



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

City Council

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December 6, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT DAN LEWIS ANNOUNCES CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

City Councilor Dan Lewis, newly elected President of the City Council, has announced a series of steps to ensure that the City is doing all that it can to promote economic development and create jobs in the City of Albuquerque. “We’ve got incredible community resources in Albuquerque, and in the past I don’t think we’ve done as good a job as we could have in actively listening to them” said Councilor Lewis. “I want to make sure that the City Council proactively reaches out to the community and that we’re all working towards the same goal – bringing more jobs and opportunities to Albuquerque. We need to prioritize economic development discussions. By opening that communication line, we will be able to better understand what we can do as a City Council to ensure the success of the City of Albuquerque.”

As a part of that effort, Council President Lewis has asked the Administration to provide the Council a monthly economic development report from the Chief Administrative Officer, the Economic Development Department and/or the City Planning Department at the first Council meeting of every month beginning in January, 2013. The Council will dedicate time at the second meeting of the month to discuss economic development issues with various groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, Albuquerque Economic Development, and the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research. Organizations such as these, that have their fingers on the pulse of Albuquerque’s economy, will have an opportunity to present their

December 6, 2012

Page 2

thoughts and suggestions to the City Council about how to make Albuquerque a better and more competitive place to do business.

The Council President also asked for more frequent reports to the Council by the City's recently created Small Business Advisory Commission. In addition to reviewing legislation from a small business perspective, the Commission also reviews City rules and regulations and makes recommendations for changes that will make it easier to do business with and in the City.

Finally, the City Council President will also be requesting presentations on the progress of large infrastructure projects that will assist in future economic development, such as the recently approved improvements to the Paseo del Norte and I-25 intersection, the redevelopment of the Central Avenue corridor, the completion of Unser Boulevard, and the potential development of Paseo del Volcan on the City's west side.

"I know that economic development is one of the Mayor's priorities, and I'm looking forward to working side-by-side with the Administration to help strengthen local businesses, attract new ones, and help keep Albuquerque a great place to live and work."

Attached:

- 1. Proposed rules amendment to make economic development discussions a priority at City Council meetings*
- 2. Legislation R-12-117 which appropriates funds for economic development*
- 3. Legislation R-12-119 which establishes the importance of Paseo del Volcan to the region as an economic generator and calls for coordination and cooperation between various government entities*

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1 **Animal Welfare Department at the first regular meeting each month, the Gross**
2 **Receipts Tax report at the second regular meeting each month, and any other**
3 **presentation allowed at the discretion of the President.**

4 **G. D.** The President shall have the discretion to proceed out of order to
5 any order of business or return to any prior order of business.

6 **D. E.** All business which would be for Approval, Final Action, and Other
7 Business may be placed on the Consent Agenda by the President if he or she
8 believes that no discussion or amendment is needed. At the beginning of the
9 Consent Agenda, the President shall ask if Councilors wish to drop items from
10 the Consent Agenda; upon the request of any Councilor, any item shall be
11 removed from the Consent Agenda and placed in its regular part of the
12 agenda. Items remaining on the Consent Agenda shall be affirmatively acted
13 on by one or more motions, which motion is non-debatable; items on the
14 Consent Agenda may not be amended or substituted.”

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1 WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the retention and expansion of
2 existing area economic base companies, and the growth of new
3 entrepreneurial ventures, also are vital to the economic future of our
4 region; and

5 WHEREAS, the Council desires to appropriate certain funds to be
6 used to promote economic development in the Albuquerque area; and

7 WHEREAS, the City has collected \$5,521,686 in termination
8 payments in FY 2013 from companies that had received City incentives to
9 locate in the community (the “2013 Termination Payments”); and

10 WHEREAS, the Council desires to establish an “Economic
11 Development Action Account” (the “EDAct Account”) to enhance the
12 development of economic base companies in expansion and relocation
13 decisions, and to increase the incidence of high quality economic
14 expansion in the Albuquerque metropolitan area of Central New Mexico,
15 and to fund the EDAct Account with the 2013 Termination Payments; and

16 WHEREAS, the appropriation of the 2013 Termination Payments to
17 the City must be approved by the City Council; and

18 WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish an Economic
19 Development Action Council (“EDAct Council”), and finds that this EDAct
20 Council is the most appropriate entity to review and recommend the use of
21 such funds received by the City, including funding for particular economic
22 development initiatives.

