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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

BILL NO. 2023-23

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

Councilor Renee Villarreal

Councilor Signe Lindell

A BILL

CREATING ARTICLE 18-18, THE HIGH-END EXCISE TAX FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE; ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AND DEDICATING THE REVENUES TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE:

Section 1. NEW MATERIAL a new Article 18-8 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:

18-18 HIGH-END EXCISE TAX FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE

Section 2. NEW MATERIAL a new Section 18-18.1 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:

18-19.1 Short Title.

This article may be cited as the High-End Excise Tax for Affordable Housing Ordinance.

Section 3. NEW MATERIAL a new Section 18-8.2 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:

18-18.2 Authority.

The High-End Excise Tax for Affordable Housing Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the express statutory authority conferred upon municipalities to enact excise taxes on the sales of

1 specific products and services in Part D of Section 3-18-2 NMSA 1978; to provide for affordable
2 housing pursuant to subsections E and F of Article 9, Section 14 of the New Mexico Constitution
3 and the Affordable Housing Act, Sections 6-27-1 to 6-27-8 NMSA 1978; and pursuant to any and
4 all such other authority as may be applicable including but not limited to the city's authority to
5 protect the general welfare of its citizens.

6 **Section 4. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-8.3 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**
7 **18-18.3 Legislative Findings.**

8 The governing body has determined that

9 A. Lower income renters are leaving the city and are being replaced with higher income
10 renters. Between 2015 and 2021, the share of renters with income below \$25,000
11 decreased from 37% to 24%, while the share of renters with income over \$75,000
12 increased from 18% to 30%.

13 B. A large percentage of the community's workforce who are renting cannot afford to
14 buy: Using data on home sales from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, an analysis
15 of renters' ability to buy relative to the price of units for sale estimates that in 2021,
16 66% of the city's renters earned less than 120% of the 2-person area median income
17 and only 10% of home sales financed with a mortgage were priced affordably for such
18 households. It is likely that even higher income residents are not transitioning into
19 homeownership because of high housing sales prices and other market conditions.

20 C. To accommodate population growth, an estimated 4,667 new units (1,399 rental and
21 3,269 ownership) need to be added in Santa Fe County by 2030.

22 D. The shortage of affordable rental home purchase opportunities has significant negative
23 effects on Santa Fe's economy, as well as for families and businesses. The effects
24 include

25 1. The local economy loses revenue when employees live elsewhere and

1 commute to work rather than living in Santa Fe, because people tend to shop
2 in the community where they live.

3 2. Experience in other high-cost housing markets nationally has shown that, over
4 the long term, jobs follow employees who move away in search of housing
5 they can afford to buy.

6 3. Employers struggle to recruit and retain employees and must pay higher wages
7 to compensate for high housing or commuting costs.

8 4. A significant percentage of the Santa Fe workforce commutes from outside of
9 Santa Fe.

10 5. Productivity suffers when employees face commutes of two to three hours on
11 top of their workday.

12 6. Employers note that the availability of workforce housing is one of the more
13 serious or critical problems in the city of Santa Fe.

14 E. The city has adopted a five-year housing plan, identifying the city's housing needs,
15 priorities, goals, and strategies.

16 F. Pursuant to the New Mexico constitution's affordable housing exemption to the "anti-
17 donation clause" and state enabling statutes governing the use of public funds for
18 affordable housing, the city established its affordable housing trust fund in Article 26-
19 3 SFCC 1987 to provide or pay all or a portion of the costs of acquisition, development,
20 construction, renovation or conversion, financing, operation or owning affordable
21 housing or infrastructure to support affordable housing.

22 G. The affordable housing trust fund requires, but currently lacks, a meaningful dedicated
23 source of revenue, which means

24 1. Current requests for affordable housing funding far exceed the amount of
25 funding available in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in any given year.

1 2. There is a significant need for additional affordable housing that is more
2 flexible than available through federal funds and that can better address unique
3 local needs.

4 3. Multi-year strategic funding is challenging.

5 H. The community development commission and city’s public review process involving
6 committees and governing body review provide oversight for the Affordable Housing
7 Trust Fund.

8 I. It is in the public interest to impose a duly approved high-end excise tax to fund the
9 affordable housing trust fund.

10 **Section 5. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-18.4 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**

11 **18-18.4 Purpose.**

12 The purpose of this article is to establish a dedicated and enduring source of funding for the city’s
13 affordable housing fund by imposing an excise tax on the transfer of high-end residential properties.

14 **Section 6. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-18.5 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**

15 **26-3A.5 Definitions.**

16 For the purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:

17 *Consideration* means and includes the actual amount paid and/or the value of the assets
18 delivered, or contracted to be paid or delivered, in exchange for the transfer of ownership or title to
19 real property, without deduction for any lien, mortgage, contract indebtedness, or other
20 encumbrance, either given to secure the purchase price, or any part thereof, or remaining unpaid on
21 the property at the time of sale. The term does not include the amount of any outstanding lien or
22 encumbrance in favor of the United States, the State of New Mexico, or of a municipal or quasi-
23 municipal governmental corporation or district for taxes, special benefits, or improvements.

