



Legislation Text

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CITY of ALBUQUERQUE
TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-20-75 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Klarissa J. Peña, Cynthia D. Borrego, Lan Sena

RESOLUTION

Strengthening And Re-Affirming The City Of Albuquerque's Commitment To Addressing Racial And Social Inequity (Peña, Borrego, Sena)

WHEREAS, Article VIII of the City Charter states that, "The Council shall preserve, protect and promote human rights and human dignity...and shall prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry, age or physical handicap," and

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque City Council affirmed its commitment to non-discrimination and equal opportunity through passage of Ordinance 106-1973 establishing the Human Rights Board, Ordinance 2-6-5-1, et. al. seq., establishing the Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Council, Ordinance 5-6 ROA 1994 establishing the Minority Business Enterprise act, Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, Ordinance 2-6-6-1, et. al. seq., and R-18-7 strengthening the City's status as an immigrant friendly city; and

WHEREAS, The City of Albuquerque is committed to working toward better addressing racial disparities, and to achieving equity across all populations and indicators; and

WHEREAS, The City of Albuquerque defines inequities as disparities in health, mental health, economic indicators, education, or social factors that are systemic and, therefore, considered unjust or unfair; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that structural and institutional racism, have led to racially disparate outcomes in many aspects of quality of life; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this legislation the following definitions are adopted:

“Equity” means everyone has equal access to the same opportunities. Equity recognizes that advantages and barriers exist and that not everyone starts from the same place. Equity means eliminating disparities in policy, practice and allocation of resources so that race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, income and zip code do not predict one’s success while also improving positive outcomes for all.

“Diversity” means the presence of different races, genders, ethnicities, religions, abilities, nationalities, and sexual orientations in decision making. Diversity exists within groups and in relationships with others.

“Inclusion” means diverse people with different identities feel welcomed and valued.

WHEREAS, race and social equity requires partnership in the planning process resulting in shared decision-making and more equitable outcomes that strengthen the entire city; and

WHEREAS, because the City benefits from the diversity of its population, the city desires to incorporate the expertise of those most negatively impacted by inequity in the identification and implementation of policies, programs and budget decisions; and

WHEREAS, 59% of the residents of Albuquerque are people of color and our city is becoming more diverse, with growth driven by communities of color, and

WHEREAS, working poverty is on the rise in Albuquerque, with too many fulltime workers of all backgrounds not earning enough to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, 18% of male and 26% of female Native American adults aged 25-64 working full time in Albuquerque still live below 200% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, 25% male and 18% of female Asian or Pacific Islander adults aged 25-64 working full time in Albuquerque still live below 200% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, 18% male and 15% of female Latino adults aged 25-64 working full time in Albuquerque still live below 200% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, 16% male and 18% of female Black adults aged 25-64 working full time in Albuquerque still live below 200% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, 8% male and 6% female White adults aged 25-64 working full time in Albuquerque still live below 200% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the basic premise of equity holds that cities can attain stronger and more resilient economic growth for everyone by working toward equity; and

WHEREAS, According to the Equity Profile of Albuquerque conducted by PolicyLink, people of

color pay too much for housing in Albuquerque, whether they rent or own, with Asian and Pacific Islander populations having the highest rate of homeowner housing burden, and more than half of Black and Latino renter-occupied households paying more than 30% of their incomes in rent; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County (ABC) Comprehensive Plan contains goals, policies, and actions that support the development of equitable housing development; and

WHEREAS, For the first time in 2018, the City of Albuquerque began collecting demographic data on the ownership of companies with whom it does business; and

WHEREAS, The Minority Business Enterprise Ordinance calls for the City of Albuquerque to actively solicit information from such firms regarding unnecessary problems, requirements, or barriers involved in doing business with the city that might be ameliorated, such as the inability to obtain bonding, financing, or technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, The Minority Business Enterprise Ordinance calls for the City of Albuquerque to impose affirmative action upon prime contractors providing goods and services to the city with regard to subcontractors involved in such work to assure a fair share of business for minority and women's business enterprises; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has begun to collect and analyze the demographic information of applicants for city jobs, new hires and incumbent employees that will be used to help guide decision making; and

WHEREAS, All residents of the City of Albuquerque, regardless of nationality or citizenship, are entitled to fair and equitable access to municipal jobs, benefits, opportunities, and services; and

WHEREAS, the strategies necessary to address racial and social equity transcend any one department and require intention and action at the policy, process, program and service delivery levels of municipal government; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of equity goals and equity action plans by each department serves to catalyze the actions necessary to achieve those goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, applying an equity lens may assist departments in examining the distribution of benefits and burdens of municipal decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Office of Equity and Inclusion as a cabinet-level Department demonstrates the City of Albuquerque's commitment to advance racial and social equity; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Equity and Inclusion's role is to inspire and equip city government by providing education, training, data, analysis, tools and other support necessary to achieve equity goals; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Equity and Inclusion has been established to provide technical assistance, training and tools to all City of Albuquerque departments and divisions to ensure inclusive outreach and equitable opportunities for all people.

