

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-__**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4
5 Mayor Alan Webber

6 Councilor Jamie Cassutt

7 Councilor Amanda Chavez

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9
10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **AFFIRMING THE PARTNERSHIP OF SANTA FE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF**
12 **SANTA FE TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES AND TAKE ACTIONS TO END**
13 **HOMELESSNESS.**

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the nation is experiencing one of the most severe affordable housing crises
16 in history, significantly impacting communities of color and those who live in poverty (National
17 Alliance to End Homelessness, 2020); and

18 **WHEREAS**, eight million Americans of low-income households pay at least half their
19 income toward housing, putting them at risk of housing instability and homelessness (National
20 Alliance to End Homelessness, 2020); and

21 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 approximately 13 percent of Santa Fe County residents reported an
22 income below the federal poverty level (US Census Bureau American Community Survey of
23 Median Earnings for Worker 5-Year Estimates 2019); and

24 **WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County had a larger number of cost-burdened homeowners per
25 capita than did New Mexico and the United States in 2020, with 78 percent of renters below 30

1 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) and 74 percent of renters between 31 percent and 60 percent
2 of AMI being cost burdened. (Santa Fe Housing Report, Santa Fe Association of Realtors, 2020);
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, in Santa Fe City, 86 percent of renter households earning less than \$50,000
5 a year are cost burdened, a number that has risen by 13 percent between 2016 and 2018 (Santa Fe
6 Housing Report, Santa Fe Association of Realtors, 2020); and

7 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County have a history of supporting efforts
8 to assist people experiencing homelessness; and

9 **WHEREAS**, according to the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, there was an
10 estimated shortage of 7,343 affordable rental units in the Santa Fe Metropolitan Statistical Area in
11 2020 (Santa Fe Housing Report, Santa Fe Association of Realtors, 2020); and

12 **WHEREAS**, economic and societal factors such as a lack of affordable housing, a lack of
13 adequate income, a lack affordable and accessible healthcare including behavioral health care,
14 discrimination, domestic violence, and other systemic social challenges can cause homelessness;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, as of August 2022, the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness
17 Coordinated Entry System, which is not yet tracking all homeless people in Santa Fe, recorded a
18 total of 363 individuals, 49 families, and 18 homeless youth in Santa Fe, with 205 individuals being
19 chronically homeless, 22 being chronically homeless veterans, and a disproportionate number of
20 Native American and African American people experiencing homelessness; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing pandemic has brought additional awareness to the issue of
22 homelessness and housing instability and has created an opportunity for government entities,
23 politicians, non-profit service providers, private foundations, Santa Fe residents, and other
24 interested stakeholders to work collectively to address this long-standing community issue; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe is a partner in the Built for Zero Initiative, a national

1 movement where communities assist each other in developing and following evidence-based
2 strategies for reducing and ending homelessness; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County has recently opened a behavioral health crisis center, La
4 Sala, to better address the needs of people experiencing a behavioral health crisis; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County developed the CONNECT network, now a City and County
6 partnership providing services related to the social determinants of health; and

7 **WHEREAS**, these efforts by the City and County to combat housing insecurity and
8 homelessness are being coordinated with those of philanthropic foundations and non-profit partners
9 in an initiative known as the S3 (Safe, Stable, and Supportive) Santa Fe Housing Initiative; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorum St. Vincent Foundation, Thornburg Foundation, McCune
11 Charitable Foundation, Frost Foundation and Santa Fe Community Foundation have provided
12 funding to address immediate needs and longer-term solutions to homelessness since the beginning
13 of the pandemic; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the vision of this partnership is for public and private partners to work
15 collaboratively with community providers and advocacy groups to ensure that Santa Fe is a place
16 where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring, and that access to safe, affordable, and
17 sustainable housing is a reality for all community members; and

18 **WHEREAS**, analysis of existing providers and housing options conducted as part of the
19 S3 Santa Fe Housing Initiative indicates that the overall housing system in the Santa Fe area has
20 been functioning with insufficient support and infrastructure.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
22 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners and the
23 Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe affirm our alignment to address homelessness by securing
24 and stabilizing housing and social services for our most vulnerable residents.

25 The Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners and the Governing Body of the City

1 of Santa Fe agree to focus efforts in the following six areas through the S3 Santa Fe Housing
2 Initiative:

- 3 1. PRESERVATION AND PREVENTION: Increase resources and develop strategies
4 to prevent homelessness, including the preservation of existing affordable housing and
5 enhanced utilization of social services; increased financial supports, such as the City
6 and County Affordable Housing Trust Funds, to prevent homelessness and stabilize
7 those who are precariously housed; and support for local regulation and land use policy
8 changes that increase housing stability for residents.
- 9 2. EMERGENCY SHELTER: Create and further develop collective community
10 agreements specific to emergency shelter provision, including expanding options for
11 emergency shelter care to include safe and legal outdoor sleeping spaces and non-
12 congregate shelter and improving shelter access to housing and supportive service
13 resources.
- 14 3. BUILDINGS/HOUSING UNITS: Quantify the need for additional affordable units,
15 and through new construction, conversion, subsidization, and redevelopment, increase
16 the local affordable housing stock inventory with a goal of at least 100-200 units per
17 year.
- 18 4. INDIVIDUAL VOUCHERS/PROGRAM BASED VOUCHERS: Increase funding
19 for housing vouchers, both short and long term, and develop strategies to ensure that
20 those vouchers can be flexibly utilized in ways that promote equity and housing choice;
21 and ensure that existing voucher programs are expended in full.
- 22 5. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES: Ensure all interested individuals and families
23 participating in housing programs have high-quality crisis intervention, behavioral
24 healthcare, and other supportive services to maintain safe housing.
- 25 6. SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE: Continue development of the community-wide

1 homeless response system which includes strategic planning and clarifying the roles,
2 function, and authority of each partner. The system development will include collective
3 identification of system gaps through collecting accurate data, creation of cooperative
4 strategies to address gaps, and consistent cross-agency communication on funding
5 opportunities, housing initiatives and overall system development.

6 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

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9 _____
10 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

11 ATTEST:

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13 _____
14 KRISTINE MIHELICIC, CITY CLERK

15 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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17 _____
18 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY