DUE PROCESS WHEN FUNCTIONING IN QUASI-JUDICIAL FORM

[Move this item from "Non-Charter Proposal" to "Recommended Charter Amendment]

Referral from public comment: Whether the City shall commit to assuring that all quasi-judicial proceedings shall adhere to the concepts of due process of law and fundamental fairness, as applied to both applicants and members of the community.

Action: refer with request to incorporate content to Code Chapter 14 revision

Recommendation: That the council instruct the process currently under way to revise Chapter 14 of the city code to evaluate and potentially incorporate language that allows equity of input between the public and the applicant(s).

Commentary: The Commission was asked to recommend relevant language as Charter amendment. Our view is that the request constituted compliance with law but proposed to do so at the constitutional level of authority. There may be useful ways to ensure such compliance as the city devises policy and procedure. That would be the proper location for such remedy. For reference, the correspondent who appealed to the Commission sent the following proposed text:

"Recognizing the importance of due process of law and fairness in matters that require quasi-judicial hearings the City of Santa Fe and all its Governing Body, Boards, Commissions, and Committees shall commit to assuring that all quasi-judicial proceedings shall adhere to the concepts of due process of law and fundamental fairness, and apply these concepts in an impartial manner to both applicants and members of the community that may be affected by the outcome of such proceedings." (Correspondence from Mr. Adam Johnson, Old Santa Fe, 3/31/2026)

Action: include the following text as an item in the Santa Fe Charter

Recognizing the importance to the Santa Fe community of procedural due process of law and fairness in proceedings addressing land use and other matters that require City decision-makers to act in a quasi-judicial manner, the City shall adopt procedural rules that ensure that all quasi-judicial proceedings conducted by the Governing Body and City commissions and boards adhere to established principles of procedural due process of law and fundamental fairness and apply these principles in an impartial manner to applicants and members of the community who participate in those proceedings.