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

Section 1. The City of Albuquerque shall reinforce its commitment to operationalizing equity in all decision making processes and the City of Albuquerque Indicator's Progress Commission Advisory Board shall work with the Office of Equity and Inclusion to identify indicators related to equity and inclusion to include in the City's five-year goals by adhering to the following principles:

Committing to Equity, Embedding Equity: Performing an equity analysis prior to executing decisions;

Ensuring Equity in Resource Allocation: Equitably distributing resources and services to vulnerable groups;

Striving for Equity and Inclusion in Public Messaging: Conducting targeted outreach, in languages accessible to non-English speakers and other marginalized groups;

Being Transparent and Using Data in Decision-making: Capturing and analyzing data and using it to help guide decision making that would aim to reduce disparity.

Section 2. The City of Albuquerque shall use Racial Equity Toolkits and other best practices and technical assistance to understand the distribution of benefits and burdens of policy, process, program and budget decisions; and to endeavor to meaningfully involve persons and communities of color, those experiencing poverty, and people living with disabilities in the decision-making process put forth by the City of Albuquerque while abiding by process transparency and responding in a way that is accountable to all communities.

Section 3. The City of Albuquerque, Office of Equity and Inclusion shall conduct targeted, mandatory trainings for City of Albuquerque Administrators including the Mayor's Office, City Councilors, Department Heads and other staff as appropriate, to include, but not limited to, curriculum developed by the Office of Equity and Inclusion, Racial Equality Tool Kits and other best practices.

Section 4. The City shall support the start-up and growth of businesses owned by people of color and women through inclusive contracting and creating equitable business support systems, intentionally seek to remove barriers for entry and build capacity within the small business community.

Section 5. The City shall prepare youth and workers of color for tomorrow's jobs by growing local talent through education and workforce strategies that equip youth and workers with the skills and postsecondary education or credentials needed for careers in growing industries.

Section 6. The City shall ensure equal access to affordable and quality housing by following goals, policies, and actions included in the City of Albuquerque & Bernalillo County (ABC) Comprehensive Plan that are intended to help expand housing type options, ensure affordable housing in rural, suburban, and urban locations, and address housing and related services for vulnerable populations and those experiencing homelessness; and

Section 7. The he City shall begin collecting and analyzing demographic and geographic data in community engagement processes; processes such as permitting and code enforcement; the distribution of resources such as public health services and youth programming; practices related to law enforcement interactions such as traffic violations, public disturbances and non-violent and violent offenses; and identify trends in the data that encompass both historic and future impacts; and publicly report data, including that related to the City's workforce composition and hiring processes, analyzed by race, ethnicity and gender.

Section 8. The Mayor's Office and City Council shall receive quarterly reports from the Indicators Progress Commission outlining the results of demographic and geographic data to inform future decision-making regarding policies and practices.

Section 9. The Indicators Progress Commission shall regularly review and provide recommendations on indicators of important community conditions related to equity and inclusion, the City's five-year goals, and to the community's sustainability characteristics. This includes developing and integrating factual information on community conditions and trends including sustainability indicators, goal progress indicators, census data, locally generated socioeconomic data, citizen satisfaction survey information, and other data indicating the current situation and progress in reaching the five-year City goals.

Section 10. The Mayor's Office and City Council shall work with the Office of Equity and Inclusion to review the City's Public Boards, Commissions, and Committees Ordinance and explore opportunities for furthering the City's commitment to equity and inclusion on local advisory

boards.

Section 11. Each agency shall identify an equity coordinator who shall report directly to the head of the agency and who will be responsible for managing and reporting on that agency's equity assessment program. Section 12. Each agency shall conduct an equity assessment with the assistance of the Office of Equity and Inclusion of that agencies practices, policies, expenditures and distribution of resources.

Section 13. Each agency shall develop an action plan that addresses each divisions' goals for both internal and externally facing equity efforts and issues identified within the equity assessment process

Section 14. During the City's annual budget review process each agency shall include in its report to City Council an Equity Note for internal review; and City Council may ask questions as needed. Requirements for the contents of Equity Notes shall be outlined in an Equity Report Guidance Document to be provided by the Office of Equity and Inclusion.

Section 15. The Mayor's Office and City Council will endeavor to work with the Office of Equity and Inclusion to review the City's Public Boards, Commissions, and Committees Ordinance and explore opportunities for furthering the City's commitment to equity and inclusion on local advisory boards.

