

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. C/S O-20-28 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Diane Gibson

1 ORDINANCE

2 REPEALING THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE CODE OF ORDINANCES
3 SECTIONS 13-6-1 THROUGH 13-6-99, THE “PAWNBROKER ORDINANCE,”
4 AND REPLACING IT WITH A NEW ORDINANCE AMENDING EXISTING
5 REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO PAWNBROKERS AND EXTENDING
6 REGULATIONS TO PRECIOUS MATERIAL DEALERS AND SECONDHAND
7 RETAILERS

8 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY
9 OF ALBUQUERQUE:

10 SECTION 1. Chapter 13, Article 6, Sections 1 through 99 of the Revised
11 Ordinances of Albuquerque, the “Pawnbroker Ordinance” is hereby repealed.

12 SECTION 2. A new article is hereby enacted in place of the prior
13 Pawnbroker Ordinance as follows:

14 “§ 13-6-1 SHORT TITLE.

15 This article may be cited as the Pawnbroker, Precious Material Dealer, and
16 Secondhand Retailer Ordinance.

17 § 13-6-2 PURPOSE.

18 The purposes of this article include to:

19 (1) Ensure a sound system of making loans against, or acquiring through
20 purchase, tangible personal property by and through pawnshops, precious
21 material dealers, and secondhand retailers; and to prevent frauds, ensure fair
22 record keeping and reporting practices;

23 (2) Provide for permitting and reporting requirements for pawnbrokers,
24 precious metal dealers, and secondhand retailers;

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1 (3) Promote financial responsibility to the city and its residents and
2 compliance with city law; and

3 (4) Promote the health, safety, and welfare of the City by implementing
4 minimum accountability standards for pawnbroker, precious materials, and
5 secondhand retailer businesses; help level the regulatory playing field for
6 these related industries; and help limit vulnerability of these businesses to
7 becoming unwitting participants in the cycle of property crime.

8 § 13-6-3 DEFINITIONS.

9 CONSUMER ELECTRONICS. All handheld electronic devices such as
10 mobile phones, tablets, and mp3 players, and radios, stereos, speakers,
11 sound systems, televisions, electronic display screens, personal computers,
12 gaming devices, digital cameras and recorders, video playback devices, and
13 all similar or related consumer electronics.

14 COVERED SECONDHAND GOOD: Any article of the following types of
15 tangible personal property that were previously owned by an original end
16 user or otherwise not purchased or sold as new:

- 17 a. consumer electronics,
- 18 b. firearms,
- 19 c. jewelry,
- 20 d. musical instruments and equipment,
- 21 e. precious metals,
- 22 f. precious stones,
- 23 g. sporting goods, or
- 24 h. tools, including power tools.

25 COVERED TRANSACTION: Any transaction for any pledged good, and
26 any purchase, trade or acquisition for value (as opposed to by donation or
27 consignment) of any covered secondhand good by a pawnbroker, precious
28 material dealer, or secondhand retailer from a member of the general public at
29 the pawnbroker's, precious material dealer's, or secondhand retailer's place
30 of business.

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1 JEWELRY: personal ornaments, such as necklaces, bracelets,
2 broaches, pendants and similar items that are made from or contain precious
3 metal, precious stones, or both.

4 PAWNBROKER: Every person permitted by the city of Albuquerque to
5 engage, in whole or in part, in the business of loaning money on the security
6 of pledged goods.

7 PERSON: For purposes of this ordinance, a “person” is an individual,
8 partnership, corporation, joint venture, trust, association, or any other legal
9 entity however organized.

10 PLEGGED GOODS: Tangible personal property other than securities
11 or printed evidences of indebtedness, which property is deposited with or
12 otherwise actually delivered into the possession of a pawnbroker as security
13 for a loan of money, or with the express or implied agreement to sell it back at
14 a stipulated price.

15 PERMITTED VENDOR: A vendor holding a valid business registration
16 who furnishes or supplies covered secondhand goods to a pawnbroker,
17 precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer and who does not maintain a
18 physical commercial premise in the City for the purposes of acquiring
19 covered secondhand goods from the general public.

20 PRECIOUS MATERIAL DEALER: Any person who is engaged in the
21 business of purchasing articles of jewelry, precious metals, or precious
22 stones, from the general public at their place of business for purposes of
23 resale or smelting, melting, or otherwise processing, combining or altering
24 these materials for any purpose.

25 PRECIOUS METALS: gold, silver, or platinum, palladium, iridium,
26 rhodium, osmium, ruthenium or an alloy of these metals.

27 PRECIOUS STONES: Diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, garnets,
28 pearls, turquoise and other pieces of mineral or rock of value for purposes of
29 their use in jewelry.

30 PROPERTY UNIT ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL: Any sworn officer within
31 the Pawn Unit or Property Crimes Division of the Albuquerque Police

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1 Department, or any person specifically assigned to the enforcement or
2 administration of this ordinance.

3 SECONDHAND RETAILER: For purposes this ordinance, a
4 'secondhand retailer' is any person engaging in purchasing, trading or
5 otherwise acquiring for value (as opposed to by donation or consignment)
6 any covered secondhand goods from the general public at their place of
7 business, for purposes of reselling, trading, or otherwise retailing the good.

8 SPORTING GOODS: bicycles, golf clubs, tennis rackets, archery
9 bows, binoculars, skis, snow boards, and camping equipment.

10 STORE PREMISES: The total area occupied by a pawnbroker,
11 precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer at the address on the city-
12 issued registration or permit.

13 § 13-6-4 PERMITS REQUIRED; PERMIT FEE; PENALTY.

14 (A) No person shall act as a pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or
15 secondhand retailer, or advertise, transact, or solicit business as a
16 pawnbroker, precious material dealer or secondhand retailer, without first
17 having obtained a permit from the City of Albuquerque. A person shall obtain
18 a separate permit for each place of business at which the person acts or
19 transacts business. However, any business engaging in two or more of the
20 regulated business activities need apply for, and the City may issue, only a
21 single permit identifying which activities the business plans to engage in (i.e.
22 pawnbroker and/or precious material dealer and/or secondhand retailer).

23 (B) The permit shall be conspicuously displayed in the pawnbroker's,
24 precious material dealer's, or secondhand retailer's place of business. The
25 permit will expire on July 1 of each year and must be renewed by that date.

26 (C) Every pawnbroker, precious material dealer, and secondhand
27 retailer shall pay an annual permit fee of \$250 at the time of issuance of the
28 initial permit and at the time of each annual renewal to help cover the expense
29 of administration of this ordinance. The City shall adjust this fee annually to
30 correspond with increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
31 Consumers (CPI-U). Any business applying for a permit to engage in two or

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1 more regulated activities (i.e. pawnbroker and/or precious material dealer
2 and/or secondhand retailer) need only pay a single permit fee.

3 (D) Any person doing business as a pawnbroker, precious material
4 dealer, or secondhand retailer without a permit, is guilty of a misdemeanor
5 and is subject to the penalty provisions set forth in § 1-1-99.

6 (E) A person must apply to the City of Albuquerque for a new permit
7 upon any change, directly or beneficially, in the ownership of any pawnshop,
8 precious material dealer, or secondhand retail establishment. An application
9 for a permit or an application to transfer an existing permit is not required
10 upon any change, directly or beneficially, in the ownership of a pawnshop if
11 one or more holders of at least 90 percent of the outstanding equity interest
12 of the business before the change in ownership continue to hold at least 90
13 percent of the outstanding equity interest after the change in ownership.

14 (F) Any person who is declined a permit or permit renewal is entitled to
15 a hearing a prescribed under subsection 13-6-10(C) of this ordinance.

16 § 13-6-5 ADMINISTRATION; APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.

17 The Mayor shall adopt such rules and regulations as necessary for the
18 equitable administration of this article. The permit provided for in this article
19 does not constitute a waiver of any requirement or provision contained in any
20 ordinance of the city or state or federal law.

21 § 13-6-6 BOND REQUIRED.

22 No person shall engage in the business of pawnbroker without having
23 executed and delivered a bond to the city in the sum of \$5,000. The bond
24 shall be in a form approved by the Mayor and shall be conditioned upon the
25 conduct of such pawnbroker's business according to the provisions of this
26 article, the laws of the state and all ordinances of the city. Such bond shall be
27 for the benefit of each and every person damaged by a breach of any
28 condition set forth in the bond. Every pawnbroker shall provide the Mayor
29 with 30 days' notice in writing of cancellation of the bond.

30 § 13-6-7 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT; REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY.

31 (A) Annual Application. Each application for a pawnbroker's,
32 precious material dealer's, or secondhand retailer's permit shall be submitted

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1 in writing to the Mayor and be accompanied by the permit fee and the name,
2 address, date of birth and social security number of the applicant and each
3 agent, servant and employee of the applicant. Changes in such list must be
4 indicated on each annual renewal application. Every pawnbroker shall
5 furnish with each application for an initial or renewal permit proof of
6 execution and delivery of the bond to the City Clerk's Office as required in §
7 13-6-6.

8 (B) To be eligible for a pawnbroker's, precious material dealer's, or
9 secondhand retailer's permit, at the time of each application or renewal, an
10 applicant must conduct business within the requirements and spirit of this
11 ordinance and all other applicable laws, and never have had a pawnbroker's,
12 precious material dealers, or secondhand retailer's permit revoked by the City
13 or any other jurisdiction;

14 (C) The City shall perform a criminal background check on each
15 applicant for a pawnbroker's, precious material dealer's or second hand
16 retailer's permit. In deciding whether to issue a permit the City may deny a
17 permit to an applicant based on criminal history only as regulated and
18 authorized by New Mexico Criminal Offender Employment Act., NMSA 1978 §
19 28-2-1 et. seq. However, no person who has been convicted of a felony shall
20 be eligible for a pawnbroker's permit pursuant to NMSA 1978 § 56-12-4.

21 § 13-6-8 RECORDS AND REPORTS BY PAWNBROKERS; PENALTIES.

22 (A) Records for Covered Transactions. Every pawnbroker, precious
23 material dealer, and secondhand retailer shall keep a record of each covered
24 transaction made in the order in which each occurs. This record shall be
25 made on a digital form or database in a format approved by the Chief of
26 Police, and shall be preserved and made accessible to any property unit
27 enforcement official by 12:00 noon on the business' next business day after
28 the covered transaction occurred, and remain so available during normal
29 business hours for a period of two years. Each entry must also be uploaded
30 or otherwise linked to the Albuquerque Police Department's electronic "leads
31 online" system or any future equivalent administered by the APD by 12:00

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1 noon of the business' next business day following the day of the covered
2 transaction. Each entry shall include:
3 (1) A transaction number, and the date, time and type of
4 transaction (pledge or purchase);
5 (2) A brief description of the item; including make, model and
6 serial number (if available) together with a photograph of the item, a single
7 photograph is sufficient for any covered transaction for a collection of like
8 items;
9 (3) The name, address and the date of birth of the pledger or
10 seller as indicated on a valid government-issued photo identification card, a
11 notation as to the type of identification card, the jurisdiction that issued the
12 same and the identification card number;
13 (4) A clear, discernible, color still image of the pledger or seller
14 that clearly depicts a full face view of the person taken in any form as
15 approved by the Chief of Police including by a still image camera, or from still
16 frame from a video surveillance camera of reasonable quality;
17 (B) The information required under subsection '(A)(3)' above may be
18 collected for each transaction, or may be collected only for the initial
19 transaction so long as each subsequent transaction with the same person is
20 linked or otherwise includes the information already on file. The information
21 required under subsections '(A)(1), (2) and (4)' above must be collected for
22 each transaction.
23 (C) Records for Transactions with Permitted Vendors. Every
24 pawnbroker, precious material dealer, and secondhand retailer shall keep a
25 record of each transaction for a covered secondhand good with a permitted
26 vendor which record must include an invoice specifying the permitted
27 vendor's name, address, and the date of the sale to the pawnbroker, precious
28 material dealer, or secondhand retailer.
29 (1) However, any transactions for covered secondhand goods
30 with a permitted vendor having any owners or employees in common with any
31 pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer are subject to

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1 the reporting requirements for covered transactions prescribed under
2 subsection 'A' above.

3 (D) Records for Estate Purchases. Every pawnbroker, precious material
4 dealer, and secondhand retailer shall keep a record for any covered
5 secondhand goods acquired through an estate sale to include a sales slip or
6 equivalent with typical with customary information for such a transaction.

7 (E) In addition to any other penalty authorized by this ordinance or
8 other law, any person who knowingly and willfully violates this §13-6-8, or
9 who knowingly and willfully makes a false entry in any record specifically
10 required by this section commits a violation punishable as provided in § 1-1-
11 99. However, Clerical or recordkeeping errors, such as typographical errors
12 or scrivener's errors, regarding any document or record required by this
13 section do not constitute a knowingly and willful violation of this section, and
14 are not subject to criminal penalties. Such errors are, however, subject to the
15 administrative remedies of this ordinance, and upon written notification of the
16 error by a property unit enforcement official, such errors must be corrected
17 by the pawnbroker by the business' next business day.

18 § 13-6-9 INSPECTION; PROPERTY CRIME DATA SHARING.

19 (A) Inspection. Any property unit enforcement official may inspect any
20 store premises including safes, vaults, and storage spaces therein during
21 normal business hours and have free access to all covered secondhand
22 goods, and the corresponding transaction records required by this ordinance.
23 The business being inspected may escort the property unit enforcement
24 official throughout the inspection process.

25 (B) Property unit enforcement officials shall develop a system that
26 facilitates coordination and information sharing with pawnbrokers, precious
27 material dealers, and secondhand retailers to provide updates on current
28 known property crime offenders and articles of personal property suspected
29 to have been the subject of theft as frequently as possible.

30 § 13-6-10 NOTICE OF VIOLATION; NOTICE OF HEARING; HEARINGS;
31 CONTINUANCE; ORDER; PENALTIES.

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1 (A) Notice of Violation. If a property unit enforcement official
2 reasonably believes that a pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or
3 secondhand retailer has violated any one or more provisions of this Article,
4 such official shall serve written notice upon the same of the alleged violation
5 (the “notice of violation”). The notice requirement is satisfied if personal
6 service of same is had upon the pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or
7 secondhand retailer or is posted in a conspicuous place upon the
8 pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer’s place of
9 business.

10 (1) The notice of violation shall specify the provisions of this
11 ordinance which have been allegedly violated, and shall set forth with
12 reasonable clarity the factual basis for each alleged violation, and shall state
13 that an administrative hearing will be scheduled by the City and that a notice
14 of the hearing will be mailed to the pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or
15 secondhand retailer’s place of business or address of record with the City by
16 certified mail in accordance with this ordinance.

17 (2) The property unit enforcement official shall provide the City
18 Clerk with a copy of the notice of violation for transmission to the City
19 Independent Office of Hearings within three business days of the notice of
20 violation being served.

21 (B) Hearing and Penalties Relating to a Notice of Violation.

22 (1) Hearing. Any person in receipt of a notice of violation, and
23 any other interested person, may appear and produce evidence at any
24 administrative hearing relating to a notice of violation. The final order of the
25 City’s administrative hearing officer on such matter constitutes the final
26 administrative adjudication of the matter by the City.

