## CITY of ALBUQUERQUE TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. <u>R-21-220</u> ENACTMENT NO	
SPONSORED BY: Diane Gibson, Pat Davis, Trudy Jones	
1	RESOLUTION
2	CALLING FOR THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE
3	FORMS OF GOVERNMENT THROUGH A STUDY TO BE PRESENTED TO CITY
4	LEADERSHIP; IDENTIFYING KEY ASPECTS OF THE STUDY.
5	WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque currently operates as a Mayor-Council
6	form of government; and
7	WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has operated under such a form of
8	government since 1974, when the city charter was amended to move from a
9	Commission-Manager form to the current Mayor-Council form; and
10	WHEREAS, the current Mayor-Council form of government establishes two
11	separate branches of government with delineated roles wherein an elected
12	nine-member City Council is vested with the legislative authority of the City to
13	enact all laws and policies conducive to the welfare of the City, and an elected
14	mayor controls and directs the executive branch of the City which is
15	responsible for the most high functioning executive tasks of the City all the
16	way down to the most routine; and
17	WHEREAS, the staggering of terms amongst the nine member Council
18	establishes an opportunity for continuity within government while at the same
19	time allowing the electorate to guide the direction of the City through their
20	vote; and
21	WHEREAS, the strong-mayor form of government does not offer the same
22	level of continuity for the executive branch because processes, functions,
23	approaches, knowledge and skills amongst appointed city administrators, who
24	serve at the pleasure of the Mayor, are subject to wholesale change with each
25	election – which can directly affect the services that most directly impact City
26	residents; and

WHEREAS, each new Mayor holds complete discretion to appoint new
 leadership to oversee critical city services like the Police Department, the Fire
 Department, the Airport, the Parks Department, the Planning Department, and
 the Health and Human Services, to name a few; and

5 WHEREAS, Conversely, critical city services in Council-Manager forms of
6 government can be led by personnel hired based exclusively on their
7 qualifications, and can remain serving based on their capabilities as opposed
8 to who wins an election; and

9 WHEREAS, as we have seen in Albuquerque and other Cities, a Mayor10 Council form of government can be quite successful, but there is nothing to
11 preclude the City of Albuquerque from re-evaluating its form of government
12 from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the Strong Mayor form of government is not the only form of
government available to the City of Albuquerque and several other modern,
major cities in our region successfully operate under a Council-Manager form
of government including El Paso, Phoenix, and Las Vegas, Nevada; and
WHEREAS, most Council-Manager forms of government still include a
critical role for a Mayor where the Mayor is integrated into the City Council as

19 its presiding member, as opposed to being part of a separate branch of20 government; and

WHEREAS, there may be an opportunity to make Albuquerque's local
government more efficient, stable, and fiscally responsible over the long-term
by operating as a different form of government; and

WHEREAS, data gathering and interviewing other municipalities of
Albuquerque's size in regards to their form of government may highlight the
benefits and shortcomings of other forms of government; and

WHEREAS, any major change to the City of Albuquerque's form of
government would only be possible through an amendment to the city charter;
and

WHEREAS, the intention of this resolution is only to describe an intent to
begin an exploratory process in which facts can be presented to the Council
and the Administration regarding other forms of government.

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1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY

2 OF ALBUQUERQUE:

3 SECTION 1. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

4 The City Council services Department shall engage a qualified consultant
5 to conduct research and synthesize findings on the various forms of
6 government. Such research shall, at a minimum, include:

7 a. An overview of alternative forms of government available to the City
8 of Albuquerque, to include hybrid options of the primary forms of government;
9 and

b. An analysis of data from peer municipalities relating how their form
of government may bear a relationship to the strength of their local economy,
their ability to offer continuity in municipal services, and the relative economic
efficiency of their operations; and

14 c. A professional recommendation based on the findings from the

15 report to identify the relative strength of Albuquerque's current form of

16 government for its constituents in terms of efficiency and transparency, and

17 reasonable alternatives.

18 SECTION 2. PRESENTATION OF DATA

19 A presentation shall be made to both the City Council and the

20 Administration no later than 12 months after the execution of a contract for the

21 research and analysis outlined in Section 1. This presentation shall highlight

the findings from the research and the recommendation as prepared by the

- 23 consultant.
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