

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-21-205 ENACTMENT NO. R-2021-033

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton, Cynthia D. Borrego, Lan Sena, by request

1 RESOLUTION

2 ACKNOWLEDGING AND RECOGNIZING THE ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN
3 SCHOOL CEMETERY AT 4H PARK AS A HISTORICAL AND SACRED BURIAL
4 SITE; ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORICAL AND ONGOING
5 INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA EXPERIENCED BY NATIVE AMERICAN
6 INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND TRIBAL NATIONS AS A RESULT OF INDIAN
7 BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES; AND COMMITTING TO WORK WITH TRIBAL
8 NATIONS AND LOCAL NATIVE AMERICANS TOWARD RECONCILIATION AND
9 HEALING.

10 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque is built upon the traditional homelands
11 of the Tiwa peoples and recognizes that Tribal Nations have lived upon this
12 land since time immemorial; and

13 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque values the contributions to our society
14 accomplished through and by Native American thought, culture, and
15 technology; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States government adopted the Indian Civilization
17 Fund Act of 1819 to provide financial support for church run schools to
18 “civilize” Native American children through education; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States government adopted the Indian Boarding
20 School Policy of 1869 also known as “President Grant’s Peace Policy” in a
21 deliberate attempt to eradicate Native American languages, beliefs, cultures,
22 and identities and to assimilate them into White American culture through
23 federally funded Christian-run schools, which had the effect of cultural
24 genocide; and

25 WHEREAS, between 1869 – 1960’s the Indian Boarding School Policy
26 authorized the forced removal of hundreds of thousands of Native American

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1 children from their families and communities and relocated them to one of 367
2 residential facilities across 30 states; and

3 WHEREAS, Article II(e) of the United Nations definition of genocide states
4 “Forcible transferring children of the group to another group” with the intent
5 to destroy, in whole, or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group is
6 an act of genocide; and

7 WHEREAS, Native American children were required by law to attend
8 boarding schools with the stated purpose of “Kill the Indian, Save the Man,”
9 often through physical, sexual, psychological, and spiritual abuse; and

10 WHEREAS, many Native American children ran away and remained
11 missing, or died of abuse, illness, or substandard healthcare provided by
12 Indian Boarding schools; and

13 WHEREAS, by 1926, nearly 83 percent of Native American school-aged
14 children were enrolled in Indian Boarding schools in the United States, but
15 because nearly 62 percent of the school records have been lost or destroyed,
16 the full extent of the Indian Boarding School Policy has not been identified;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Indian School (AIS) was operated by the
19 Presbyterian Church and by the United States government from the 1881 to
20 1981; and

21 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Indian School received Native American
22 children from surrounding Pueblos and Tribes from within and outside of New
23 Mexico, including Native American children from Ute, Apache, Pima, and
24 Navajo tribal nations; and

25 WHEREAS, the implementation of these harmful federal policies resulted in
26 the isolation, separation, and death of Native American children who died
27 while attending the Albuquerque Indian School and were buried in unmarked
28 graves at the Albuquerque Indian School Cemetery, away from their families
29 and community never to return home; and

30 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque received a request to acquire the site
31 where the cemetery is located on June 20, 1972; and

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1 **WHEREAS, information regarding the number of individuals buried and**
2 **their location at the Albuquerque Indian School cemetery at 4H Park is**
3 **inconclusive and further research of the site is required; and**

4 **WHEREAS, Albuquerque City Council Ordinance 2-6-6-1 established The**
5 **Commission on American Indian & Alaska Native Affairs**
6 **(CAIANA) as an advocate for Native American resident affairs and was**
7 **amended in 2019 to have CAIANA serve as the forum for formalized**
8 **government-to-government relations between the City of Albuquerque and its**
9 **adjacent Tribal Nations; and**

10 **WHEREAS, the City, through its Office of Native American Affairs, has**
11 **contacted the eight Pueblos and Tribes originally identified with this burial site**
12 **to gather and provide information on this issue along, and is reaching out to**
13 **the remaining affected Pueblos and Tribes within the State of New Mexico to**
14 **engage in ongoing, meaningful tribal consultation; and**

15 **WHEREAS, the City convened a 4H Park Burial Site Stakeholders’ Meeting**
16 **on August 10, 2021 to provide a forum for community stakeholders with a**
17 **connection to the site to provide recommendations for future actions by the**
18 **City; and**

19 **WHEREAS, the CAIANA issued a formal memorandum to the Mayor’s**
20 **Office on September 20, 2021 entitled “Recommendations on Albuquerque**
21 **Indian Boarding School Cemetery Site/4H Park” that provides information,**
22 **discussions, and recommendations for short-term and long-term actions to**
23 **address this specific issue and the legacy impacts of Indian boarding schools;**
24 **and**

25 **WHEREAS, the City, through its Office of Native American Affairs, held a**
26 **public event entitled “Albuquerque Indian School Cemetery Acknowledgement**
27 **and Healing Reflection” on September 25, 2021 focused on the history of the**
28 **site, acknowledging the historical and intergenerational trauma of Indian**
29 **Boarding Schools, and recognizing the City’s commitment to ongoing redress**
30 **of the issue; and**

31 **WHEREAS, the City’s Parks and Recreation Department has temporarily**
32 **demarcated the assumed location of the cemetery at 4H Park, placed signage**
33 **identifying the park as a sacred site to help educate the public about the site’s**

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1 significance to begin implementing recommendations from community
2 stakeholders connected to the site; and

3 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has a government-to-government
4 working relationship with adjacent Pueblos and Tribes, and a responsibility to
5 its Native American residents to make the AIS Cemetery Site a place to be
6 treated with respect and reverence now and into the future.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
8 ALBUQUERQUE:

9 Section 1. Pledges to provide resources both financial and human, as
10 feasible, to implement short-term and long-term recommendations provided
11 by the City's adjacent Pueblos and Tribes, CAIANA, and community
12 stakeholders with connection to the site.


13 Section 2. Support the establishment of a working group to gather,
14 analyze, and assess all historic and current information and documentation
15 related to Albuquerque Indian School burials and cemetery sites. This working
16 group should be Native-led and include historical and cultural experts.

17 Section 3. Support the development of and implementation of strategies to
18 address issues, concerns, and health disparities Native residents of
19 Albuquerque face due to the impacts of historical trauma and racism. These
20 will include short and long-term goals in relation to education, economy,
21 environment, health care, intergovernmental relations with Native
22 Nations/Pueblos in the state, and the homeless population.

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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 4th DAY OF October, 2021
2 BY A VOTE OF: 8 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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6 Excused: Harris

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9 _____
10 Cynthia D. Borrego, President
11 City Council

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14 APPROVED THIS 11 DAY OF October, 2021

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18 Bill No. R-21-205

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22 _____
23 Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
24 City of Albuquerque

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27 ATTEST:

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29 _____
30 Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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