24 *Conveyance of ownership* means any transfer of title to real property and is evidenced by
25 any deed or instrument or writing wherein or whereby title to real property situated in the city is

1 granted or conveyed, subject to the exceptions provided in this article, and includes the transfer of
2 more than fifty percent of the authorized and issued shares of a corporation or majority ownership
3 interest in a pass through entity which has as its principal asset real property situated in the city.

4 *Document* means and includes any deed, instrument, or writing by which real property
5 located within the city is transferred.

6 *Person* means an individual, partnership, society, association, joint stock company,
7 corporation, estate, receiver, trustee, assignee, referee or any other person acting in a fiduciary or
8 representative capacity, whether appointed by a court or otherwise, any combination of individuals,
9 and any other form of unincorporated enterprise owned or conducted by two or more persons, but
10 does not include the United States of America, any federal agency or the state government or any
11 political subdivision of the state of New Mexico.

12 *Real property* means and includes all lands or interests in lands within the city and shall be
13 construed as coextensive in meaning with the terms "land," "tenements" and "hereditaments" and
14 as embracing all mining claims and other claims and chattels real.

15 *Title insurance agent* means a person licensed as an agent under the New Mexico Insurance
16 Code and appointed by a title insurer.

17 *Transfer* means and includes any conveyance of the ownership of a title to real property
18 and is evidenced by any deed or instrument or writing wherein or whereby title to real property
19 situated in the city is granted or conveyed, subject to the exclusions provided in this article.

20 **Section 6. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-18.5 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**
21 **18-18.5 Imposition of tax; timelines.**

- 22 A. There is imposed a three percent (3%) excise tax on the consideration exceeding one
23 million dollars (\$1,000,000) paid or to be paid in consideration, as adjusted pursuant to B
24 of this Section, for every conveyance of ownership of real property in the city not excepted
25 from the tax in this ordinance.

1 B. Beginning May 1, 2026, and each May 1 thereafter, the transfers to which the tax shall be
2 imposed shall be increased from consideration of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to a
3 higher threshold amount by an amount corresponding with the previous calendar year's
4 increase to the consumer price index for the western region for urban workers. For
5 example, if the increase to the price index is two percent (2%) in 2025, then on May 1,
6 2026, the tax will apply to transfers having a consideration of at least one million, twenty
7 thousand (\$1,020,000), or two percent (2%) higher than one million (\$1,000,000). If the
8 consumer price index does not increase during the prior year, the transfers to which the tax
9 applies shall remain the same.

10 C. The tax is due and payable by the purchaser at the time of transfer.

11 D. The tax shall be paid or an exception shall be documented within thirty days after the
12 delivery of the documents by the grantor to the grantee and before recording a document
13 regarding transferring title to real property situated in the city.

14 **Section 7. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-18.6 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**
15 **18-18.6 Dedication of funds.**

16 All funds received by the city of Santa Fe pursuant to this Article 18-18 shall be deposited
17 into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and shall be used only in the manner permitted by Section
18 6-27-5 NMSA 1978 of the state's Affordable Housing Act and Section 26-3.7 of the city's
19 Affordable Housing Trust Fund Ordinance.

20 **Section 8. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-18.7 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**
21 **18-18.7 Exemptions.**

22 The tax imposed by this section shall not apply to any of the following transfers:

23 A. Any conveyance of ownership of property which is part of a development subject to
24 the Santa Fe Homes Program, to the Housing Opportunity Program, or to any other
25 form of permanently affordable housing including those sold subject to liens, deeds of

1 trust or other instruments that ensure the unit will remain affordable;

2 B. Any conveyance of ownership of property wherein the United States, or any agency or
3 instrumentality thereof, the state of New Mexico, any county, municipality, district or
4 other political subdivision of this state, is either the grantor or grantee;

5 C. Any conveyance of ownership of property wherein the grantee corporation, association
6 or trust has been organized, operated and maintained solely and exclusively for
7 charitable or religious purposes;

8 D. Any conveyance of ownership of real property as a gift, where no consideration other
9 than love and affection, charitable donation, or nominal compensation is evidenced by
10 the terms of the instrument of transfer;

11 E. Any termination of a joint tenancy in real property except where additional
12 consideration of value is paid in connection with such termination, or a decree or
13 agreement partitioning real property held under common ownership unless a
14 consideration of value is paid in connection with the transfer of title;

15 F. Transfer of title or change of interest in real property by reason of death, will,
16 or decree of distribution;

17 G. Transfers made pursuant to mergers or consolidations of corporations, or by a
18 subsidiary to a parent corporation for no consideration other than cancellation or
19 surrender of the subsidiary's stock;

20 H. Any deed or conveyance made and delivered without consideration for the purpose of
21 confirming, correcting, modifying, or supplementing a transfer previously recorded;
22 making minor boundary adjustments, removing clouds on titles; or granting easements,
23 rights-of-way or licenses;

24 I. Any decree or order of a court of record determining or resting title, including a final
25 order awarding title pursuant to a condemnation proceeding;

