

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-21-205 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton, Cynthia D. Borrego, Lan Sena, by request

1 RESOLUTION

2 ACKNOWLEDGING AND RECOGNIZING THE ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN
3 SCHOOL CEMETERY AT 4H PARK AS A HISTORICAL AND SACRED BURIAL
4 SITE; ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORICAL AND ONGOING
5 INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA EXPERIENCED BY NATIVE AMERICAN
6 INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND TRIBAL NATIONS AS A RESULT OF INDIAN
7 BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES; AND COMMITTING TO WORK WITH TRIBAL
8 NATIONS AND LOCAL NATIVE AMERICANS TOWARD RECONCILIATION AND
9 HEALING.

10 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque is built upon the traditional homelands
11 of the Tiwa peoples and recognizes that Tribal Nations have lived upon this
12 land since time immemorial; and

13 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque values the contributions to our society
14 accomplished through and by Native American thought, culture, and
15 technology; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States government adopted the Indian Civilization
17 Fund Act of 1819 to provide financial support for church run schools to
18 “civilize” Native American children through education; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States government adopted the Indian Boarding
20 School Policy of 1869 also known as “President Grant’s Peace Policy” in a
21 deliberate attempt to eradicate Native American languages, beliefs, cultures,
22 and identities and to assimilate them into White American culture through
23 federally funded Christian-run schools, which had the effect of cultural
24 genocide; and

25 WHEREAS, between 1869 – 1960s the Indian Boarding School Policy
26 authorized the forced removal of hundreds of thousands of Native American

[Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion

[Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion

1 children from their families and communities and relocated them to one of 367
2 residential facilities across 30 states; and

3 WHEREAS, Article II(e) of the United Nations definition of genocide states
4 “Forcible transferring children of the group to another group” with the intent
5 to destroy, in whole, or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group is
6 an act of genocide; and

7 WHEREAS, Native American children were required by law to attend
8 boarding schools with the stated purpose of “Kill the Indian, Save the Man,”
9 often through physical, sexual, psychological, and spiritual abuse.

10 WHEREAS, many Native American children ran away and remained
11 missing, or died of abuse, illness, or substandard healthcare provided by
12 Indian Boarding schools.

13 WHEREAS, by 1926, nearly 83 percent of Native American school-aged
14 children were enrolled in Indian Boarding schools in the United States, but
15 because nearly 62 percent of the school records have been lost or destroyed,
16 the full extent of the Indian Boarding School Policy has not been identified;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Indian School (AIS) was operated by the
19 Presbyterian Church and by the United States government from the 1881 to
20 1981; and

21 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Indian School received Native American
22 children from surrounding Pueblos and Tribes from within and outside of New
23 Mexico, including Native American children from Ute, Apache, Pima, and
24 Navajo tribal nations; and

25 WHEREAS, the implementation of these harmful federal policies resulted in
26 the isolation, separation, and death of Native American children who died
27 while attending the Albuquerque Indian School and were buried in unmarked
28 graves at the Albuquerque Indian School Cemetery, away from their families
29 and community never to return home; and

30 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque received a request to acquire the site
31 where the cemetery is located on June 20, 1972; and

[Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion

1 WHEREAS, information regarding the number of individuals buried and
2 their location at the Albuquerque Indian School cemetery at 4H Park is
3 inconclusive and further research of the site is required; and

4 WHEREAS, Albuquerque City Council Ordinance 2-6-6-1 established The
5 Commission on American Indian & Alaska Native Affairs
6 (CAIANA) as an advocate for Native American resident affairs and was
7 amended in 2019 to have CAIANA serve as the forum for formalized
8 government-to-government relations between the City of Albuquerque and its
9 adjacent Tribal Nations; and

10 WHEREAS, the City, through its Office of Native American Affairs, has
11 contacted the eight Pueblos and Tribes originally identified with this burial site
12 to gather and provide information on this issue along, and is reaching out to
13 the remaining affected Pueblos and Tribes within the State of New Mexico to
14 engage in ongoing, meaningful tribal consultation; and

15 WHEREAS, the City convened a 4H Park Burial Site Stakeholders' Meeting
16 on August 10, 2021 to provide a forum for community stakeholders with a
17 connection to the site to provide recommendations for future actions by the
18 City; and

19 WHEREAS, the CAIANA issued a formal memorandum to the Mayor's
20 Office on September 20, 2021 entitled "Recommendations on Albuquerque
21 Indian Boarding School Cemetery Site/4H Park" that provides information,
22 discussions, and recommendations for short-term and long-term actions to
23 address this specific issue and the legacy impacts of Indian boarding schools;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the City, through its Office of Native American Affairs, held a
26 public event entitled "Albuquerque Indian School Cemetery Acknowledgement
27 and Healing Reflection" on September 25, 2021 focused on the history of the
28 site, acknowledging the historical and intergenerational trauma of Indian
29 Boarding Schools, and recognizing the City's commitment to ongoing redress
30 of the issue; and

31 WHEREAS, the City's Parks and Recreation Department has temporarily
32 demarcated the assumed location of the cemetery at 4H Park, placed signage
33 identifying the park as a sacred site to help educate the public about the site's

[Bracketed/Underscored Material] - New
[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion

1 significance to begin implementing recommendations from community
2 stakeholders connected to the site; and

3 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has a government-to-government
4 working relationship with adjacent Pueblos and Tribes, and a responsibility to
5 its Native American residents to make the AIS Cemetery Site a place to be
6 treated with respect and reverence now and into the future.

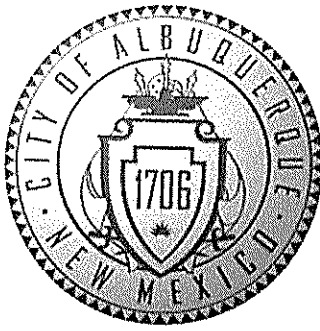
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
8 ALBUQUERQUE:

9 Section 1. Pledges to provide resources both financial and human, as
10 feasible, to implement short-term and long-term recommendations provided
11 by the City’s adjacent Pueblos and Tribes, CAIANA, and community
12 stakeholders with connection to the site.

13 Section 2. Support the establishment of a working group to gather,
14 analyze, and assess all historic and current information and documentation
15 related to Albuquerque Indian School burials and cemetery sites. This working
16 group should be Native-led and include historical and cultural experts.

17 Section 3. Support the development of and implementation of strategies to
18 address issues, concerns, and health disparities Native residents of
19 Albuquerque face due to the impacts of historical trauma and racism. These
20 will include short and long-term goals in relation to education, economy,
21 environment, health care, intergovernmental relations with Native
22 Nations/Pueblos in the state, and the homeless population.

23
24
25
26
27



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Timothy M. Keller

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

TO: Cynthia Borrego, President, City Council

FROM: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor *TK*

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGING AND RECOGNIZING THE ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL CEMETERY AT 4H PARK AS A HISTORICAL AND SACRED BURIAL SITE; ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORICAL AND ONGOING INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA EXPERIENCED BY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND TRIBAL NATIONS AS A RESULT OF INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES; AND COMMITTING TO WORK WITH TRIBAL NATIONS AND LOCAL NATIVE AMERICANS TOWARD RECONCILIATION AND HEALING

Attached is a resolution by request acknowledging and recognizing the Albuquerque Indian School Cemetery at 4H Park (A city owned park) as a historical and sacred burial site and acknowledging the historical and ongoing intergenerational trauma experienced by Native American individuals, families and Tribal Nations. This legislation also includes a commitment on the part of the City of Albuquerque to continue working with Tribal Nations and local Native Americans toward reconciliation and healing related to the burial site. The drafting of this resolution is a direct result of ongoing and meaningful community engagement efforts by the city's Office of Equity & Inclusion and Office of Native American Affairs to develop additional short-term and long-term strategies to address legacy impacts related to the past operation of the Albuquerque Indian School.

Approved:

[Signature]

Sarita Nair Date
Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

[Signature] 9/30/2021 | 10:49 AM MDT

7961D99D046F4DB
Esteban Aguilar Date
City Attorney

Recommended:

[Signature]

E260A87CFC8A4A7...
Office of Equity and Inclusion Date
Michelle Melendez, Director

Cover Analysis

1. What is it?

A resolution submitted by request from the Mayor's Office to City Council acknowledging and recognizing the Albuquerque Indian School Cemetery at 4H Park as a historical and sacred burial site.

2. What will this piece of legislation do?

Acknowledges and recognizes the Albuquerque Indian School Cemetery at 4H Park as a historical and sacred burial site and formalizes a commitment on the part of the City of Albuquerque to work with Tribal Nations and local Native American residents toward reconciliation and healing related to the burial site.

3. Why is this project needed?

Following community engagement efforts regarding the burial site that have included outreach to surrounding Pueblos and Tribes, stakeholder meetings, public events focused on healing and reconciliation and recommendations from the city's Commission on American Indian & Alaska Native Affairs, consensus was reached that a resolution be drafted and heard by City Council regarding the burial site.

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

There is no cost associated with this request.

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

There is no revenue source associated with this request.

6. What will happen if the project is not approved?

If the project is not approved, it has the potential to hinder/delay the reconciliation process surrounding the burial site.

7. Is this service already provided by another entity?

There is no service being provided as a result of this legislation.