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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-24

INTRODUCED BY:

Mayor Alan Webber

A RESOLUTION

**ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE CLOSURE OF STREETS TO
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FOR A CERTAIN PERIODS DURING 2020.**

WHEREAS, businesses throughout the City of Santa Fe have felt the economic impact of mandated business closures, followed by limited reopenings, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, local businesses and the City government seek creative solutions to allow safe and open options for Santa Fe’s residents and visitors during the unprecedented situation; and

WHEREAS, local businesses, in order to adapt to the current pandemic, have developed creative opportunities to “virtually experience Santa Fe” that allow people to attend cooking classes, take a virtual walkthrough of museums, take flamenco lessons, participate in daily meditations, or even listen to a live book reading from a local bookstore; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Order issued on June 12, 2020 restricts restaurants to fifty percent (50%) of their normal capacity and restricts retail businesses to twenty-five percent (25%)

1 of capacity;

2 **WHEREAS**, if restaurants and businesses are able to expand their capacities safely, that
3 opportunity will improve their abilities to survive the health and economic crises;

4 **WHEREAS**, one opportunity for restaurants and other businesses to expand their
5 capacities safely is to occupy portions of City-owned properties, such as publically owned
6 sidewalks, roads, or parking spaces; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the City has identified a mechanism for individual business's use of
8 portions of public roads, sidewalk, and parking spaces through an obstruction permit;

9 **WHEREAS**, the State has provided the opportunity for restaurants holding an alcohol
10 license to increase their footprints by twenty-five percent (25%), under certain circumstances;

11 **WHEREAS**, there is legislation under review by the Governing Body to expand the
12 permissible areas for the sale and consumption of alcohol to include City property; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the City closes certain streets to vehicular traffic annually to improve the
14 pedestrian experience, community building opportunities, and economic development
15 opportunities; in particular, the Governing Body adopted Resolution No. 2014-49—People to the
16 Plaza—to close three of the four streets bordering the Plaza, from Memorial Day through the
17 Monday following the annual Fiesta de Santa Fe; and

18 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the popularity of the People to the Plaza initiative, Resolution
19 No. 2014-49 was amended by Resolution Nos. 2014-75 and 2016-80 to extend the time period of
20 the closure to October 31 or such later date determined by the city manager based upon weather
21 on an annual basis; and

22 **WHEREAS**, many members of the Santa Fe business community as well as the public
23 have expressed a desire to provide increased and safer opportunities for pedestrian access
24 throughout the City, such as through additional road closures; and

25 **WHEREAS**, during the pandemic, cities such as Boston, Washington D.C., Minneapolis,

1 Oakland, and Seattle, among others, have temporarily closed streets to vehicular traffic to provide
2 pedestrians and cyclists with increased access while encouraging social distancing; and

3 **WHEREAS**, many of these cities have closed down multiple miles of streets to normal
4 vehicular traffic, with New York City planning on eventually closing down 100 miles of roadway
5 to vehicular traffic; and

6 **WHEREAS**, closing certain streets in Santa Fe until the end of October, 2020, would
7 allow more restaurants and businesses to take advantage of the State and City opportunities to
8 expand their footprints and would allow for greater access to those businesses by non-vehicular
9 traffic; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the opening of streets and allowing businesses to increase their outdoor
11 square footage is not only good for businesses but will increase the safety of workers as they
12 work within the confines imposed as a result of the COVID -19 pandemic.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City shall apply the following
14 framework when evaluating the temporary closure of streets to vehicular traffic:

15 1. Temporary street closures will be established by the City of Santa Fe Public
16 Works Department, in conjunction with the Department's issuance of Obstruction of Streets
17 Permits.

18 2. Before the City issues an Obstruction of Streets Permit to any business seeking to
19 occupy space on a street closed to vehicular traffic, the business shall provide a diagram of the
20 City property the business seeks to use.

21 3. Temporary street closures may only be implemented between July 1 and October
22 31, 2020, unless extended by adoption of a resolution by the Governing Body.

23 4. Any business that utilizes City property on a closed street pursuant to this
24 Resolution shall not conduct business on the street between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am.

25 5. At least seventy-five percent (75%) of the businesses and residents whose

1 primary access is on the proposed street must support the proposed street closure, as certified by
2 the businesses and residents through a petition submitted to the Public Works Department
3 Director.

4 6. The terms of the closure shall ensure adequate emergency access, verified by the
5 City's Police and Fire Departments.

6 7. The terms of the closure shall accommodate accessible parking, ADA
7 compliance, and adequate access for deliveries before 10:00 a.m. ea ch day.

8 8. At least one street bordering the Plaza shall be accessible to vehicular traffic at
9 all times.

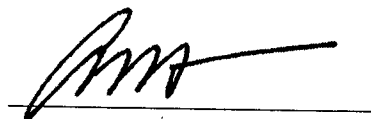
10 9. Major arterials and collectors, as defined by the Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning
11 Organization, shall not be closed to vehicular traffic pursuant to this Resolution.

12 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 24th day of June, 2020.

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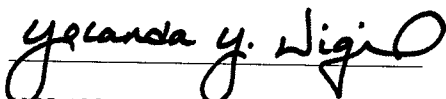
16 ATTEST:



ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

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19 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

20 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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23 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *Legislation/2020/Resolutions/2020-24 Temporary Street Closure*