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

25 Section 1. That the EDAct Account is created in Fund 305 to
26 enhance the development of economic base companies in expansion and
27 relocation projects, and to increase the incidence of high quality economic
28 expansion in the Albuquerque metropolitan area of Central New Mexico.

29 Section 2. That the EDAct Account shall be funded with the 2013
30 Termination Payments.

31 Section 3. That EDAct Council is hereby created to review and
32 recommend to the Economic Development Department the use and
33 disbursement of funds appropriated to the EDAct Account.

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- A. Membership**
 - i. The EDAct Council shall consist of the Mayor or designee; two City Councilors chosen by the President of the Albuquerque City Council; and two members of the public, appointed by the Mayor, who have expertise in economic development programs. A representative from the City’s Economic Development Department shall serve as a non-voting technical advisor to the EDAct Council. Membership of the Mayor shall change with any change in the Mayor’s position, and membership of the City Councilors may change with any change in the President of the City Council or the make-up of the City Council**
- B. Responsibilities, Powers and Duties**
 - i. The EDAct Council shall act as the review entity for the disbursement of funds appropriated by the Albuquerque City Council to the EDAct Account, as specified in Section 3. The EDAct Council is charged with:**
 - ii. Reviewing and prioritizing proposed expenditures from the EDAct Account;**
 - iii. Recommending to the Economic Development Department expenditures from the EDAct Account.**
- C. The EDAct Council’s recommendations regarding the disbursement of funds shall be guided by the following four key areas:**
 - i. First: an expanded marketing program promoting the Albuquerque area as a positive business location;**
 - ii. Second: a closing fund to assist significant economic development projects through the Local Economic Development Act;**
 - iii. Third: expand the community’s programs for the retention and expansion of existing economic base companies, and the growth and development of technology-based entrepreneurs; and**
 - iv. Fourth: support for workforce development programs.**

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1 D. The EDACT Council shall remain in existence until all funds have
2 been expended.

3 Section 4. That the City's Economic Development Department, with
4 consultation from the EDACT Council, shall approve expenditures for the
5 EDACT Account. The Economic Development Department shall act as staff
6 to the EDACT Council and shall be responsible for administering any
7 contracts or programs arising out of the EDACT Council's
8 recommendations, except where otherwise specified. The Economic
9 Development Department shall report to the Albuquerque City Council not
10 less than annually regarding the expenditures and results of activities and
11 programs supported with these funds.

12 Section 5. That the amount of \$5,521,686 received from the 2013
13 Termination Payments along with any future interest earnings shall be
14 used in accordance with Section 3.C., and herewith is appropriated in the
15 Capital Acquisition Fund 305 as follows:

16 Department/Fund	Source	Amount
17 <u>Economic Development/ Fund 305</u>		

18 Economic Development Programs/Projects Fund 820		\$5,260,060
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19 Economic Development Programs/Projects Fund 110		\$ 261,626
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20 The scope of the project is as follows: to plan, design, build,
21 acquire, and construct projects in support of new company locations
22 and the retention and expansion of existing companies; to market
23 and promote Albuquerque as a business location; to support
24 programs for the retention and expansion of existing economic base
25 companies, and the growth and development of entrepreneurs; to
26 support workforce development programs; and to contract and/or
27 procure services needed in support of the above items. Of the above
28 funds, \$350,000 is designated for the Economic Development
29 Department to administer these programs and projects.

