

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY-SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-24-5 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Reneé Grout and Nichole Rogers

1 RESOLUTION

2 CREATING A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE OPTIONS AND MAKE
3 RECOMMENDATIONS TO REIMAGINE THE MOTEL VOUCHER PROGRAM
4 WITHIN THE CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE HOSPITALITY RENEWAL
5 INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP.

6 WHEREAS, to address the emergency overnight needs of the residents of
7 the City, the City currently funds a motel voucher program which is
8 administered through various non-profit organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of providing dignified and
10 effective temporary housing solutions for our community members in crisis;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the current motel voucher program presents challenges to
13 agencies, hotel operators, and voucher holders; and

14 WHEREAS, the Overnight Lodging Ordinance for the City of Albuquerque
15 has not been updated since 2004; and

16 WHEREAS, a very limited number of hotels throughout the City accept
17 motel vouchers, making it difficult to place a motel voucher holder in a safe
18 and secure motel; and

19 WHEREAS, some motels throughout the City are blighted and are hotspots
20 for criminal activity; and

21 WHEREAS, blighted motels within the City cause significant concerns,
22 posing threats to public safety, health, and community well-being; and

23 WHEREAS, an updated and strengthened motel voucher program has the
24 potential to serve as an effective tool in providing temporary relief and support
25 to individuals and families facing housing challenges due to unsafe or
26 inadequate living conditions; and

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

1 WHEREAS, acknowledging the evolving nature of housing issues and the
2 need for a responsive and adaptable strategy, the City is committed to
3 regularly reviewing and enhancing existing programs to meet the changing
4 needs of the community; and

5 WHEREAS, collaboration among various stakeholders, including local
6 government, law enforcement, hotel partners, social services, and community
7 organizations, is essential to creating a multifaceted approach to address the
8 complexities associated with blighted motels; and

9 WHEREAS, this complex issue requires partnerships with local
10 businesses, residents, and advocacy groups to create initiatives aimed at
11 reducing the impact of blighted motels on the City while creating a motel
12 voucher system that better serves the utilizers.

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

15 SECTION 1. An eleven-member Hospitality Renewal Initiative Working
16 Group is established.

17 SECTION 2. The Working Group shall be made up of the following
18 members:

- 19 A. One City staff member from the Department of Health, Housing, and
20 Homelessness (HHH);
- 21 B. One City staff member from the Planning Department's Code
22 Enforcement Division;
- 23 C. One City staff member from the Albuquerque Community Safety
24 Department (ACS) with knowledge about emergency shelters, especially
25 pertaining to Domestic Violence placements;
- 26 D. One City staff member from the Fire Marshal's ADAPT program;
- 27 E. One City staff member from the Albuquerque Police Department (APD);
- 28 F. One City staff member from the City Council Services Department;
- 29 G. One City Staff Member from the Mayor's Office; and
- 30 H. Four community members appointed by the Council, two with
31 knowledge about the hotel industry and operations and two with
32 knowledge about the City funded voucher program;

- 1 I. Appropriate community members and City staff may be invited to the
2 Working Group meetings as needed as advisory only members.

3 SECTION 3. This Working Group shall explore:

- 4 A. options for efficient enforcement methods to address the most pressing
5 problems associated with problem motels;
6 B. options for collaborative and proactive programs to assist motel
7 operators in providing safe and secure accommodations for guests
8 C. options for the City to reimagine the motel voucher program to best
9 serve individuals and families who need an emergency hotel room for a
10 night or a short extended stay; and
11 D. any other relevant and helpful options relating to this issue. This
12 Working Group shall meet bi-weekly until the final recommendations are
13 issued.

14 SECTION 4. The Working Group shall convene its first meeting within
15 one month after the enactment of this Resolution. The Working Group shall
16 prepare recommendations for improving the City's motel voucher program
17 and/or legislation that could help address the issue by no later than six
18 months after the enactment of this Resolution. These recommendations
19 shall be made available to all Councilors and the Mayor.

20 SECTION 5. This Working Group is a fact-finding and recommending
21 body and not a final policy-making body; accordingly, any meetings of this
22 Working Group are not subject to the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.