



District 5 Open House Minutes

NW Area Command Substation

March 12, 2019

6:00–8:00 p.m.

1. Welcome—

Cynthia D. Borrego, District 5 City Councilor, City of Albuquerque
Councilor Borrego described advances in the Paseo del Norte expansion project. \$2.5 million is requested from the State legislature to fund the design for Paseo del Norte capacity expansion. \$18 million is needed for Paseo del Norte’s full build out; thus, funding will be sought on a rolling base.

Susan Vigil, District 5 Policy Analyst briefed attendees on the remaining District 5 State Capital Outlay requests such as for McMahon Blvd. improvements, and the Multi-Generational Community Complex design, as well as ADA accessibility improvements to both the Piedras Marcadas Park and Petroglyph Little League Park located within Mariposa Park. Additionally, funding for a District 5 Bus Stop on Golf Course near Homestead Circle among other locations is requested. These projects are allocated funding by the State Legislature and await the Governor’s approval. (Note: All projects listed herein are approved by Governor Lujan-Grisham as of April 6, 2019)

Councilor Borrego recognized the District 5 Legislators, Senator Sandor Rue, Senator Candace Gould, Representative Daymon Ely, Representative Karen Bash, and Representative Joy Garrett for their diligence in representing Albuquerque District 5’s interest.

Debbie Bauman, City of Albuquerque Public Works Strategic Program Manager, attended the meeting to answer the public’s questions on plan’s to redesign and build capacity improvements on Westside Blvd. Comment forms on this project were provided at the 2019 District 5 Spring Open

House Meeting. (Note: March 22, 2019 marked the end of the comment period.)

2. Briefings

- ❖ **Northwest Area Command Update--Commander Donovan Olvera**
Commander Olvera briefed attendees on recent APD activities in the Northwest Command area. APD is conducting Impact Assessments, which officers will address.

Traffic stops measured in the period between January through March 2018 equaled 1,916. In this same three month span in 2019, traffic stops totaled approximately 3,100. The Northwest area command is cracking down on speeding and dangerous driving behaviors in Albuquerque's Northwest area.

Theft and Auto sales are significantly lower in the 2019 January through March time span compared to these same three months in 2018, down from 150 in 2018 to 95 in 2019.

Comparing the first three months of 2018 to 2019, Burglaries have increased, though residential burglaries have decreased.

Homicides are reduced to zero this year.

The Northwest area command applies their data to deploy officers at hours when crimes have occurred most in the past. APD studies the pattern of criminal activity to enact preventative measures. The Northwest command uses data to determine specific times when deploying speed cameras is most effective toward apprehending offenders.

The Northwest Area command is organizing with businesses to help deter crimes against businesses. A good number of attendees were drawn to The West Bluff Coalition; however, Riverside Plaza businesses organizing meetings demonstrated low attendance. Every month, City official Pete Gelabert, Crime Prevention Specialist, delivers new resources supporting the APD/Northwest Commerce organizing effort. Last month, the Northwest Area command teamed up with the Westside Chamber of Commerce to host a Community Crime Prevention and Organizing meeting at FlixBrew House. It was well attended.

District 5 Attendee Question: How are cars tracked with no License Plates?

Commander Olvera: If someone is driving a car with no license plates we will stop them.

District 5 Attendee Question: Is there a program for abandoned vehicles on the street way?

Commander Olvera: The Police Service aides are on call to help people whose vehicles are broken down on the streets.

❖ **Pete Gelabert, City of Albuquerque Crime Prevention Specialist:**

There used to be 3 priorities criteria for determining area needs. We've increased the criteria to include 5 primary considerations. APD is organizing the 'Coffee with a Cop' events and reaching out to recruit and organize Neighborhood Block Captains. We are actively informing communities about taped Neighborhood watch programs. You can always e-mail your concerns to the Northwest area command officers. Officers will soon carry cell phones. The direct line to the NW Area Command office is (505) 768-4850.

Councilor Borrego: If they are under duress and afraid to call APD or they are otherwise unable to call APD, please call City Council, or 311, or the Fire Battalion Chief at Albuquerque Fire Rescue or any other City Department and we will channel your concern through the reporting system while maintaining your anonymity.

District 5 Attendee Question: How can we monitor area crime rates?

Mr. Pete Gelabert: There is a smart app. Called Crime mapping.com.

❖ **West-Side Fire Battalion Commander Robert Lujan Update**

The Westside Battalions are fighting crime by reporting crime. We train on the weekends, so under pressure we can handle any emergency. Albuquerque Fire Rescue will visit your business to train your business in emergency procedures. We enjoy receiving feedback from the public.

Councilor Borrego purchased a new brush truck for the Bosque area. It will arrive and be in service by April 2019. The brush truck will ensure we can tackle any emergency fire situations that arise in the Petroglyph National Monument area and surrounding open spaces.

Fire Battalion Commander Robert Lujan reminded meeting attendees to change smoke detector batteries. Burning your yard waste is permitted under certain conditions. Please call 244-FIRE to report any and all fire issues.

