

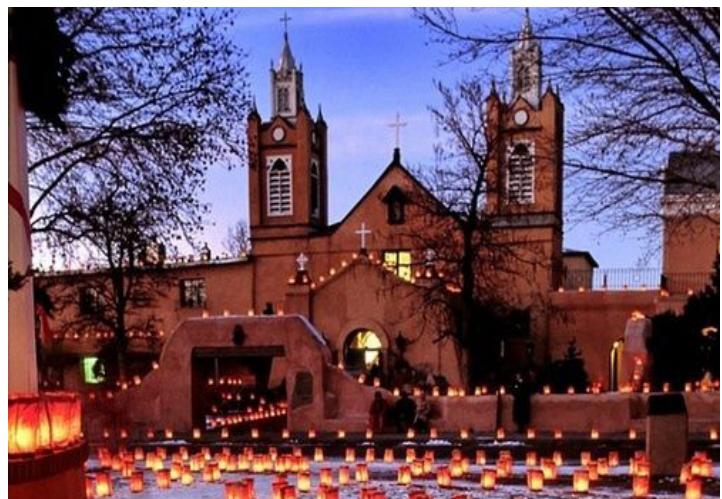


PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATION

# NEIGHBORHOOD DECEMBER 2019 NEWS



**'TIS THE SEASON IN  
DECEMBER!**





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# Neighborhood Engagement Process Update for December

Phase III of the Neighborhood Engagement Process (NEP) concluded. Facilitation teams met with leaders from 93 different neighborhood and homeowners associations and heard from other community members at community centers throughout the four quadrants of the city. In all, nearly 400 hundred people were engaged with us through the Neighborhood Engagement Process. Everette Hill of Social Innovation Strategies Group and Eduardo Martinez of Meridian Strategies presented the draft report of Phase III to City Council on November 18, 2019. The report is available for download at: [www.cabq.gov/office-of-neighborhood-coordination/neighborhood-engagement-process](http://www.cabq.gov/office-of-neighborhood-coordination/neighborhood-engagement-process).

We would like to thank all those community leaders and residents who were involved in the process – your input was invaluable to the next steps with the amendment of the Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance (NARO). To those of you who participated, we would like to thank you all again for not only engaging and welcoming us into your neighborhoods and into your conversations, but also for your passion and service on behalf of your communities.

Additionally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the community dialogue facilitation team, including Lara Bryson, Barbara Garcia, Dr. Rudy Garcia, Antonio Maestas, Josephine Mendoza and Jamie Welles – their dedication to capturing, and relaying the voice of the community was essential to the NEP.

Social Innovation Strategies Group has initiated the fourth and final phase of the external process. Phase IV will yield a summary of common threads across all previous three phases of work:

- Phase I: Review of existing documents, decisions and processes relevant to implementation of the current NARO ordinance



- Phase II: Interviews with City Councilors, City/ONC staff, and community leaders as well as implementation of an online capacity-assessment of neighborhood associations. This work was essential to design of the community dialogue process.
- Phase III: Outreach to Neighborhood Association's based on the databased maintained by the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC), facilitation of the NEP community dialogues, and summary analysis of the community dialogue data.

Information from the NEP process, along with research on promising practices in other communities will allow City Council staff, with the support of ONC, to begin drafting a revised NARO Ordinance. ONC will continue to communicate updates on next steps via the newsletter and online media. For more information, please contact the ONC at: [onc@cabq.gov](mailto:onc@cabq.gov).



# Family and Youth Fun this December!

**The City is offering lots of fun activities for families and youth this December, so get into the holiday spirit!**

City Community Centers will offer all-day youth programs during winter break. Participants can take part in field trips, games, arts and crafts, and other recreational activities offered by the community centers. The programs are available to kids in grades K-8th during the Albuquerque Public

Schools (APS) school closure Monday, December 23 through Monday, January 6, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration is free and can be completed by visiting [play.cabq.gov](http://play.cabq.gov) starting Monday, December 9 at 8:00 a.m. For more information, call (505) 767-5800.

Stay warm at "Coats and Cocoa" happening at Thomas Bell Community Center Saturday, December 14, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., with a neighborhood parade at 12:00 noon near University and Gibson. Other

activities include food, hot cocoa, games, coat distribution (while supplies last), and a visit with Santa Claus! The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Paulette at (505) 848-1332.

Start your 2020 New Year celebration early by joining us at the Herman Sanchez Community Center on Tuesday, December 31 for the Noon Year's Eve Celebration, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., with a balloon drop at 12 noon! Visit: [www.cabq.gov/family](http://www.cabq.gov/family) for information. •



# Reading Service for Visually Impaired Seeks Volunteers

Volunteers throughout New Mexico continue to sign up with the Commission for the Blind, lending their voices to the statewide Newsline, an on-demand, dial-in newspaper service for the visually impaired.

With over 80 volunteers trained to read and record a wide variety of newspapers, magazines and other publications 7 days a week, these volunteers make it possible for the blind to receive news, grocery and store ads, obituaries, and TV schedules at any time of the day and contributing to their overall quality of life.

"The Newsline essentially brings independence to the blind community," said Krista Mireles, Newsline Coordinator, pictured below. "Sighted people take their ability to read a newspaper for granted, and it's this service that really allows our visually impaired community to live a full and independent life."

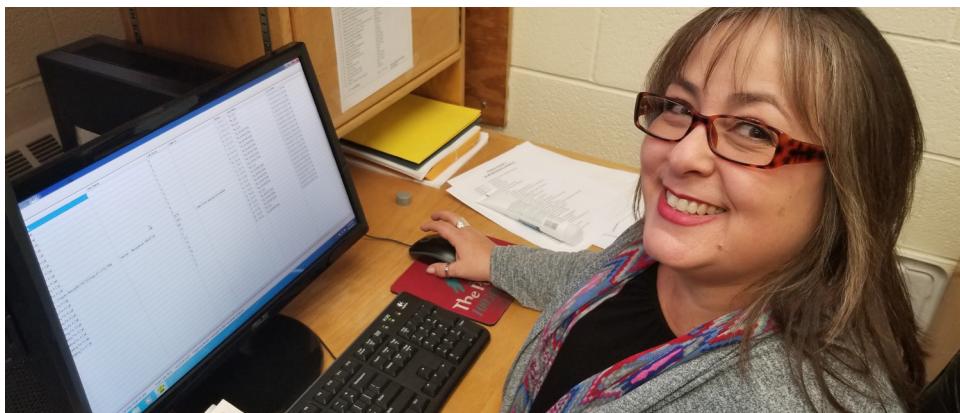
The Newsline is telephone-based, allowing access to a variety of publications using the buttons on a touch-tone telephone. Volunteers can work from home, dialing into the same system and recording whatever publication

they are reading that day, which is then made immediately available to any visually impaired individual who wants to read it.

This free service, established in 1992, is available 24/7/365 and is actively seeking volunteers. Serving over 5,000 users statewide and averaging 10,000 calls monthly, there is always a need for readers and recorders.

"We are constantly looking to expand, both our dial-in listeners and vocal volunteers," said Mireles, who trains volunteers personally. "Having worked for many years with the blind community, I can tell you that helping them is such a fulfilling experience. Please consider volunteering for the Newsline and helping the community."

To learn more about the Newsline and volunteering to read, visit: [www.cfb.state.nm.us/newsline](http://www.cfb.state.nm.us/newsline) •





# Planning Updates for December

## FOLLOW UP ZONING CONVERSIONS

City Council is almost done with reviewing and deciding on zoning conversions requested by property owners following the adoption of the Integrated Development Ordinance. The Planning Department received over 1,300 forms from property owners looking to take advantage of this free, one-year opportunity.

These zoning conversions are adopted legislatively as text amendments to the IDO, changing the conversion rules for the properties submitted in each batch. See more information and check for updates on the project webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/zc-project>.

### **Batch 1**

In August, the City Council approved Batch 1 zoning conversions, which became effective in September. The Official Zoning Map has been updated.

