

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Office of the Mayor

One Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 26, 2026

TO: Klarissa J. Peña, President, City Council

FROM: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



SUBJECT: Mayor's appointment of Mr. Abdul Ganiu Tanko to the Environmental Planning Commission

I am submitting for your advice and consent the following name for appointment to the Environmental Planning Commission in accordance with the City of Albuquerque Ordinance 14-13-3-1.

APPOINTEE NAME

Mr. Abdul Ganiu Tanko
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

TERM

January 1, 2028

Mr. Ganiu Tanko is a graduate student in Community and Regional Planning at the University of New Mexico, specializing in environmental and natural resource planning. His work has focused on watershed management, climate vulnerability, and GIS-based spatial analysis for underserved and Indigenous communities in New Mexico, particularly within the Navajo Nation. Originally from Ghana, Abdul brings an international perspective to environmental justice and resource equity, connecting global challenges to local planning efforts.

Mr. Ganiu Tanko seeks to serve on the Environmental Planning Commission to contribute his technical expertise and commitment to inclusive, community-informed planning. He is eager to support sustainable land and water use decisions while promoting environmental justice and long-term growth for Albuquerque.

A resident of Council District 6, Mr. Ganiu Tanko will replace Mr. Gary Eyster and serve as the Council District 6 representative on the Commission; his first term will expire on January 1, 2028.

Current Membership

Representing	Name	Term
1. Council District 1	Mr. Daniel Aragon	1/1/2027
2. Council District 2	Mr. Adrian N. Carver	1/1/2027
3. Council District 3	Mr. Matthew E. Archuleta	1/1/2028
4. Council District 4	Mr. Jarrod Likar	1/1/2027
5. Council District 5	Mr. Giovanni Coppola	1/1/2026
6. Council District 6	Mr. Gary Eyster	1/1/2025
7. Council District 7	Mr. Renn Halstead	1/1/2026
8. Council District 8	Mr. Timothy J. MacEachen	1/1/2026
9. Council District 9	Mr. Eric W. Nelius	1/1/2028

Environmental Planning Commission

Appointment of Mr. Abdul Ganiu Tanko

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samantha Sengel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Samantha" on the first line and "Sengel" on the second line, both ending in a flourish.

Samantha Sengel, Chief Administrative Officer

A handwritten date in blue ink that reads "1/26/26". The date is written in a simple, sans-serif font.

Date

Otero Martinez, Zoe

From: Kirksey, Ziarra
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2025 12:59 PM
To: Otero Martinez, Zoe
Cc: Nashboo, Shaun; Rogers, Nichole L.
Subject: District 6 EPC Send up
Attachments: EPC D6 Memo 12.29.25.pdf

Good afternoon,

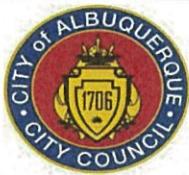
Please review our EPC D6 Memo. Please call if you have any questions.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Ziarra A. Kirksey, M.Ed.

Policy Analyst for Councilor Rogers
Council Services Department
1 Civic Plaza NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
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CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE CITY COUNCIL

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Tim Keller, Mayor
Samantha Sengel, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Nichole Rogers, City Council District 6

SUBJECT: Appointees for District 6, Environmental Planning Commission

DATE: 03/24/2025

CC: Director of Public Affairs Doug Small, Deputy Director of Public Affairs Shaun Nashboo, Constituent Services Representative
Zoe Martinez Otero

Per the Integrated Development Ordinance (14-16-6-2(E)(2)), when a vacancy occurs on the Environmental Planning Commission, the City Councilor for the district in which the vacancy has occurred may either re-appoint the member (if eligible) or initiate the appointment process for a new member.

The term for the appointee for District 6, Mr. Gary Eyster, was currently serving his second term. When his term expired on January 1, 2025, he will not be eligible for re-appointment. Processes for appointment and re-appointment are included in the Integrated Development Ordinance. Per the procedures in the IDO, I am submitting two individuals for your consideration. Within 30-days of receiving this memo, you must select one of these individuals for appointment with the advice and consent of the Council.

The two appointees for your consideration are as follows. I have attached their resumes to this correspondence.

Mr. Abdul Ganiu Tanko

Abdul Ganiu Tanko is a graduate student in Community and Regional Planning at the University of New Mexico, specializing in environmental and natural resource planning. He has worked extensively on watershed management, climate vulnerability, and GIS-based spatial analysis for underserved and Indigenous communities in New Mexico, particularly in the Navajo Nation. Originally from Ghana, Abdul brings an international perspective to resource equity and environmental justice, connecting global extraction-related challenges to local planning strategies. He is passionate about inclusive planning, sustainability, and advancing community-based solutions for water and land use.

- **Dr. Veronica Salinas Ph.D.**

- Short Biography: Dr. Salinas is a former economics professor, historic preservation enthusiast, and owns and manages investment properties in Nob Hill. She is a 20-year resident of Nob Hill, long time member of the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association (NHNA), and served on the NHNA Board of Directors and as treasurer for the association. She was one of approximately a dozen residents who altogether participated in dozens of meetings and volunteered hundreds of hours to help the City of Albuquerque Planning and Zoning Department review, edit, revise, and implement the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) from 2006-2007. She also has considerable experience researching zoning requests as an NHNA board member.

VERONICA SALINAS

Department of Economics,
University of Vermont
238 Old Mill Building, 94
University Place
Burlington, VT 05405
Phone: (802) 656-0190, Fax:
(802) 656-8405
Email:
veronica.salinas@uvm.edu

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D., Economics,
University of New Mexico
Dissertation: "Essays on the
Factors that Contribute to
Body Mass Index"
Fields: Public Economics,
Labor Economics, Health
Economics
Advisors: Melissa Binder,
Jennifer Thacher, Richard
Santos, Nancy Lopez
2011 M.A., Economics,
University of New Mexico
2006 B.A., Economics,
University of Texas at Austin

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2019-2023 Lecturer,
Department of Economics
University of Vermont
2015-2016 Teaching
Instructor, Department of
Economics
University of New Mexico
2013-2014 Research
Assistant, Robert Wood
Johnson Foundation Doctoral
Fellow
University of New Mexico
2012-2013 Teaching
Assistant, Department of
Economics
University of New Mexico
2008-2012 Research
Assistant, Robert Wood
Johnson Foundation Doctoral
Fellow
University of New Mexico

PUBLICATION

Salinas, Veronica, Jillian Medeiros, and Melissa
Binder (2013). Hispanic Risk Factors
and Obesity: Different Risk Factors, Different
Responses. In Marie T. Mora &
Alberto Davila (Eds.), *The Economics Status of
the Hispanic Population* (pp. 113–
127). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing
Inc.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019-2023 *Lecturer, University of Vermont*
Principles of Macroeconomics (EC 011)
Macroeconomic Theory (EC 171)
Economic Methods (EC 170)
Money and Banking (EC 120)
Labor Economics (EC 150)
Health Economics (EC 195)
Race and Gender Discrimination in the
Workplace (EC 250)
2015-2016 *Teaching Instructor, University of
New Mexico*
Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory (ECON
303)
2012-2013 *Teaching Assistant, University of
New Mexico*
Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 105)

HONORS

2013-2014, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Doctoral Fellowship 2008-2012 University of
New Mexico

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2015- American Economic Association (AEA)
Mentoring Program 2010- American Society of
Hispanic Economists (ASHE)