District 5 Attendee Question: How do you prioritize emergency response? For instance, if someone with Parkinson's falls in their home are they a priority?

Fire Battalion Commander Robert Lujan: All the public sees is our sirens and lights; however there are several response options. Our response system is organized into a tiered priority system.

Councilor Borrego: The City Council's expansion efforts for the Westside Emergency Shelter will channel funding into the Shelter via the capital bond program. The Westside Shelter, as championed by Mayor Keller to provide new homelessness services to better address and alleviate homelessness, is only temporarily located near the Double Eagle Airport.

- Boy Scout Troup 933 was recognized as notable meeting attendees by Councilor Borrego.
- Jerry Schalow, Director of the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce was recognized as a notable meeting attendees by Councilor Borrego
- Andrew Cavalier, Membership Engagement Specialist for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was recognized as a notable meeting attendee at the District 5 Spring Open House by Councilor Borrego.
- Harold Pope, City of Albuquerque Facilities Transition Advisor was recognized as a notable meeting attendee at the District 5 Spring Open House by Councilor Borrego.
- Councilor Borrego remarked that her working relationship with Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull is positive.

❖ **Melissa Sanchez, Westside Chamber of Commerce:
Commerce and Crime Prevention Action**

The Majority of Businesses in the Northwest Area near Riverside Plaza want to build their businesses. The Riverside Plaza Area businesses are working with APD to protect and grow their business ventures. You can follow NW Business happenings at VisitABQevents.org and NW Business Happenings at www.abqwest.org

❖ **Andrew Cavalier, Membership Engagement Specialist for the
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

The primary focus of the Hispano Chamber of Commerce is to provide resources to Albuquerque's business communities. The Hispano

Chamber of Commerce offers small business training to Albuquerque's whole communities. Mr. Cavalier summarized "We strive to support businesses with resources and to support the community as a whole."

❖ **Synthia Jaramillo, City of Albuquerque Director of Economic Development**

Director Jaramillo lives on Albuquerque's Westside and is thereby invested on a personal level in 'the Westside's' future. The City of Albuquerque is formulating a seven year economic development plan. The City Economic Development Department is doing more than looking to recruit the next 'big fish' to our economy. For instance, the square device that accepts credit cards is an asset to businesses and the City's Economic Development Department is looking for ways to assist businesses to obtain the technology. The Increment of One City strategy promotes the concept that each small business can hire 1, 2, 3, 4 or more employees and by supporting each small business creation we are creating an exponential number of jobs. The administration recently secured \$2 million to staff the Increment of One office so we are able to dedicate staff to support small businesses in the City.

Each contract the City enters into must give back to the City. Netflix must give back 30%. This is 30% spent on a local vendor.

Albuquerque Economic Development supports the City's 'creative economy'. We are looking to identify the tipping point for the creative economy and looking for opportunities to support the artists—fiber artists, muralists, and other types of artists and performance artists.

In regards to the issue of place making, now is the time to take successful downtown project's and expand them throughout the City. We must navigate the process with fire, and police, as well as assist businesses in obtaining licenses. *2nd Gear* moved to the Westside. *2nd Gear* provides new, refurbished and off lease computers and IT services. These are a type of economic base businesses that the Albuquerque Department of Economic Development works to qualify Albuquerque to appeal to—technology and manufacturing industries.

District 5 Attendee Question: Will the Westside have a *Trader Joe's*?
Director Jaramillo: The *Trader Joe's* on Paseo del Norte east is under performing. The *Trader Joe's* company considers this

underperforming location when weighing prospects for additional Albuquerque locations. The Paseo Del Norte *Trader Joe's* was doing well before the Louisiana Uptown Mall location opened. The company feels their market may be saturated.

Our local businesses are filling the niches. La Montanita is here on the Westside and doing well.

District 5 Attendee Question: Where does the ART project stand?

Director Jaramillo: There are plans to order gas buses with arrival by this winter.

District 5 Attendee Question: Will there be an *Isotopes Stadium* or a sports stadium on the Westside of Albuquerque?

Councilor Borrego: This is undetermined and may be a question for state legislators. *Mesa del Sol's* location on Albuquerque's Westside is a plus.

Councilor Borrego: Councilor Borrego is trained and experienced in urban planning and Transit Director Toon and Councilor Borrego took a tour of the Westside of Albuquerque. Transit considerations are a natural part of her process i.e. the consideration of moving through the City in positive ways. She asks District 5 residents and businesses to think about transit as more than getting from point A to point B. Trips can be enjoyable.

Attendees, residents, and businesses of District 5 should begin to reflect on the Westside's land use patterns in District 5—cross road places like Unser, Paseo del Norte and Universe. District 5 presents some of last open land in Albuquerque that is not land locked. How do residents relate to the area on the Westside--the commute across the river at Alameda, Paseo del Norte, and Montano? How can district 5 attract businesses and support existing business. Do we feel safe in District 5?

Councilor Borrego expressed enthusiasm for the future of Albuquerque, its children, places and green spaces. We want to make the City a better place for our kids, a more sustainable friendly City. That is why she supports the Clean and Green Ordinance to ban single use plastic bags (O-48). It is scheduled to be heard by City Council on April 15, 2019.

