



## **District 5 Open House Agenda**

### **NW Area Command Substation**

**September 26, 2019**

**6:00-7:30 p.m.**

#### **1. Welcome—**

- ❖ **Cynthia D. Borrego, District 5 City Councilor      10 minutes**  
**City of Albuquerque**

Councilor Borrego introduced her Policy Analyst for District 5 Susan Vigil, and encouraged attendees to contact Ms. Vigil with assurance that whatever issue they convey to Ms. Vigil will reach her ears. Council Vice-President Borrego recommended District 5 residents reach out to her through the District 5 Facebook page, under her name as Albuquerque City Councilor. The minutes to the Open House meeting will be posted at <http://www.cabq.gov/council/find-your-councilor/district-5>

Council Vice-President explained the rotation of officers at the NW Area Substation as a standard rotation. She introduced Acting Commander Jennifer Garcia, Commander Olvera retired, and will be missed. We are happy to have Commander Jennifer Garcia in charge of the NW Area Police Command.

Council Vice President Borrego referred to Mayor Keller's comments at a recent night's meeting concerning APD. We currently have 960 officers in Albuquerque having hired 100 officers this year. We are on track to reaching a goal of 1300 officers in the next 3 years. New officers take time to train. With patience we will meet this goal!

Pete Gelabert, City of Albuquerque Crime Prevention Specialist, attending the Open House meeting, is the City and APD representative to request District 5 neighborhoods and homes receive extra layers of security. Councilor Borrego also works closely with Fire Chief Paul Dow. She introduced Battalion Chief Robert Lujan representing Albuquerque's West-Side Fire and Rescue Stations. Council Vice-President Borrego helped coordinate and fund the installation of landscaping

at Fire station #18. Councilor Borrego described repairs to the roof at Fire station #21.

Additionally, Councilor Borrego approved and financed two new signs at Mariposa Park. In cooperation with State of New Mexico Senator Sander Rue, City Councilor Borrego gathered an additional \$500, 000 from the 2018 NM State legislative session to make significant improvements to the Petroglyph Little League Field also located at Mariposa Park. The money will be available to the City by the end of 2019. ADA accessible parking lot improvements were additionally funded by the NM 2019 Legislature and Governor for Piedras Marcadas Park located in Piedras Marcadas neighborhood in District 5.

\$2.1 million was allocated by the 2019 NM State Legislature for the expansion design of Paseo del Norte's from Rainbow Blvd. to Calle Nortena. The total cost to expand this stretch of Paseo del Norte's is \$24 million. The City will hold developers responsible for their part of road improvement.

Unser Blvd. will also be expanded under the federal funding process. Currently, City Council was able to impress Unser's expansion for inclusion on the 2019 federal project priority list, a selection process conducted by the Mid-Region Council of governments.

In regard to West-side Blvd., expansion will move forward in 2023.

In 2019, City Council obtained NM state capital outlay funding to redesign a portion of McMahan Blvd. at Kayenta. Please talk to your NM State legislators about these projects.

Councilor Borrego reminded attendees of her goals to maintain transparency and list all projects on her City Website either through events or direct spending. Two other projects that will benefit District 5 include the Double Eagle Airport Economic Study, and the District 5 Gateway project - a welcoming gate and distinguishing market to the West-side and District 5--brought forward by Councilor Borrego and approved by City Council. Both projects are moving forward.

Other representatives of the City of Albuquerque were introduced: Director Ann Sanchez, of the Department of Senior Affairs, Director Carol Pierce of the Department of Family and Community Services, and Lisa Huval Deputy Director of Family and Community Services.

Vice-President to City Council and District 5 Councilor Borrego introduced the Open House's Special Guests: The Director of Saranam Sue Rzendzian, and a founding member of Serenity Mesa Lou Duran. District 5 needs more services for the Homeless. The entire Westside is short on homeless services such as mental health resources.

## 2. Briefings

### Crime Prevention Update

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

Mr. Gelabert encouraged attendees to meet their area officers at the NW Area Command's 'Coffee with a Cop' events. This year homicides are up. Public parks are mandated to be open to all individuals, homeless or otherwise. The City employs individuals to conduct outreach to homeless individuals. The City can post hours of park use if people are beginning to permanently inhabiting a park. If the community decides they don't want a person in the park.

**Lisa Huval, Deputy Director of Family and Community Services:** To report an encampment, call 311. For encampments on public property, the Department of Family and Community Services has a staff person who provide outreach to encampment residents, notify them that they need to leave, and coordinate clean up. Homeless encampments can take a few days.

