



**District 5 Open House Minutes**  
**Ventana Ranch Community Center**  
**September 19, 2018**  
**6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**1. Briefings**

❖ **State Representative Sander Rue, District 23**

Representative Sander Rue described the upcoming 2019 State Legislative Session as distinct in that it requires no input from the Governor. The House and Senate seats are almost equally divided between Democrat and Republican policy makers. Another exiting legislative development is real time legislative updates available at the State Legislature website: <https://nmlegis.gov/> . This year, Representative Sander Rue's legislative and funding priorities are criminal justice and transportation safety.

District 5 City Councilor described Paseo del Norte expansion West of Kimmick as qualifying for Federal funding. Its widening will be proposed for federal monies to develop by the MRCOG. The project is projected to cost \$18million. Property owners are being approached to dedicate 16 ft. of right of way to begin this important project's development. Widening Paseo del Norte will significantly improve the road infrastructure circulation pattern on Albuquerque's West side.

❖ **Albuquerque City Councilor Cynthia D. Borrego**

Councilor Borrego's other priority is to squash criminal acts in Albuquerque. She supports the purchase of the APD Helicopter and co-sponsoring legislation to

fund APD's Lateral Police Officer Training Class. She is also supportive of mental health initiatives in Albuquerque.

To introduce the subject of D-5 Economic and Cultural Development, Councilor Borrego described the homeless population in the area. People set up camps across from the mall in empty lots. District 5 and Albuquerque will benefit from greater economic opportunities. She asks: How do we envision the area to develop? What will places like the Double Eagle Airport contribute to the character of District 5?

❖ **West-Side Fire Battalion Chief Jeremiah Hanson**

Chief Hanson is in charge of all Westside Fire and Safety Issues. He works on Capital Improvement Projects, managing Stations 2 and 18. Station 18 is installing a Solar Project and the Westside battalion is spearheading Station 18's renovation. The West-Side Fire Battalion will be submitting a funding request to the State Legislature which Councilor Borrego will support.

Chief Hanson offered west-side constituents the following number and message line to reach the West-side Battalion at: 836-8735.

❖ **James Lewis, APD Chief's Office**

Mr. Lewis addressed Community Oriented and Problem Oriented Policing Strategies. Officers work to make connections with community members' block by neighborhood block. APD also makes connections with local faith communities to become involved in measures to address opioid and Methamphetamine addictions. Officers are being retrained to recognize addictions and resulting criminal behaviors.

APD is recruiting officers more aggressively. Atlanta, GA is short 400 officers indicating other Cities are also struggling to keep crime at bay and retain and grow their police force! Albuquerque has issues with mental illness related to criminal illness and no longer offers long term care for mental illness. In Austin, TX the City hires clinicians to work with police to conduct mental health assessments. Austin maintains a campus offering homeless services. Austin's 'House of Hope' costs \$20,000 a year to maintain.

Mr. Lewis is involved with the Department of Justice' Court Approved Settlement Agreement with APD. The Agreement is an Audit Process assessing APD's use of force, and will be used to make a determination to move the City Police Force into compliance with the Settlement Agreement. It is taking time to meet the

changes required by the agreement. Invitations to Case briefings are public and will be posted.

❖ **Economic Development Director Synthia Jaramillo**

Director Synthia Jaramillo introduced the Cities outline for ‘Creating Jobs’, Igniting Innovation, Fostering Growth’ in Albuquerque. Beginning with the ‘Increment of One’ concept, the City is working to scale job growth 1 job at a time. Local companies will be fostered by City initiatives to be able to provide 1 more additional job. Eventually 100’s of new local jobs will be generated by local businesses. In 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gear/com will be locating on Albuquerque’s Westside. Additionally, Albuquerque will see more International Business through the new Airport portal for Guadalajara, Mexico flights.

The Administration is supportive of Placemaking in Albuquerque and businesses that lend a distinct character to different areas throughout the City. Placemaking in District 5 will be promoted by Councilor Borrego to enhance and emphasize the unique economic, familial, environmental and cultural character of the District. For example, the Petroglyphs are an example of a special place in Albuquerque as are the Rail Yards. Businesses like Green Jeans in central Albuquerque are structurally unique and offer a variety of local wares and refreshments. One question raised is how can District 5 develop attractions to its area so that residents don’t need to travel far for entertainment, shopping, and work. District 5 may wish to consider its shopping Districts, and transit corridors like Paseo del Norte and Unser as development centers from which to base placemaking and development.

❖ **Transit Director Bernie Toon**

Councilor Borrego and Director Toon made a few trips on Albuquerque’s northwest side to analyze transit corridors and mass transit systems in District 5. Councilor Borrego is an advocate for exceptional transit systems in District 5 and throughout Albuquerque.

Addressing the Albuquerque ART project, service is scheduled to be on line by fall or early winter. The Unser and Central Transit Station will serve as a central point of connection for the ART system. There is extensive parking at Coors and Unser Station to support the Park and Ride facility. There have been four consecutive months of Growth in rider use and declines in crime at the down town transit center. Albuquerque Transit is looking at transit connections throughout the City and extending to Rio Rancho. One key question for District 5 is where are bus shelters needed. Councilor Borrego just requested and received \$50,000

to develop an undated economic development plan for The Double Eagle Airport. The Double Eagle Airport is a distinct piece of a District 5 transportation development strategy.

