



CITY OF GALLUP
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Richard J. Berry, Mayor
City of Albuquerque
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

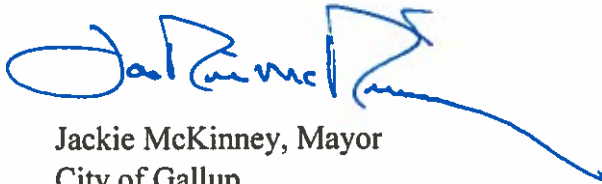
Dear Mayor Berry,

As Mayor of Gallup, I am writing in support of an exemption for law enforcement retirees from the Return to Work Law. Making the changes necessary that would allow retired police officers to not have to suspend the pension they have earned in order to continue serving the public is of critical importance to our municipality. This legislation is critical because it would assist with filling funded vacant positions, recruitment and retaining valuable experience and institutional knowledge in the development of this highly skilled work force.

Our community of approximately 21,000 requires a Police force of 67 officers and 9 Community Service Aides. This is due to the influx of people coming in from the County and Reservation areas of our border town. The cost of training far exceeds the availability of qualified personnel, in critical areas of our workforce that could, and would extend their careers given the opportunity to return to work.

A reasonable and limited return to work provision would alleviate these shortages that our local governments are experiencing in law enforcement.

Respectfully,



Jackie McKinney, Mayor
City of Gallup