**Pete Gelabert, Crime Prevention Specialist:** Residential burglaries have declined, Property crimes have declined. My office will conduct free Home Security Assessments at a resident's request. We check your windows, back doors, and other points of entry throughout your home to put you on a safe and secure course.

- ❖ **Northwest Area Command Update** **10 minutes**  
**Acting Commander Lt. Jennifer Garcia**

Acting Commander Lt. Jennifer Garcia explained that APD Field Service Assignments are available for bid on an annual basis based on department seniority. After the 2019 annual bid some officers previously assigned to the NW area command chose to re-bid to the command, while others opted to bid to other assignments.

- ❖ **West-Side Fire Battalion #4 Update** **10 minutes**  
**Deputy Fire Chief Robert Lujan**

Council Vice-President Borrego funded the landscaping at Fire station 18, children helped dig the rows for plantings. Councilor Borrego contributed half the costs to repair the leaking roof at the West-side Fire station 21.

Station 22 gained the West Side Brush Truck, purchased by Councilor Borrego. The sooner we can get where we are needed the easier we can control a fire. The brush truck allows firefighters to get right up to wild land fires and suppress them.

Council Vice-president Borrego purchased 3 Thermal Imaging Cameras for Albuquerque's west-side fire-fighters. They are durable and safe models. We can easily transport them.

She purchased for District 5, Locus Devices to automatically and consistently apply CPR. These devices deliver effective compression and consistent chest compressions freeing emergency responders to administer other life-saving measures.

**Councilor Vice-President Borrego:** We may position a new station further north, to improve circulation. Volcano Vista's response Time to too wide an area is a problem.

**Constituent:** At Station 22, I recommend flashing lights. It is a bad intersection and we need help getting in and out of the intersection.

**Deputy Fire Chief Lujan:** Station 22 used to be a Community Station, and now it is much busier. Albuquerque Fire and Rescue is looking into bringing it up to capacity. In regards to a flashing signal lights, Deputy Fire Chief Lujan will recommend the measure for consideration at the upcoming Battalion Chief meeting. (Note: As of January 7, 2020, no decision has been reached on the best method remind drivers not to block bay doors station 22 fire units use to exit the station, when stopped at the red light, heading south bound).

**❖ Cibola Lp. Community Complex Senior Housing Project  
15 minutes**

**Anna Sanchez, City of Albuquerque Director of Senior Affairs**

Cibola Lp. Project: The City of Albuquerque Senior Affairs Department is a partner in this effort. We envision a Multi-generational center similar to North-Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center. It will have a library, pool, and multi-generational center. There are 25 acres, though .5 acres in the area are still owned by a developer. There is a proposed master plan produced under the term of the former District 5 Councilor. We will be the 4<sup>th</sup> largest City in this Southwest region by 2030 with a booming senior population with many retirement communities and growing numbers of seniors. The City of Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs provides free meals to seniors over 60, at their meal sites and through home delivery program, transportation services, funds home retrofits, repair and clean-up.

**Council Vice-President Borrego:** We received \$600,000 from the from the 2019 State Legislature to initiate design of the Cibola Loop Community Complex. Councilor Borrego's requests an additional \$1.5 million for Cibola Loop Community Complex Phase I from Albuquerque GO Bond funds to be put to public vote on November 5, 2019. These combined funding streams should be enough to begin the Request for Proposals process to Design the entire Cibola Loop

Community Complex to include the Multi-Generational Center, Library, and Pool. The process of creating the design and obtaining funding may take 3-years, before we can begin construction.

**Director Carol Pierce:** The City's effort to acquire the land really helps this project take flight.

**Council Vice-President Borrego:** The Mayor and I are working closely on both the Cibola Loop Community Complex and the Paseo del Norte expansion project.

**Constituent:** Living in Southwest Albuquerque, we have no amenities on this side of Albuquerque. We appreciate the Councilor, Mayor, and Administrations support.

The Multi-Generational Center Feasibility Study set out the priorities and the land is set aside. It sets out the land layout and now we will have design.

Paradise Hills can put money into revamping their facilities. There are 29 Community Centers in the City. We have one City Facility in the northwest. We need to be thoughtful about how we place and plan facilities. There are only two City facilities for this whole area. Los Volcanas is far from here. Our property values could be declining without community facilities in our area. The Multi-Generational/Recreation Center will cost in the Millions for the whole project. What I see is there is a misconception of funding. I wanted change in our area, to positively affect people. We want to change what is happens in our District. For instance, APD should go into schools and talk about abuse in the schools.

What exactly is an affordable housing RFP?

**Council Vice-President Borrego:** We send an RFP to developers. We issue it with a description and what is needed at the site. Then evaluate it for meeting design and criteria. Federal Criteria may need to be considered depending on the funding source. Once the RFP is received which does not include a rendering, HUD requirements with a list of guidelines must be met if it is a housing RFP.

**Anna Sanchez, Director of Senior Affairs:** The City is considering moving forward on developing affordable housing at the site, single family homes, affordable to people like teachers in families in the area. The Request For Developer Proposals will be ready for issue next week. The Department of Family and Community Services issued this RFP

**Constituent:** You are saying the Cibola Loop Community Complex Affordable Housing could emphasis senior preference but the RFP does not. We don't need more affordable housing. We need locations for recreation—not housing.

**Constituent:** I moved here 5 years ago and was involved with Valencia. I want a walkable Senior Housing Center.

**Councilor Vice-President Borrego:** Director Pierce will work with you to take your comments.

Anna Sanchez, Senior Affairs Department Director-- provided Senior Affairs Brochures.

- ❖ **City of Albuquerque Homelessness Initiatives** **15 minutes**
  - **Carol Pierce, City of Albuquerque  
Director of Family and Community Housing**
  - **Lisa Huval, City of Albuquerque  
Deputy Director of Affordable Housing**

**Deputy Director Lisa Huval:** We are part of Mayor Keller's Initiative with Family and Community Services to address Homelessness. We want to provide access for youth and for homeless people. Gilbert Ramirez, Deputy Director, Substance Abuse at the Department of Family and Community Housing, also works with the Mayor to secure and provide services for Albuquerque's homeless people.

**Council Vice-President Borrego:** Director Carol Pierce is also a nurse, and knows behavioral health, and police/ fire safety protocols. She offers a whole new perspective on homelessness. Currently, there is a \$14 million dollar bond to support the Homeless in Albuquerque proposed in the November 5<sup>th</sup> voter bond election.

**Deputy Director Lisa Huval:** When I came into my position with the Mayor's Homelessness task force, we asked: What is the most important focus of a homelessness and Behavioral health initiative?

Over the course of the year, 5,615 people experience homelessness—1500/night—all ages, adults, kids, teenagers.

Unsheltered, substance abuse, and mental health issues are major causes of homelessness. 43% of homeless persons are experiencing mental health issues. Homeless individuals are considered chronic if they remain homeless for 1 year with significant disability, mental or physical.

Chronic Homelessness, Example:

Sylvia: Sylvia was a teen-age run away. She used drugs for undiagnosed bipolar disorder. She sold heroine, was arrested, was released, couch surfed, and tried to change. Sylvia used drugs again, and was found disturbed on the street. The Emergency response was not clear about her diagnosis. Emergency Response officered additional help only available after a 6 month waiting period. Sylvia again sought illegal drugs to treat her conditions. She commits more theft and is arrested, and, then, is re-released back onto the streets.

Albuquerque Fire and Rescue ambulance service costs \$16,000 a call or, for lower level emergencies costs \$9,400 a call. APD costs \$84/call. We waste thousands on ghost calls equaling \$1 million a year

Many homeless people and their children experienced a catastrophic event propelling them into homelessness. They find themselves in positions where they cannot make rent and need help getting on their feet. They need to connect to a community.

#### Homelessness by Catastrophic Event, Example:

Mary: Mary's husband died. Her work schedule would not coordinate with her child care responsibilities. Mary lost her job and could no longer pay for her house. She and her children moved into her car.

The homelessness issue should connect to Albuquerque's housing community. People can avoid being lost in jail, criminal, health, and poverty cycles. Coordinated re-entry/outreach/permanent housing/supportive services/and medical services together address homelessness. Currently, we lack centralized emergency services.

The Albuquerque Winter shelter is now open year round. It offers 450 beds. 300 people stay at the shelter very night. It is more than just a place where people sleep. It strives to address the underlying needs of people served at the shelter and the back-ground causes of what people are experiencing. The University of New Mexico provides services at the shelter. Health Care for the Homeless visits the center to provide services.

Meeting basic needs significantly assists individuals to exit from Homeless shelters and negative poverty and health situations. There is a \$20,000,000 voter bond request to fund relocation of the Albuquerque shelter to a more central location, and, from there, move homeless people into housing. Should the November 2019 bonds be approved by voters, in 2020, the City wants to complete the site-selection process for the Homeless facility, then begin construction in 2021.

A new Albuquerque shelter will integrate non-profit organization and Bernalillo County services. The conceptual design provides shelter beds. Other service providers will offer job and housing search, medical and social services. The design includes an outdoor space to accommodate pets. A site has not been identified. It should be convenient to bus drop off and pick up sites. It will connect people to housing and health options. The City is looking for state funding to complete the Homeless shelter conceptual design. If awarded, the City Department of Family and Community Services will issue a Request for Proposals to architects to create the center's design.

