set 13 aside the demand, modify the demand, or extend the return date 14 thereon may be filed in the district court in the county in which the person resides or has their principal place of business, or is about to 15 16 perform or is performing the trade or commerce method, act, or 17 practice that is alleged to be unlawful under the anti-price gouging 18 ordinance, and the court upon a showing of good cause may set 19 aside the demand, modify it, or extend the return date of the demand.

> J. After service of the investigative demand upon them, if any person neglects or refuses to comply with the demand, the City Attorney may invoke the aid of the court in the enforcement of the demand. In appropriate cases, the court shall issue its order requiring the person to appear and produce the documentary and electronic material required in the demand and may upon failure of the person to comply with the order punish the person for contempt.

K. This section shall not be applicable to criminal prosecutions.

§ 2-9-1-14 ENFORCEMENT

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A. Enforcement.

Police Powers. Any person violating the anti-price gouging
 ordinance is subject to the home rule and police powers of the
 City to adopt and enforce ordinances necessary to the safety,
 health, and welfare of the public. Any conflict between the

1		provisions of the anti-price gouging ordinance and any other
2		present or future lawful exercise of the City's police powers
3		shall be resolved in favor of the latter.
4	2.	In addition to issuance of a civil investigative demand, as set
5		forth in Section 2-9-1-13, the City Attorney is authorized to
6		undertake such activities as are reasonable and necessary to
7		enforce the anti-price gouging ordinance. At the option of the
8		City Attorney, the City Attorney may initiate enforcement with
9		a civil investigative demand, Notice of Violation, or in a court
10		of competent jurisdiction.
11	3.	Compliance Inspections. The City Attorney shall designate the
12		Enforcement Authority to conduct compliance inspections and
13		related duties pursuant to the anti-price gouging ordinance as
14		follows:
15		a) Undisclosed Inspections.
16		i. The Enforcement Authority may conduct an
17		undisclosed inspectorial search of the public areas
		of a building, premises, or vehicle(s) at all
81 New Deletion 05 Deletion		reasonable times, including during business hours.
· ^C 20		b) Consensual Inspections.
aterial] - New erial] - Deletion 61		i. The Enforcement Authority may conduct an
		inspectorial search, with the voluntary consent of
<u>əl</u> 46 23		an occupant or custodian of the building, premises,
		or vehicle(s) to be inspected, who reasonably
[Bracketed/Underscored Mi Bracketed/Strikethrough Mat 5 2 2 2 5 5 5 6 2 2 2 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5		appears to the Enforcement Authority to be in
1/ <u>9</u>		control of the of the building, premises, or
27		vehicle(s) to be inspected, or who is otherwise
8 28		authorized to give such consent.
		ii. Before requesting consent for an inspectorial
30		search, the Enforcement Authority shall inform the
31		person to whom the request is directed of the
32		authority under and purposes for which the
33		inspection is to be made and shall, upon demand,
		_

	1		exhibit an identification card or official City					
	2		document evidencing their authority to make such					
	3		inspections.					
	4	iii.	Inspections undertaken pursuant to this					
	5		Subsection shall be carried out with due regard for					
	6		the convenience and privacy of the occupants, and					
	7		during the daytime unless, because of the nature of					
	8		the premises, the convenience of the occupants,					
	9		the nature of the possible violation or other					
	10		circumstances, there is a reasonable basis for					
	11		carrying out the inspection at night.					
	12	iv.	Unless advance notice would be likely to cause the					
	13		suspected violation to be temporarily eliminated so					
	14		as to frustrate enforcement, notice of the purpose					
	15		and approximate time of an inspectorial search of					
	16		an area not open to the general public shall be sent					
	17		to the occupants or custodians of the building,					
uo	18		premises, or vehicle(s).					
- Deletion	19	c) No	onconsensual Inspections.					
Ď l'	20	i.	Upon sufficient showing that required consent to					
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material]	21		an inspectorial search has been refused or is					
Aate	22		otherwise unobtainable within a reasonable period					
gh A	23		of time, the City Attorney may make application to					
rou	24		the applicable district court for an inspection					
tet	25		order/search warrant. Such application shall be					
/Str	26		made to a district court having jurisdiction over the					
eted	27		building, premises or vehicle(s) to be searched.					
ack	28		Such application shall set forth the following					
ਯੂ	29		information:					
	30		A. The particular building, premises,					
	31		vehicle(s), or portion of a building,					
	32		premises, or vehicle(s) sought to be					
	33		inspected.					

