

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-__

INTRODUCED BY:

Mayor Webber

A RESOLUTION

**AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO APPLY TO THE NEW MEXICO FILM OFFICE TO
DESIGNATE THE CITY’S MIDTOWN SITE AS A QUALIFIED PRODUCTION
FACILITY.**

WHEREAS, according to the Santa Fe Film Office, the film industry in New Mexico supports approximately eight thousand (8,000) jobs statewide, directly and indirectly, including approximately two thousand (2,000) jobs in the Santa Fe region; and

WHEREAS, *Moviemaker Magazine* named the city of Santa Fe "#1 Best Places to Live and Work as a Movie Maker" in all of North America (Canada, U.S., Mexico) in the "Small Cities" category for 2023 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Fe ("City") has leased part of the City-owned Midtown Site (1600 S. St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, NM), "Garson Studios" for film and television production since 2018; and

WHEREAS, leasing Garson Studios provides critical lease income to the City to service debt on the Midtown Site during the Site's repurposing and redevelopment; and

1 **WHEREAS**, currently, Claudio Ruben of Garson Studios Santa Fe, LLC manages film
2 activities at Midtown; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City also licenses film activity in various buildings throughout the
4 Midtown Site outside the Garson Studios; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Film Office (“NMFO”) incentivizes local filming to help
6 attract television and film productions to New Mexico and Santa Fe, with all the above-mentioned
7 benefits; and

8 **WHEREAS**, according to the NMFO, one of the incentives it offers is an additional 5%
9 tax rebate for filming using any portion of facilities with the designation of “Qualified Production
10 Facility,” which is a building, or complex of buildings, building improvements, and associated
11 back-lot facilities in which films are or are intended to be regularly produced and that contain at
12 least one of the following:

- 13 1) Sound stage with contiguous floor space of at least seven thousand square feet and a
14 ceiling high of no less than eighteen feet; or
15 2) Standing set that includes at least one interior, and at least five exteriors, built or re-
16 purposed for film production use on a continual basis and is located on at lease fifty
17 acres of contiguous space designated for film production; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Midtown Site exceeds both of the requirements; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the NMFO registering the Midtown Site as a Qualified Production Facility
20 would make production at the Midtown Site more attractive to television and film producers
21 because it would make the producers eligible for an additional 5% tax rebate; and

22 **WHEREAS**, while it is being developed, the Midtown Site will provide a new, unique
23 backdrop for movie productions, with construction areas and new and old architecture, all in one
24 place.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE** authorizes City staff to apply to NMFO for Qualified Production Facility
2 status for the Midtown Site with Claudio Ruben of Garson Studios Santa Fe, LLC, as the City's
3 agent.

4 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this ___th day of March, 2024.

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7 _____
8 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

9 ATTEST:

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11 _____
12 GERALYN F. CARDENAS, INTERIM CITY CLERK

13
14 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

15 *Erin McSherry*
16 Erin McSherry (Mar 21, 2024 14:57 MDT)

17 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY
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25 *Legislation/2024/Resolutions/Midtown QPF Application*