### **Batch 2**

In November, the City Council approved Batch 2, and the Official Zoning Map will be updated as soon as the legislation becomes effective, likely now in December.

### **Batch 3**

Batch 3 is heading to the Land Use, Planning and Zoning (LUPZ) Committee either this month or in January as Step 2 of the 3 in the review/decision process. Check the project webpage for details.

## **ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (IDO)**

On Thursday, December 5 at 9:00 a.m., the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) will hold another study session to review proposed changes in the annual update of the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO). The public is welcome to attend, but public testimony will not be taken. EPC will then hear the case at its regular monthly hearing the following week.

EPC's review and recommendation is the first step in the City's legislative review/decision process for this text amendment to the IDO.

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**WHAT: EPC Hearing - IDO Annual Update**  
**WHEN: Thursday, December 12, 2019**  
**WHERE: Plaza del Sol, 600 2nd St. NW, Basement Hearing Room**

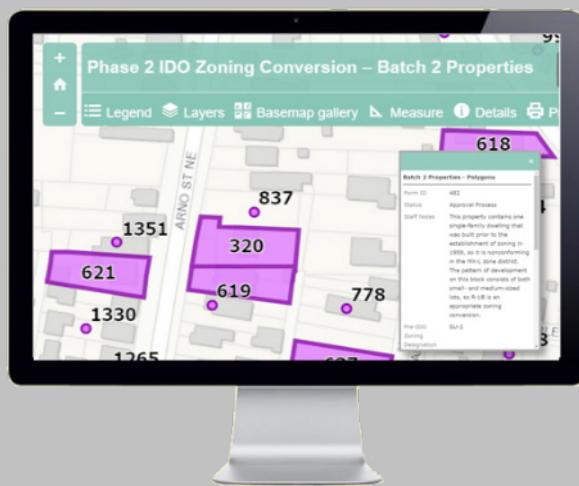
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The agenda and staff report will be posted on the EPC webpage by Thursday, December 5, by 3:00 p.m. at:

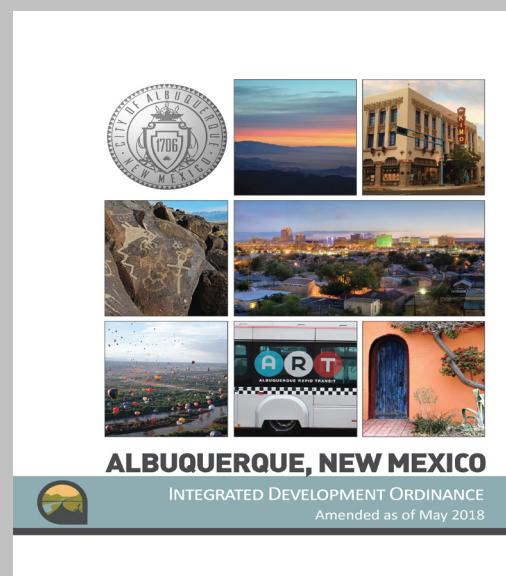
[www.cabq.gov/planning/boards-commissions/environmental-planning-commission/epc-agendas-reports-minutes](http://www.cabq.gov/planning/boards-commissions/environmental-planning-commission/epc-agendas-reports-minutes)

The list of proposed updates will continue to grow and change in response to public and agency comments until City Council takes final action for this annual update. You can email your ideas, edits, or comments to: [abctoz@cabq.gov](mailto:abctoz@cabq.gov) for consideration throughout this process. To be most helpful, please reference a particular page number or section in the IDO, if possible, so that staff can best understand your suggestion.

See the IDO Effective Draft here: <https://ido.abc-zone.com> •



<https://tinyurl.com/batch2zc-map>





# Don't Be a Grinch! Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are a joyful time of year. However, it is also a time when we all need to be alert to potential health and safety issues around us. Taking some simple precautions for you, your family, your pets and your home can ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

### **Shopping and Vehicle Safety**

- If out shopping, park in a well-lit area, lock your car and roll up your windows.
- Don't buy more than you can carry. Ask a friend or store employee for help to your car, and store packages out of sight.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay with a credit card instead.
- Pay attention to your surroundings when at the mall.
- Don't ever leave your car running. This is a primary way thieves steal cars in cold weather.

### **Family and Personal Safety**

- The holidays can be as stressful as they are joyful, so remember to take time for yourself.
- Remember that the holidays can often be sad or depressing for other family members so reach out to your relatives and share some time.

- If buying toys for your kids, remember that toys with small parts or batteries can be choked on by smaller children and use caution.
- Don't leave children alone in rooms with lighted candles, matches, lighters or fireplaces.
- Keep decorations out of reach of smaller children and always supervise your kids if they are decorating the Christmas tree.

### **Pet Safety**

- Keep certain holiday foods away from pets, such as chocolate or baked goods containing xylitol.
- Beware that poinsettias, ornaments, lights, candles, and tinsel can all be hazardous to your pet if ingested so keep those items out of your pet's reach.
- If hosting a holiday event, consider putting your pet in his or her own room and/or crate so they are not disturbed or made anxious by a crowd of people.

- If out past dark, leave lights on at your house, both inside and outside.

- If traveling for the holidays, consider using lights on timers to give the impression you're home. Ask a trusted neighbor to check your mail, and to put out and take in your trash and recycling bins.

- Don't put personal travel information on social media.

- If shopping online, save all receipts and use secure websites for purchases. Look for: **https** in the URL or for the locked padlock icon at the bottom of the page. Track all packages through shipping website.

- Have packages delivered to a friend, relative, neighbor, employer or consider picking up at the U.S Post Office if possible, to avoid package theft at your home.



### **Home and Online Safety**

- Don't display holiday gifts in view of windows or where they can be seen from outside your home.
- Always keep doors locked and windows closed, including your garage. Don't answer the door to strangers.



# Plastic Bags are Out and Reusable Bags Are In!

What's your New Year's REUSE-OLUTION?

Ours is to make Albuquerque a more sustainable place to live! This starts with eliminating the single-use plastic bags in Albuquerque starting January 1!

Here are the top three facts about the City's plastic bag ban:

1. Which plastic bags are banned?

Any single-use plastic bag for the purpose of carrying products from the point of sale. This includes compostable bags and all plastic bags less than 2.25 milliliters thick.

This is the equivalent to about two sheets of stacked copy paper.

2. Can businesses provide alternative bags? Yes, businesses may substitute paper grocery bags or other types of reusable plastic bags which are at least 2.25 milliliters thick.
3. Where can I purchase or find reusable bags? You can buy them at local grocery stores, online, at discount retail stores and at various community events.

The plastic bag ban stems from the Clean and Green Retail Ordinance, which was passed by City Council in 2019. •



**Help us reduce,  
reuse, and  
recycle!**

**Learn more at:  
[www.cabq.gov/  
cleanandgreen](http://www.cabq.gov/cleanandgreen)**



**The Office of  
Neighborhood  
Coordination  
(ONC)**  
**wishes you and your  
loved ones a safe,  
happy, and healthy  
holiday season!**



# CITY LEADERSHIP

## Mayor

Timothy M. Keller

## City Council

Ken Sanchez, District 1  
Isaac Benton, District 2  
Klarissa J. Peña, District 3  
Brad Winter, District 4  
Cynthia D. Borrego, District 5  
Pat Davis, District 6  
Diane G. Gibson, District 7  
Trudy E. Jones, District 8  
Don Harris, District 9

## Chief Administrative Officer

Sarita Nair

## Director of Council Services

Stephanie M. Yara

# HOWDY NEIGHBOR!

## Want to get involved?

If you want to learn more about neighborhood associations, or find out what resources we can bring to your neighborhood, contact us! Our vision is to have an engaged, connected city based on trust with safe, diverse communities that have a voice and feel empowered to address their concerns in a meaningful way.

**Neighborhood News** is published monthly by the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC).

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