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1 B. That the owner or occupant of the building, 2 premises, or vehicle(s) has refused entry. 3 C. That inspection of the building, premises, or vehicle(s) is necessary to determine 4 whether they comply with the requirements 5 of the anti-price gouging ordinance. 6 7 D. Any other reason necessitating the 8 inspection, including knowledge or belief 9 that a particular method, act, or practice is 10 occurring in the building or vehicle(s) or on the premises that is a violation of the anti-11 12 price gouging ordinance. 13 E. That the Enforcement Authority is 14 authorized by the City to make the 15 inspection. 16 ii. The application shall be granted and the inspection 17 order/search warrant issued upon a sufficient 18 showing that inspection in the area where the Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion 19 building, premises, or vehicle(s) in question are 20 located, or inspection of the particular building, 21 premises, or vehicle(s), is in accordance with 22 reasonable legislative or administrative standards, 23 and that the circumstances of the particular 24 inspection for which application is made are 25 otherwise reasonable. The district court shall make 26 and keep a record of the proceedings on the 27 application and enter thereon its finding in 28 accordance with the requirements of the anti-price 29 gouging ordinance. 30 iii. After execution of the inspection order/search 31 warrant or after unsuccessful efforts, as the case 32 may be, the City Attorney shall return the 33 inspection order/search warrant to the district court

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	with a sworn report of the circumstances of
	execution or failure to execute.
4	d) <i>Disclaimer</i> . The anti-price gouging ordinance shall not
	be construed to hold the City or its authorized
	-
	representatives responsible for any damage to
	persons or property by reason of the inspection or
	reinspection authorized hereunder, or failure to
ł	inspect or reinspect, or the issuance of any
	registration, license, or permit, or other adopted City
10	instructions, rules, or regulations.
1 [.]	4. <i>Warning Letter.</i> In the interests of efficiency, prompt
12	compliance, and settlement, in the sole discretion of the City
1:	Attorney, if the City Attorney has reason to believe any person
14	has violated or is violating any provision of the anti-price
1	gouging ordinance, the City Attorney may issue a Warning
10	Letter to such person(s). No person is entitled to a Warning
17	Letter, and Warning Letters are not subject to appeal.
, u 18	5. <i>Notice of Violation.</i> The City Attorney may issue a Notice of
11 - New 15 Deletion 16 - Deletion	Violation to any person who violates any provision of the anti-
	price gouging ordinance. The person may be given an
aterial] terial] -	opportunity to respond to the Notice and correct the violation
Mate Na	within ten (10) days, or in a reasonable amount of time, as
[Bracketed/Underscored Materia [Bracketed/Strikethrough Material]	determined by the City Attorney.
	a) Any person having any title or legal interest in the
pulte 2	person the City Attorney found violated the anti-price
Ularia 1	gouging ordinance may appeal from the Notice of
2 ted	Violation, or any action of the City Attorney or
2 grac	Enforcement Authority, other than a Warning Letter, to
<u> </u>	the Independent Office of Hearings, pursuant to
3	Chapter 2, Article 7, Part 8 R.O.A. 1994 et seq.,
3	provided that the appeal is made in writing and filed
32	within (10) ten days of service of the Notice of