❖ **Cultural Services Director Shelle Sanchez and Albuquerque/Bernalillo Libraries Director Dean Smith**

Director Sanchez explained that Albuquerque Cultural Services assists in the coordination of programming for ABC Library and Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department's special concerts and events. Albuquerque Cultural Services organizes City events such as Albuquerque Summer Fest, and additionally, manages the KIMO Theatre. Albuquerque Cultural Services Department works with arts and cultural non-profits such as the Outpost Performance Center, to create popular and quality public art's performances. The public is invited to fill out a form to describing partnership ideas with Albuquerque Cultural Services found at the Cultural Services webpage. Director Sanchez reads and responds to suggestions every day.

Albuquerque/Bernalillo Co. Libraries Director Dean Smith described the variety of services offered by the local libraries. When new physical locations are unaffordable, the library looks to ways to expand services through e-books, and electronic media as seen in District 6. The Cibola Loop Multi-Generational Center project in District 5 will include a Multi-Generational Community Center, a new library, the first to be located in the District, and a public pool.

**2. Brainstorming Session**  
**Identifying District 5**  
**Economic and Cultural Visions**

**Shopping:**

- We want more diverse shopping specifically a Trader Joe's.
- A mall with a social feeling like uptown. There is potential near Unser and Paseo for this type of development.
- Shopping should feel safe
- Retail/Entertainment should be linked
- Retail and Food providers should be linked
- Examples: the Grove, GreenJeans, Uptown Albuquerque, Flix Brewhouse.
- Ethnic Food offerings

- We need more places like this so that we don't have to travel across the river for entertainment, Fun Commercial places
- More Grocery Stores with better parking

### **Character:**

- Places with more charm
- Play Areas
- Walkability is lacking
- There need to be more trails for running and biking (near Rainbow Blvd. South of Paseo del Norte, North of the Open Space and East of the City Limits.
- Shade to create inviting small locations
- Celebrate the Volcanoes History, the Puebloan History
- International Character
- Cultural Centers can and do stem from the Schools
- Double Eagle Airport could be more of a destination
- Improvements to the Fire and Police Station
- We need a library. We can create satellite libraries at vacant, rental spaces
- Empty commercial spaces in D5 should be re-purposed by the City for city services and programs; thereby, assisting the City to provide more programming without the need for additional capital projects or costs.

### **Business:**

- More Office employment jobs
- Economic Development should consider the 'brain drain' of the brightest intellects from the area
- The northwest side of Albuquerque needs an incubator similar to the South Valley Economic Development Center. Double Eagle II could provide the space.
- In Roswell, a mechanics school was moved to the airport. The Double Eagle might have a similar college program.
- How do we attract the type of businesses that do not generate so much back and forth traffic across the river?
- Paid Sick Leave to support smaller businesses
- Make our City more corporate and business friendly
- Increase the minimum wage in Albuquerque

## **Transit Centers:**

- Planned Rio Metro Transit Center at the Planned Volcano Heights Town Center: A commercial center offering Westside jobs, housing and business center and a gateway to the Petroglyph Park. It will be mixed use and focus the Westside's sea of housing and create a draw for a central mass of people including Rio Rancho.
- The Volcano Cliffs Transit Center will be similar to the Uptown mall to include horizontal/vertical retail/mixed-use development
- A comprehensive plan for Double Eagle II comprehensive plan creation to capitalize on the historically underutilized site.
- Double Eagle II has the potential to become a technology hub for autonomous vehicle development/testing, drone technology, electric vehicle charging, or solar fields to power the technology.
- The Westside has rapid transit but we need more transit centers—Coors Park and Ride.
- Transit should offer weekend service for special events in Albuquerque
- Buses to CNM would be useful.
- We need more buses Rio Rancho
- More roundabouts on the west side
- More bike lanes
- Improvements to Unser as an important North/South connection on the west side, encouraging Unser and Paseo del Norte connections
- Improvements to the West-side Blvd.
- Paseo del Vulcan is important to traffic.

## **Safety Issues:**

- Increase Animal Safety—too many loose animals in Ventana Ranch
- There should be a traffic light or other safety measures on McMahan at the Saltillo neighborhood.
- McMahan should be expanded from 2-4 lanes, expand McMahan at Kayenta
- Unser to Paradise: Better Traffic Flow and Lights
- The Smiths parking lot at Golf Course and Paseo del Norte is a disaster
- Intersection improvements at Unser and Paseo are important.
- Westside Blvd improvements will begin in cooperation with Rio Rancho and include a public process.
- Increase pedestrian safety on 528.

### **3. Closing Comments**

Changes should set the framework for the future prosperity and increasing welfare of District 5 families, communities and businesses.



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| <b>4. Welcome</b>   | 5 minutes  |
| <b>5. Briefings</b>   |            |
| ❖ <b>State Representative Sander Rue, District 23</b>   | 5 minutes  |
| ❖ <b>Albuquerque City Councilor Cynthia D. Borrego</b>  | 5 minutes  |
| ❖ <b>West-Side Fire Battalion Chief Jeremiah Hanson</b>   | 5 minutes  |
| ❖ <b>James Lewis, APD Chief's Office</b>  | 5 minutes  |
| ❖ <b>Economic Development Director Synthia Jaramillo</b>  | 5 minutes  |
| ❖ <b>Transit Director Bernie Toon</b>   | 5 minutes  |
| ❖ <b>Cultural Services Director Shelle Sanchez and<br/>        Albuquerque/Bernalillo Libraries Director Dean Smith</b> | 5 minutes  |
| <b>6. Brainstorming Session</b>   |            |
| <b>Identifying District 5</b>   |            |
| <b>Economic and Cultural Visions</b>  |            |
| <b>7. Conversation and Questions</b>  | 20 minutes |
| <b>8. Closing Comments</b>  | 15 minutes |