When businesses and residents speak up, for instance, about the Sick Leave Bill, (O-18-46) your City Councilor's listen. We do our homework. Though sometimes the Mayor and Council do not agree-- as in the instance of LEDA fund provisions for TopGolf--which includes claw-back provisions should TopGolf fail to meet their contractual obligation and the assurance that the project will generate 300 plus local jobs—the administration and council did agree on applying LEDA funds for TASKUS. The administration and City Council work together. At the end of the day, City of Albuquerque Administrators and City Legislators are working together.

❖ **Tim Brown, Engineering Division Manager, City of Albuquerque
Municipal Development Department, (DMD)
City of Albuquerque, Infrastructure Update**

At Eagle Ranch, the right turn lane and the right lane is now resigned so that only the through movement to the right of the divider between the through lane and the right turn lane is legal. The sign is posted on the mast arm.

Always stop at Ventana West on the south side of Paseo del Norte for traffic signals. DMD is planning on posting an all way stop sign here. As a rural area, it needs flashing beacons. This is a first for the City of Albuquerque.

At Atrisco and Paseo del Vulcan there are exit signs with flashing signals. This is an NM Department of Transportation facility.

Signal timing is a tool heavily relied on by the City DMD. Signals have limited green time. Most of the green time is dedicated to the heaviest movement through an intersection. We are able to monitor intersections to determine the times of heaviest use.

There is a fair amount of dollars assigned to DMD for signing and stripping. DMD performs signing and stripping activities in the warmest months. We are looking at brightening the crosswalks.

District 5 Open House Attendee Question: What about the *La Countista* development at Southeast Paseo del Norte and the Unser intersection. People are cutting through the area down to *Rosa Parks*. This is also occurring at Kimmick, and Urraca. There is a 4 way stop here and school buses so the situation is

dangerous. NOTE: Mr. Dunlap's concern was taken up by Council Services District 5 and is being looked into by the Albuquerque Department of Municipal Services.

Tim Brown, Engineering Division Manager: DMD has not looked into the intersections in question; however, please note placing a stop sign in two of the directions at an intersection doesn't impede traffic as much as a four way stop.

District 5 Open House Attendee Question: Irving is an issue. How can safety and mobility be improved also the safety of Eagle Ranch and Paseo del Norte?

Tim Brown, Engineering Division Manager: The Eagle Ranch/Paseo del Norte intersection will be addressed by developers through the redesign and construction process, 2-3 years from now.

District 5 Open House Attendee Question: On Coors, the turn into the Target shopping complex close to *Pay Less Shoe store* is very dangerous. Can we cease this left turn option during certain hours? (Note: The concern is referred by City Council Constituent Services District 5 to NMDOT).

Tim Brown, Engineering Division Manager: Any problems involving Coors Blvd. should be referred to the NMDOT as Coors is a state highway. Additionally, any time DMD wishes to remove access to a shopping center there is resistance from area business.

3. Conversation and Questions

Questions were raised about the Cibola Loop Multi-Generational Community Complex. The project will include affordable Senior housing. The Senior Housing RFP will be released this spring 2019.

District 5 Open House Attendee Question, Member of the City of Albuquerque Library Advisory Board: Why is District 5 the only district in the City without a Library?

Councilor Borrego: Please support City of Albuquerque District 5 Capital Implementation monies requests. The New Mexico State Legislators allocated funding for part of the design for the Cibola Loop Multi-Generational Community Complex to include a Library. The Governor's signature provides final funding authorization. Councilor Borrego is

requesting Government Obligation Bond Monies for the remaining \$2 million necessary to complete the design of the Multi-Generational Center.

District 5 Open House Attendee Comment, Chair of Albuquerque Transit Advisory Board: It is great that the Cibola Loop Multi-Generational Community Complex will be built next to the transit center.

Councilor Borrego: The City of Albuquerque Administration and Councilor Borrego, as the District 5 City Councilor, are implementing long term projects. The Council and City Administration are looking to create projects to support the Double Eagle Airport and ways to consider how economic and transportation projects will be developed.

Councilor Borrego presented two different Mariposa sign options for attendees to consider. There is an artistic piece and a different cement option with just the butterfly on top.

Comment Cards:

- 1) What is up with the “Irving Village” Trailer Storage Units—at the Old Rowland’s Nursury location (West of Irving)?
- 2) Instead of a big expensive sign at the entrance to Mariposa Basin, we can redo the pedestrian crosswalk on a regular basis. Far too many cars fly by without stopping! (Note: This concern is already referred by City Council Constituent Services District 5 to the Department of Municipal Development and is being considered for safety improvements)
- 3) Please use the open space opportunity to create a vision when developing the west side. Walkability is a must.
- 4) Please provide a plan about Paradise between Golf Course and Eagle Ranch. Note: Once it is available, the plan to improve Paradise between Golf Course and Eagle Ranch will be posted on Councilor Borrego’s website