1	Violation. Failure to timely appeal the Notice of
2	Violation makes the Notice effective.
3	6. Civil Fines and Business License.
4	a) The City Attorney, in their sole discretion, may impose
5	civil fines, civil penalties, and other remedies.
6	b) Civil Fine. Any person(s) violating the anti-price
7	gouging ordinance shall be subject the following
8	provisions:
9	i. Each sale or offer in violation of the anti-price
10	gouging ordinance is considered a separate
11	offense;
12	ii. Any person who violates any provision of the anti-
13	price gouging ordinance shall be subject to a civil
14	fine not exceeding \$500;
15	c) Business Registration, License, and Permit.
16	i. The City will not grant or renew a business
17	registration, business license, or business permit
	for a person engaged in trade or commerce in
Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New acketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion 8 2 9 5 7 7 7 7 8 7 8 8 4 8	violation of the anti-price gouging ordinance.
<u>'</u> 20	ii. The City Attorney may revoke the business
<u>Aateria</u> aterial]	registration, business license, or business permit
	of a person the City Attorney, Hearing Officer, or
<u>1 46</u> 23	court has previously found to be in violation of the
[Bracketed/Underscored M Bracketed/Strikethrough Ma 5 2 2 5 5 5 5 6 2 2 5 6 5 6 7 5 6 5 7 5 6 5 7 5 6 5 7 5 6 5 6 7 5 7 5 6 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 6 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7	anti-price gouging ordinance and who has failed to
<u>ppri</u> 22	comply with such order of the City Attorney,
1/pats/	Hearing Officer, or court.
27	iii. EXCEPTION: If a person has come into compliance
82 act Bra	with the anti-price gouging ordinance, then the City
	may grant, renew, or restore the requested
30	business registration, business license, or
31	business permit, so long as the person meets all
32	other business registration, business license, and
33	business permit requirements.

	7. Civil Proceeding. Violation of anti-price gouging ordinance will
	not result in criminal prosecution.
	§ 2-9-1-15 APPEAL / ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING PROCEDURE
4	A. General
į	5. 1. Any person seeking an appeal under the anti-price gouging
	ordinance shall do so by adhering to the procedures
7	established for the Independent Office of Hearings at Chapter
8	2, Article 7, Part 8 R.O.A. 1994 et seq.
ę	B. Enforcement of the Order of the City Attorney or the Hearing Officer.
10) 1. Compliance.
1	a) General. After any order of the City Attorney or
1:	2 Hearing Officer made pursuant to the anti-price
1:	gouging ordinance shall have become final, no person
14	to whom an order is directed shall fail, neglect, or
1	5 refuse to obey such order.
10	b) Any person who fails to comply with any such order is
17	subject to a civil penalty of \$500.
្ត 1	c) <i>Failure to Obey Order.</i> If, after any order of the City
11 - New 15 - Deletion 16 - Deletion	Attorney or Hearing Officer made pursuant to the anti-
	price gouging ordinance has become final, the person
<u>laterial]</u> terial] -	to whom such order is directed shall fail, neglect, or
[Bracketed/Underscored Materia [Bracketed/Strikethrough Material]	2 refuse to obey such order, the City Attorney may:
<u>gh d</u>	i. File a motion to show cause before the Independent
	Office of Hearings within 60 calendar days. If the
Bracketed/Underscored M acketed/Strikethrough Ma	Hearing Officer determines that there is good
1/9 1/Str	cause, the Hearing Officer shall notice a show
2 etec	cause hearing and convene all parties. The show
	cause hearing will be conducted in substantially
2 9	the same manner as an appeal hearing. If the
3	Hearing Officer determines that there is substantial
3 ⁻	evidence that the person(s) to whom the order is
32	2 directed has failed, neglected, or refused to obey
33	such order, then the Hearing Officer shall order that

	1	such person must pay a civil penalty not to exceed
	2	\$500 plus an additional \$100 for each month after
	3	the date of the original order that such person
	4	failed, neglected, or refused to obey. The total civil
	5	penalty shall be paid to the City of Albuquerque in
	6	the manner required by the Hearing Officer.
	7	ii. Remedies in Court. The City, acting through the
	8	City Attorney, may file an action in a court of
	9	competent jurisdiction to enforce an order of the
	10	City Attorney or Hearing Officer. Remedies may
	11	include, but are not limited to:
	12	A. Enjoinment of any person violating the
	13	provisions of the anti-price gouging
	14	ordinance;
	15	B. Other temporary or permanent injunctive
	16	relief;
	17	C. Recovery of civil fines and civil penalties;
<u>o</u>	18	and
eleti	19	D. Restitution on behalf of persons who have
erial] - Deletion	20	been harmed by the price gouging method,
Fial	21	act, or practice.
	22	§ 2-9-1-16 RESTRAINT OF PROHIBITED ACTS; REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS.
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Mat	23	A. Whenever the City Attorney has reasonable belief that any person is
	24	using or has used any trade or commerce method, act, or practice
to H	25	that is unlawful under the anti-price gouging ordinance, and that
1,St	26	proceedings would be in the public interest, they may bring an action
ete	27	in the name of the City alleging violations of the anti-price gouging
	28	ordinance. The action may be brought in the district court of the
ā	29	county in which the person resides or has their principal place of
	30	business or in the district court in any county in which the person is
	31	using or has used the trade or commerce method, act, or practice
	32	alleged to be unlawful under the anti-price gouging ordinance. The
	33	City Attorney acting on behalf of the City of Albuquerque shall not be