27 (a) Notice of Hearing. Within three business days of its
28 receipt of the notice of violation, the City Independent Office of Hearings shall
29 mail a notice of the hearing to the pawnbroker, precious material dealer or
30 secondhand retailer and the property unit enforcement official who delivered
31 the notice of violation, via certified mail. The notice shall specify the location
32 of the hearing, a date and time for the hearing that is between fifteen and

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1 twenty days from its mailing of the notice of hearing. Such notice shall briefly
2 state the nature of the hearing and that failure to attend may result in an
3 automatic fine.
4 (b) Continuance. A first continuance of the hearing may be
5 ordered by the hearing officer assigned to hear the matter upon a showing of
6 good cause by any party. Any subsequent continuance request may be
7 granted only with the consent of all parties to the matter.
8 (c) Order. Within five (5) days of the conclusion of the
9 hearing, the hearing office shall issue a final written order that identifies the
10 penalties authorized by subsection 'B(2)' below that are being imposed (if any)
11 relating to the allegations from the notice of violation.
12 (2) Findings Required for Imposition of Penalty. The hearing
13 officer may enter an order imposing one or more of the penalties set forth in
14 paragraph (3), below, if it is found that a pawnbroker, precious material
15 dealer, or secondhand retailer violated or is operating in violation of any of
16 the provisions of this ordinance;
17 (3) Penalties. Upon finding a violation, the hearing officer may
18 enter an order imposing one or more of the following:
19 (a). Ordering a pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or
20 secondhand retailer to show proof of compliance within a reasonable
21 timeframe;
22 (b) Imposing a fine of up to \$500 for a first violation, and up
23 to a \$1,000 for any subsequent violations depending on the severity;
24 (c) Ordering that the pawnbroker, precious material dealer,
25 or secondhand retailer cease and desist specified activities; or
26 (d) If the violation(s) are determined to be severe and
27 irredeemable, ordering that the pawnbroker's, precious material dealer's or
28 secondhand retailer's permit be revoked or not renewed. If revocation is
29 ordered for a pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer it
30 shall be effective no sooner than 120 days from the date of the order to allow
31 for winding-down of the business including redemption of pawn inventory by

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1 rightful owners. No new loans or purchases may be done during this time,
2 only sales and redemption;

3 (C) Hearing and Penalties relating Permit Issuance or Renewal.

4 (1) After an initial denial of a pawnbroker, precious material
5 dealer, or secondhand retailer license or renewal by the City, the denied
6 applicant may request a hearing. After notice and hearing, the City may
7 decline to issue or renew a pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or
8 secondhand retailer permit if it is determined that:

9 (a) The pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or
10 secondhand retailer, either knowingly or without the exercise of due care, has
11 violated this section or has aided or conspired with another person to violate
12 this section;

13 (b) A condition exists that, had it existed when the permit
14 was originally issued, would have justified the refusal to issue the permit; or

15 (c) The pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or
16 secondhand retailer no longer meet the eligibility requirements to hold a
17 permit; or

18 (2) Any pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or secondhand
19 retailer may surrender a permit by delivering it, by certified or registered mail,
20 return receipt requested, to the City Clerk's Office with written notice of its
21 surrender. The surrender of a permit does not affect the civil or criminal
22 liability of the pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer
23 for acts committed before the surrender of the permit.

24 (3) The revocation or surrender of a permit does not impair or
25 affect the obligation of any preexisting lawful contract between the
26 pawnbroker and any pledger of pledged goods.

27 (D) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the City may
28 terminate an investigation or action upon agreement by the pawnbroker,
29 precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer to pay a stipulated civil
30 penalty, to make restitution or pay damages to customers, or to satisfy any
31 other relief authorized under this subsection and requested by the City.

32 § 13-6-11 DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY; PAYMENT FOR PROPERTY.

