

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

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-__**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4
5 Councilor Amanda Chavez

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10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **COMMITTING TO BEING A MORE AGE-FRIENDLY CITY AND ENROLLING IN THE**
12 **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS (“AARP”) AGE FRIENDLY**
13 **STATES AND COMMUNITIES NETWORK, WHICH, TO THE EXTENT IT IS**
14 **POSSIBLE, WILL BE A PROCESS THAT INCORPORATES UNIVERSAL DESIGN**
15 **PRINCIPLES.**

16 **WHEREAS**, according to the United States Census Bureau’s 2020 Census, 23.8% of City
17 of Santa Fe (“City”) residents are ages 65 or older as compared to 16.04% nationwide; and

18 **WHEREAS**, according to the United States Census Bureau’s article “The Next Four
19 Decades: The Older Population in the United States: 2010 to 2050,” the U.S. population aged 65
20 and over is expected to grow from 40.2 million in 2010 to 88.5 million by 2050, increasing the total
21 share of the 65 and over population from 12 percent to 20 percent of the total population; and

22 **WHEREAS**, according to the New Mexico Human Services Department’s “2021 Data
23 Book”, the elderly population of Santa Fe County is projected to increase from 25.3% in 2019 to
24 58.2% of adults ages of 65 and over by the year 2030; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) has developed the WHO “Global

1 Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities” to encourage and promote public policies to
2 increase the number of communities that support active aging and thereby improve the health, well-
3 being, satisfaction, and quality of life for older adults; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) “Age-Friendly States
5 and Communities” is a national program affiliated with the WHO’s Global Network of Age-
6 Friendly Cities and Communities; and

7 **WHEREAS**, members of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities
8 benefit from:

- 9 A. Automatic entry to the WHO global network.
- 10 B. A wide range of free resources on age-friendly and livable communities
- 11 C. The latest news and information about best practices, events, results, challenges,
12 and new initiatives
- 13 D. Opportunities for partnerships with other cities, both domestic and international
- 14 E. Peer-to-peer learning opportunities
- 15 F. Public recognition of the community’s commitment to become more age-friendly;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body agrees with the AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly
18 States and Communities belief that “people of all ages benefit from the adoption of policies and
19 programs that make neighborhoods walkable, feature transportation options, enable access to key
20 services, provide opportunities to participate in community activities, and support housing that’s
21 affordable and adaptable”; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the WHO and AARP recognize that towns, cities, and communities have
23 different needs, resources, and varying capacities to engage their resources to take action to
24 facilitate active aging; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the WHO established eight domains of community life that should be

1 formally targeted for livability and quality of life for persons of all ages:

- 2 A. Outdoor spaces and building
- 3 B. Transportation
- 4 C. Housing
- 5 D. Social participation
- 6 E. Respect and Social inclusion
- 7 F. Civic Participation and employment
- 8 G. Communication and information; and
- 9 H. Community support and health services; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body would like the City to join the AARP Network Age-
11 Friendly States and Communities; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body believes, and research supports, the idea that the
13 concepts of “universal design”, and their focus on accessibility, are a clear complement to the goals
14 of being an age friendly city; and

15 **WHEREAS**, specifically, according to the article “Universal Design: A Step Toward
16 Successful Aging,” published in the *Journal of Aging Research in 2012*, the concepts of Universal
17 Design support the Age-Friendly rationale by having “the potential to affect older adult's
18 engagement with life, by providing accessible and accommodating environments in which this
19 population can thrive without stigmatization”; and

20 **WHEREAS**, according to the Center for Disability Rights, Ron Mace, an architect known
21 for his role in coining the term “Universal Design” and championing accessible building codes and
22 standards in the United States, defines universal design as “the design of products and environments
23 to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptations or
24 specialized design”; and

25 **WHEREAS**, according to the article “Universal Design: A Step Toward Successful

1 Aging,” which was published in the *Journal of Aging Research* in 2012, the seven principles of
2 Universal Design are as follows:

3 A. Equitable use

- 4 • Useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities

5 B. Flexibility in Use

- 6 • Accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities

7 C. Simple and Intuitive Use

- 8 • Easy to understand, regardless of user's experience, knowledge,
9 language skills, or current concentration level

10 D. Perceptible Information

- 11 • Communicates necessary information effectively to the user,
12 regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities

13 E. Tolerance for Error

- 14 • Minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or
15 unintended actions

16 F. Low Physical Effort

- 17 • Can be used efficiently and comfortably with a minimum of fatigue

18 G. Size and Space for Approach and Use

- 19 • Appropriate size and space provided for approach, reach,
20 manipulation, and use regardless of the user's body size, posture, or
21 mobility.

22 **WHEREAS**, consulting committees with specialized knowledge on accessibility matters,
23 such as the Mayor’s Committee on Disability, can be beneficial when working toward creating an
24 inclusive community.

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

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that it is committed to making Santa Fe a well-designed, livable community
2 that promotes health and sustained accessibility for community members of all ages.

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager or the City Manager’s designee
4 will enroll the City in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities by submitting
5 the required membership application and committing the City to a 5-year process of improvement
6 according to the following timeline:

- 7 1. First 30 days: Enroll into the network of AARP Network of Age-Friendly States
8 and Communities;
- 9 2. Year 1: Conduct a community needs assessment and present results to the
10 Governing Body, including identifying what work the City already has in place
11 that contributes to qualifying as an Age-Friendly city, as defined by the AARP
12 Network of Age Friendly States and Communities program;
- 13 3. Year 2: Develop and present an action plan to the Governing Body for approval;
- 14 4. Years 3-5: Implement the action plan and track progress; and
- 15 5. Year 5: Evaluate the impact of the work and present a progress report to the
16 Governing Body.

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, to the extent it is possible and practical, the City
18 will incorporate Universal Design principles in its planning process for the 5-year commitment
19 described above, and in doing so, will collaborate with committees that have relevant, specialized
20 expertise, such as the Mayor’s Committee on Disability.

21
22 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

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24 _____
25 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

1 ATTEST:

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4 GERALYN F. CARDENAS, INTERIM CITY CLERK

5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Erin McSherry

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Erin McSherry (Jan 5, 2024 14:55 MST)

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ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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Legislation/2024/Resolutions/Resolution to be an Age-Friendly City