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	1	required to post bond when seeking a temporary or permanent
	2	injunction in such action.
	3	B. In any action filed pursuant to the anti-price gouging ordinance, the
	4	City Attorney may petition the district court for temporary or
	5	permanent injunctive relief, civil fines, civil penalties, restitution, and
	6	all other remedies provided by law or equity.
	7	§ 2-9-1-17 EXCLUSIONS
	8	A. No Private Right of Action or Interference. Nothing in the anti-price
	9	gouging ordinance shall be construed to create a private right of
	10	action or preempt, otherwise limit, or affect a private right of action
	11	not arising from the anti-price gouging ordinance. Nothing in the
	12	anti-price gouging ordinance shall be construed to preempt,
	13	otherwise limit, or affect the applicability of any other law, regulation,
	14	rule, requirement, policy, or standard.
	15	B. Non-Limitation of Authority. The remedies provided under the anti-
	16	price gouging ordinance are not exclusive but are supplemental to
	17	all other remedies provided by law or equity.
, uo	18	C. Severability Clause. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause,
] - New - Deletion	19	word, or phrase of the anti-price gouging ordinance is for any reason
		held to be invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent
ed/Underscored Material] Strikethrough Material] -	21	jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the
	22	remaining provisions of the anti-price gouging ordinance. The
orec dh l	23	Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance
<u>ersc</u>	24	and each section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word, or phrase
Inde	25	thereof irrespective of any provision being declared unconstitutional
/Str	26	or otherwise invalid.
[Bracketed/Underscored N Bracketed/Strikethrough Ma	27	D. Compilation. This ordinance shall amend, be incorporated in and
<u>Bra</u>	28	compiled as part of the Revised Ordinances of Albuquerque, New
<u> </u>	. 29	Mexico, 1994.
	30	E. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect seven (7) days after
	31	publication by title and general summary.
	32	§ 2-9-1-[1]8 NON LIMITATION OR INTERFERENCE WITH OTHER AUTHORITY

1	Nothing herein is intended to limit the power or authority of the Mayor with
2	respect to the control and management of the City resources and facilities that
3	generally exists even outside the existence of an emergency. However,
4	notwithstanding the emergency powers authorized herein, closures or
5	limitations for any office or place of gathering or meeting necessary for
6	carrying out the business of the City Council may occur only by order of the
7	City Council.
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CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE Albuquerque, New Mexico Office of the Mayor

Mayor Timothy M. Keller

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

May 20, 2020

TO: Pat Davis, President, City Council

FROM: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

SUBJECT: Proposed Albuquerque Emergency Anti-Price Gouging Ordinance

This legislation creates enforcement and inspection processes for the City Attorney and designated City Enforcement Authorities to protect Albuquerque residents from price gouging during a federal, state, or local declared state of emergency. Potential Enforcement Authorities include the Planning Department, Environmental Health Department, and Fire Marshal.

Under the current emergency declarations, the City would seek federal reimbursement of any costs to enforce this ordinance.

This legislation is consistent with the mission of the Legal Department to represent the City and address issues that may impact its residents' ability to overcome the broad repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and future emergencies.

Proposed Albuquerque Emergency Anti-Price Gouging Ordinance

Approved:

5/20/20

Sarita Nair Date Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

DocuSigned by: Esteban A Aguilar 5/82/2020 7961D99D046F4DB... Esteban A. Aguilar, Jr.

City Attorney

Date

Recommended:

DocuSigned by:

Esteban A. Aguilar, 5421/2020 _____7661D99D046F4DB...

Esteban A. Aguilar, Jr. Date Director

Cover Analysis

1. What is it?

Legislation amending the Civil Emergency Powers Part of Chapter 2, Article 9 of the Revised Ordinances of Albuquerque regarding Civil Emergencies to create the Albuquerque Emergency Anti-Price Gouging Ordinance.