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1 (A) No pledged goods shall be sold or disposed of, except by
2 redemption, by any pawnbroker within 120 days from the time it was pledged
3 with the pawnbroker or within 90 days after the indebtedness becomes due,
4 whichever is later.

5 (B) It is unlawful for any pawnbroker, precious metal retailer, or
6 secondhand retailer to sell, or otherwise dispose of, alter in any way, or
7 remove any covered secondhand goods from the store premises, except by
8 redemption, within 15 days from the date said covered secondhand goods
9 were received.

10 § 13-6-12 UNLAWFUL TRANSACTIONS.

11 (A) No pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer
12 shall:

13 (1) Knowingly and willfully enter into a covered transaction with a
14 person under the age of eighteen years, or under the influence of alcohol, any
15 narcotic, drug, stimulant or depressant or any person who previously sold or
16 pawned, or attempted to sell or pawn, stolen property with the pawnbroker,
17 precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer;

18 (2) In, the case of a pawnbroker, fail to exercise reasonable care
19 to protect pledged goods from loss or damage;

20 (4) Remove, alter, or obliterate any manufacturer's make, model,
21 or serial number, personal identification number on an item of personal
22 property held in pledge or for sale.

23 (5) Accept any item in a covered transaction where the
24 manufacturer's name plate, make, model, serial number, identification number
25 or mark has been obviously defaced, altered, covered, removed, or destroyed;

26 (6) Purchase or otherwise receive any item of property which the
27 pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer knows is not
28 lawfully owned by the person offering the same; or

29 (7) Willingly and knowingly make, cause, or allow to be made any
30 false entry or misstatement of any corresponding transaction records
31 required to be kept under this ordinance.

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1 13-6-13 HOLD ORDERS; ISSUANCE; REQUIRED INFORMATION;
2 DISPUTED OWNERSHIP; PROCEDURES

3 (A) When any law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe
4 that property in possession of a pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or
5 secondhand retailer is misappropriated, the officer may place a hold order on
6 the property for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed thirty (90) days.

7 (B) No pawnbroker, precious material dealer, or secondhand retailer
8 shall release or dispose of property subject to a hold order except pursuant to
9 a court order or a written release from the police department.

10 (C) Where the rightful ownership of seized property is disputed, any
11 interested person may request a hearing to determine the issue of ownership
12 before the City Independent Office of hearings by filing a request with the City
13 Clerk’s Office. Upon its receipt of such a request, the City Independent Office
14 of Hearings shall notify the law enforcement officer involved in the matter,
15 who shall deliver the contact information for all known interested parties
16 within three days of being notified. Within three days of receiving this
17 information, the City Independent Office of Hearings shall issue a notice of
18 hearing to the officer and all known interested parties. The notice shall
19 specify the location of the hearing, and a date and time for the hearing that is
20 between fifteen and twenty days from its mailing of the notice of hearing.
21 Such notice shall briefly state the nature of the hearing and that failure to
22 attend by any party may result in a decision adverse to their interests.

23 §13-6-14. EXEMPTIONS. Nothing herein shall be construed as applying to:

- 24 (A) Charitable thrift stores;
- 25 (B) Charitable organizations;
- 26 (C) Consignment stores;
- 27 (D) Any business dealing exclusively in rare or valuable coins;
- 28 (E) Any businesses operating exclusively as an estate purchaser and/or
29 reseller; or
- 30 (F) Precious material dealers who do not resell to the general public
31 and who are subject to the anti-money laundering requirements of
32 the USA Patriot Act.]”

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1 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.** If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause,
2 word or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or
3 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
4 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance. The Council
5 hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section,
6 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
7 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

8 **SECTION 4. COMPILATION.** Sections 1 through 3 of this Ordinance shall
9 amend, be incorporated in and compiled as part of the Revised Ordinances of
10 Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1994.

11 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance takes effect ninety days
12 after publication by title and general summary.