30 Section 6. That the following amount of Local Economic
31 Development Act (LEDA) Termination Payments deposited in the
32 General Fund is hereby appropriated to the following program strategy
33 for operating City government during Fiscal Year 2013:

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1 **WHEREAS, the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan reports these growth**
2 **trends will increase annual vehicle hours of delay from 400,000 to 1,500,000;**
3 **and**

4 **WHEREAS, the resulting severe congestion at the river crossings will**
5 **reduce the geographical area of the labor markets conveniently accessible to**
6 **key employment centers, will compromise the community’s quality of life (a**
7 **key factor for employers when choosing where to locate a business) and will**
8 **drive up transportation costs which depress housing prices west of the Rio**
9 **Grande resulting in expensive speculative housing prices for the fixed number**
10 **of homes in the built out neighborhoods east of the River; and**

11 **WHEREAS, the high number of rooftops, the limited number of bridge**
12 **crossings, and the concentration of jobs on opposite sides of the river has**
13 **created a dire need to significantly improve the jobs/housing balance by**
14 **developing a major employment area west of the river that is equivalent in**
15 **labor capacity to Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) or the University of New**
16 **Mexico/Central New Mexico College (UNM/CNM) complex; and**

17 **WHEREAS, the Paseo del Volcan corridor and adjacent properties are the**
18 **only area with adequate land west of the Rio Grande for a large employer or**
19 **group of employers; and**

20 **WHEREAS, constructing Paseo del Volcan will open up land use options**
21 **for development of private and public research parks and institutions of**
22 **higher education required to support the high skilled jobs that will dominate**
23 **the future economy of North America, and still provide land to house those**
24 **who work in these facilities; and**

25 **WHEREAS, the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan identified over**
26 **\$2,000,000,000 in transportation infrastructure needs west of Rio Grande,**
27 **including completing Unser Boulevard and Paseo Del Norte, extending Atrisco**
28 **Vista Boulevard north to Southern Avenue in Rio Rancho, and adding high**
29 **capacity transit to Coors Boulevard and the Montano and Paseo del Norte**
30 **river crossings in addition to numerous other improvements needed for the**
31 **arterial and collector street system west of the river; and**

32 **WHEREAS, the property and gross receipt taxes created by developing a**
33 **new economic generator equivalent to KAFB or UNM/CNM could provide a**

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1 significant portion of the funding to construct the needed infrastructure west
2 of the Rio Grande; and

3 WHEREAS; New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) has filed
4 an environmental impact statement with the Federal Highway Administration
5 that states; “if implemented, Paseo del Volcan would create a major
6 transportation corridor with efficient access to the developing properties on
7 Albuquerque's west side and in Rio Rancho. Paseo del Volcan will facilitate
8 and provide for orderly development in a rapidly growing area of Bernalillo
9 and Sandoval Counties; and improve the roadway network’s linkages and add
10 additional roadway capacity to other existing and planned transportation
11 facilities within the northwest subarea.”; and

12 WHEREAS, the NMDOT has constructed the segment of Paseo del Volcan
13 as a limited access highway from United States Highway 550 south to the Rio
14 Rancho Town Center. The Department is currently acquiring right of way for
15 the roadway from the Town Center to the Bernalillo/Sandoval County Line.

16 WHEREAS, acting now to designate Paseo del Volcan as a regional priority
17 before the lands adjoining it are developed will reduce right-of-way costs and
18 avoid disrupting existing neighborhoods and businesses (even condemning
19 sound buildings in stable neighborhoods).

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

22 Section 1. That the City of Albuquerque considers the development of
23 Paseo del Volcan a priority project for the 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021
24 Capital Improvement Programs and for any reauthorization of the Quarter Cent
25 Transportation Infrastructure Tax.

26 Section 2. The City requests the New Mexico State Legislature designate
27 the development of Paseo del Volcan as a State priority for the funding cycles
28 from Fiscal Year 2014 through Fiscal Year 2024.

29 Section 3. The City requests that the Metropolitan Transportation Board of
30 the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area establish the development of
31 Paseo del Volcan as a regional priority for the Transportation Improvement
32 Programs in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022.

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1 **Section 4. The City requests that the County of Bernalillo, the County of**
2 **Sandoval and the City of Rio Rancho designate development of Paseo del**
3 **Volcan as a priority and assist in the project’s funding.**

4 **Section 5. The City encourages property owners of lands within the**
5 **corridor to participate in and provide assistance to the development of Paseo**
6 **del Volcan.**

7 **Section 6. The City requests that the New Mexico Congressional Delegation**
8 **work to secure federal funds for building Paseo del Volcan and assist in**
9 **accessing federal programs for developing an employment center in the**
10 **Paseo del Volcan Corridor.**