



Legislation Text

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CITY of ALBUQUERQUE
TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-22-2 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Dan Lewis

RESOLUTION

Amending The Declaration Of Local Emergency Due To Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 To Ban Vaccine Requirements For City Employees; Setting Policy For Future Declarations (Lewis)

WHEREAS, On March 17, 2020, pursuant to Albuquerque's Civil Emergency Powers Ordinance, Mayor Tim Keller declared a Local State of Emergency throughout the City of Albuquerque due to the effects of the novel coronavirus COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor's Declaration has been amended and extended on a monthly basis, most recently on December 17, 2021, with the Twenty-Sixth Declaration of Local Emergency Due to Novel Coronavirus COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, A number of public health measures aimed at reducing transmission of COVID-19 have been implemented at the Federal, State, and Local levels, including but not limited to: face-covering requirements, social distancing requirements, occupancy limits, limitations on gatherings, encouraging increased hand washing, infection testing, contact-tracing, isolation and quarantine, reduction of in-person operations for businesses, closure of "non-essential" businesses, travel restrictions, school closures, cancellation of public events and other mass gatherings, and vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccination rates are increasing in the City of Albuquerque, with nearly 80% of Bernalillo County being fully vaccinated and over 90% of County residents having at least one shot; and

WHEREAS, The City urges all residents and City employees to receive safe and effective vaccines, however, doing so should be voluntary; and

WHEREAS, The public interest is served by maintaining the liberty of individuals to make intensely personal decision according to their own convictions and comfort with personal medical decisions; and

WHEREAS, The decision whether to vaccinate is a personal choice, and City employees should not be coerced into making the decision based on fear of employment-related consequences; and

WHEREAS, A City vaccine mandate may lead to employee resignations, further exacerbating the City's shortage of public safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, Attempts to implement vaccine mandates at the Federal and State level have faced intense opposition and legal challenges and have been repeatedly suspended and overturned throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to § 2-9-1-6 of the Civil Emergency Powers Ordinance, the City Council may amend by resolution any emergency proclamation.

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

SECTION 1. The Twenty-Sixth Declaration of Local Emergency Due to Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 is hereby amended to declare that, no City of Albuquerque employee will be required to obtain and/or provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, and there shall be no consequence for an employee opting not to get vaccinated.

SECTION 2. No future emergency declaration shall impose a vaccine mandate for City Employees.