- 1 J. Any deed granting or conveying title to cemetery lots;
- 2 K. Any lease of any real property (or assignment or transfer of any interest in any such
- 3 lease) provided such lease by its terms does not constitute a de facto conveyance of the
- 4 subject property. In the latter event, the tax shall be based upon the capitalization at
- 5 five percent of the average annual rental over the entire term of the lease, including
- 6 any renewal term, plus the actual consideration, other than rent, paid or to be paid;
- 7 L. Any mineral deed or royalty deed;
- 8 M. Transfers to secure a debt or other obligation, or transfers or release of property that is
- 9 security for a debt or other obligation;
- 10 N. Any executory contract for the sale of real property under which the vendee is entitled
- 11 to or does take possession thereof without acquiring title thereto, or any assignment or
- 12 cancellation of any such contract;
- 13 O. Any deed or conveyance under execution, sale, or foreclosure sale under a power of
- 14 sale or court decree of lien foreclosure, sheriff's deed, public trustee deed, or treasurer's
- 15 deed;
- 16 P. Any deed or conveyance of commercial property;
- 17 Q. Any deed or conveyance of undeveloped land;
- 18 R. Any deed or conveyance reflecting an interspousal transfer of real property; or
- 19 S. Any deed or conveyance of real property that is the principal residence of an eligible
- 20 transferor in the case of a family transfer between parents and their children or between
- 21 grandparents and their grandchild or grandchildren.

22 **Section 9. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-18.8 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**

23 **18-18.8 Finance Director to Enforce.**

- 24 A. The city's finance director is charged with the enforcement of the provisions of this section
- 25 and is hereby authorized and empowered to prepare such forms and adopt and enforce such

1 rules and regulations consistent with this section, as the finance director deems necessary
2 to implement the same.

3 B. At the time of any transfer upon which a tax is imposed by this section, the grantee's title
4 insurance agent shall make a notarized report to the finance director on forms prescribed
5 by the officer, attesting to the true, complete and actual consideration for the transfer, the
6 names of the parties thereto, the location of the real estate transferred, and such other
7 information as may be required, along with payment of the tax. If the conveyance does not
8 involve a title insurance agent, then the purchaser shall make the report to the finance
9 director and submit payment of the tax, if applicable.

10 C. For exempt transactions, the grantee's title insurance agent shall submit a notarized report
11 to the finance director on forms prescribed by the officer, attesting to the nature of the
12 exception. If the grantee does not have a title insurance agent, then the grantee shall submit
13 the report. The finance director may require supporting documentation from the title
14 insurance agent or grantee before accepting the report.

15 D. For the purpose of collection of the taxes imposed by this section, the finance director may
16 1. Appoint as authorized agents for the city for the collection of said tax the
17 office of the Santa Fe county clerk, and all banks, title companies, escrow
18 companies, building and loan institutions, and real estate agencies
19 permitted as such to do business under the laws of the state of New Mexico
20 and maintaining offices within the city.
21 2. Enter cooperative agreements with other governments.

22 **Section 10. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-18.9 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**
23 **18-18.9 Lands Affected.**

24 When a conveyance subject to this section includes property located within the city of
25 Santa Fe and property located outside the city of Santa Fe, the tax imposed under this section shall

1 be computed only with respect to the portion of the property located within the city of Santa Fe and
2 the tax owed shall be assessed based on that part of the consideration fairly attributable to the
3 portion of the property located within the city.

4 **Section 11. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-18.10 SFCC 1987 is ordained to**
5 **read:**

6 **18-18.10 Penalties and Liens.**

- 7 A. All taxes imposed by this section, if not paid when due, shall bear interest at the internal
8 revenue services' rate for underpayments, as updated. The amount of tax imposed by
9 this section and interest due thereon is hereby assessed against the property upon the
10 transfer of which said tax is imposed, and if not paid when due, such tax and interest,
11 if any, shall constitute a lien on the property for the amount thereof, which lien shall
12 continue until the amount thereof is paid or until it is discharged of record by
13 foreclosure or otherwise.
- 14 B. Any person who shall fail or refuse to pay any tax due hereunder shall be subject to the
15 general penalty under SFCC 1987, Section 1-3.1.
- 16 C. Any remedies provided for herein shall be cumulative, not exclusive, and in addition
17 to any other remedies provided by law.

18 **Section 12. [NEW MATERIAL] a new Section 18-18.11 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**

19 **26-3A.11 Confidentiality.**

20 It is unlawful to reveal any information contained in a return or audit of any taxpayer,
21 except as required to administer the collection and enforcement of the tax or under one of the
22 following circumstances:

- 23 A. to a court of competent jurisdiction in response to an order thereof;
- 24 B. to the taxpayer or the taxpayer's authorized representative; or
- 25 C. for statistical purposes in such manner that the information revealed is not identifiable

1 as applicable to any individual taxpayer.

2 **Section 13. [NEW MATERIAL] A new Section 18-18.12 SFCC 1987 is ordained to read:**

3 **18-18.12 Effective Date.**

4 The provisions of this Article 18-18 shall be effective six months from the date when the
5 results of the election are certified to be in favor of the ordinance's adoption.

6

7 **PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this ____ day of _____, 2023.

8

9 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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Legislation/2023/Bills/