2. What will this piece of legislation do?

This legislation creates enforcement and inspection processes for the City Attorney and designated City Enforcement Authorities to protect Albuquerque residents from price gouging during a federal, state, or local declared state of emergency. The legislation does not create criminal violations and does not provide for a private right of action.

The proposed Albuquerque Emergency Anti-Price Gouging Ordinance provides for an opportunity for voluntary compliance and also allows the City Attorney to seek documents to determine the status of the local market for a particular consumer good or service. A person does not violate the proposed Albuquerque Emergency Anti-Price Gouging Ordinance if the increased cost of a consumer product or service is caused by the supply chain. If a person violates the proposed Ordinance, the City Attorney may select from administrative or judicial processes for enforcement. Under the proposed Ordinance, violators have rights of appeal. Additionally, upon a determination of public interest from the City Economist, the proposed Ordinance permits the City to purchase needed goods and services even though the seller's offer may exceed the limit established in the proposed Ordinance.

3. Why is this project needed?

The State of New Mexico does not have statutes or regulations prohibiting price gouging, even under a declared state of emergency. Consequently, the City of Albuquerque currently has no way to protect Albuquerque residents from those who take advantage of times of emergency to place profit above human life and community need. For instance, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there is currently no recourse for price gouging for disinfectant or consumer goods sold to residents of Albuquerque.

4. How much will it cost and what is the funding source?

At present, the enforcement processes established under the proposed Ordinance would be encompassed under the current budgets and activities of the City Attorney and potential Enforcement Authorities, including the Planning Department, Environmental Health Department, and Fire Marshal. Under the current emergency declarations, the City would seek federal reimbursement of any costs. In the future, depending on the need for enforcement, fines and penalties paid by violators could be used to support the proposed Ordinance's enforcement activities in the respective departments. However, the proposed Ordinance is only operational under declared states of emergency, which are extremely difficult to predict.

5. Is there a revenue source associated with this Plan? If so, what level of income is projected?

Depending on the need for enforcement, fines and penalties paid by violators could be a source of revenue. At present, however, it is very difficult to determine what that level of revenue might be. Moreover, the proposed Ordinance is only operational under declared states of emergency, which are extremely difficult to predict. Under the current emergency declarations, the City would seek federal reimbursement of any costs.

FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

TITLE: ABQ Emergency Anti-Price Gouging OrdinanceR:O:FUND: 110

DEPT: LEGAL

- [X] No measurable fiscal impact is anticipated, i.e., no impact on fund balance over and above existing appropriations.
- [] (If Applicable) The estimated fiscal impact (defined as impact over and above existing appropriations) of this legislation is as follows:

					Fiso	cal Years			
			2020			2021	2022	Total	
Base Salary/Wages									-
Fringe Benefits at	1.4500%						-		-
Subtotal Personnel							-		-
Operating Expenses				-		-			-
Property						-	-		-
Indirect Costs				-		-	-		-
Total Expenses		\$		-	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
[x] Estimated revenues no	t affected								
[] Estimated revenue imp	act								
Amou	nt of Grant					-	-		-
City C	ash Match								
City Ir	nkind Match								
City II	DOH			-		-	-		-
Total Revenue		\$		-	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
These estimates do <u>not</u>	include any adjustr	ment for	inflation						
* Range if not easily quanti	fiable.								
Number of Position	s created			()				

COMMENTS: Under the current declarations of emergency, the City would seek federal reimbursement of any cost associated with enforcement of the ABQ Emergency Anti-Price Gouging Ordinance. Additionally, the City may recover fines and penalties from those engaged in price gouging in our community.

COMMENTS ON NON-MONETARY IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY/CITY GOVERNMENT:

PREPARED BY: DocuSigned by: Krystle Hernandey ADE3AEB405C14CD. FISCAL ANALYST	5/21/2020	APPROVED: DocuSigned by: Esteban A. A 7961D99D046F4DR DIRECTOR	าบนี่⊾ญี/211/2020 (date)
REVIEWED BY: DocuSigned by: Mutured K	5/22/2020 ALYST	DocuSigned by: Lawrune L. Daris5/22/2020 BUDGET OFFICER (date)	Luristine Bourner5/22/2020 E02C282349CC47D CITY ECONOMIST