Many people don't know or plan where they will live. To address this, the City will seek funding for FY2020 housing vouchers. We are requesting \$5 million in workforce housing bonds. We can transfer our energies from street outreach to housing outreach.

**Constituent:** If we don't do anything else, then can we complete the center on the West-side that is already in use.

**Council Vice-President Borrego:** I visited the center. There are places for donations—shampoos, socks. I will provide a location for donations (Sent to Neighborhood Representatives and District 5 Community Members from Council Services on December 30, 2019)

There are many differentiated populations within the overall homeless population. There are many groups.

Albuquerque City Council is being sued by the ACLU for attempting to prohibit prolonged use of city medians. This case is on appeal. Unless an individual is committing an offense, it appears it is illegal to remove them from a public location such as street medians.

**Constituent:** When we toured the facility, it was a huge eye opener to how people are living.

**Deputy Director Lisa Huval:** Hope Works, a faith based organization in Albuquerque is laying ground work in service provision. The City of Albuquerque provides some funding and requires candidate providers to serve at the current west-side location. Meals are provided off-site by non-City service providers.

**Council Vice-President Borrego:** At the West-Side Shelter, one can see all the partitioned areas. Sleeping quarters are separated into family areas, and there are reading and media rooms. I didn't infringe on the people's spaces but I encourage you to find out how the center runs for yourselves.

**Constituent:** How are safety pre-cautions provided at the Homeless Center? Are people worried about theft?

**Deputy Director Lisa Huval:** This is a challenge. At a new facility, we will consider secure storage facilities.

**Constituent:** You can obtain donated lockers from the old fire and police stations

### 3. Conversation and Questions

20 minutes

❖ **Guest Homeless Service Represented:**

- **Serenity Mesa, Albuquerque Non-Profit:** “We provide long term transitional living to young men and women ages 14-21.” (Retrieved September 23, 2019 from <https://www.findhealthclinics.com/US/Albuquerque/1386256971696886/Serenity-Mesa-Recovery-Center>)

**Lou Duran, Serenity Mesa Founding Member:** My son fell into drug additions, after a sports injury. I lost my son after a battle. 100s of people die every day from substance abuse.

95% of young people that come to Serenity Mesa don't have access to services. In separate quarters, Serenity Mesa houses both young boys and girls. Most all of our clients have been adversely effected at some point in their young lives—derailed either emotionally, or physically.

- **Saranam, Albuquerque Non-Profit:** “Saranam is a 2-year housing and education program for homeless families in Albuquerque, NM.” (Retrieved September 23, 2019 from <https://www.alignable.com/albuquerque-nm/saranam-llc>)

**Sue Rzendzian, Saranam Director:** We house families in our program for 2 years, and offer services and resources all located within a block of the Saranam apartment complex. When families leave, they no longer require any supportive housing services.

We just brought in 10 new families and 38 children. The support we nurture for each other spans conflict resolution, nutrition, education and more. Every member can gain appropriate life skills. We offer homework help, tutoring, and will assist in finding tutors. On Tuesday's we conduct Arts/Science/and Crafts courses with our families.

Over the years, out of 132 families, and 172 children, we demonstrate an 80% success rate. The data is published in our annual reports.

Saranam Examples:

We housed one girl who was formerly on drugs, an another person who was recently in prison. The judge released her on time spent in prison. She is working towards and will achieve her Associate degree.

**Council Vice-President Borrego:** There is also the Veteran's Integration Center on Central and Eubank. The Center travels Albuquerque streets to pick up and offer assistance to homeless veterans. Also, the City's Tender Love program spans from

4<sup>th</sup> St. to Knob Hill. Tender Love helps build marginalized people's skills. There are many effective and successful homeless service providers and programs that, as Councilors, we find important for the City to maintain involvement in.

I support them. It is tough to be a fire or APD officer

If you see a police officer, buy him lunch, show your appreciation for their work. They are trying hard to handle homeless issues with compassion and an eye to the safety and rights of Albuquerque's public.

**Constituent:** We have 1/3 the population of Albuquerque on the West-side and no cultural venue. I've lived here 22 years.

**Council Vice-President Borrego:** If anyone wants to volunteer, we can start a ball rolling to create an arts showcase in our District. We can together envision what a west-side artist's exhibit will look like. It may be as simple as placing a permanent bandstand in District 5.

The 1% for the arts rarely is applied to the West Side. I have initiated conversations with Cultural Services Director Sanchez to find ways to bring cultural services programming and funds to District 5.

**The District 5 Open House Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**