CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-36

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Bushee

A RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITING AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT.

WHEREAS, a driving goal under U.S. immigration law is family unification and the ability of families and individuals to reside legally in the U.S., engaging fully in our country's rich civil traditions and form of government; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Fe celebrates and respects all immigrant groups and all families, including those of same-sex gay and lesbian partners; and

WHEREAS, current U.S. immigration law discriminates against gay and lesbian U.S. citizens by not allowing them to sponsor their foreign partners for immigration benefits, while heterosexual individuals are allowed to sponsor their foreign partners for immigration benefits; and

WHEREAS, this form of discrimination and unfair treatment under the law has devastating and life-altering consequences for same-sex partners; and

WHEREAS, the limited legal options for same-sex partners to keep their relationship unified exacts an enormous emotional, financial, and mental toll, disproportionate to opposite-sex couples in bi-national relationships; and

1   **WHEREAS**, beyond the personal challenges to same-sex couples, the City of Santa Fe and

2 the entire country risk a great loss of talent should the foreign partner and/or the U.S. citizen or lawful

3 permanent resident be forced to depart the U.S. to keep the relationship whole in another country; and

4   **WHEREAS**, the Uniting American Families Act (H.R. 519/S.296) is currently pending in the

5 U.S. Congress which would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit permanent partners

6 of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in

7 the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration

8 fraud in connection with permanent partnerships; and

9   **WHEREAS**, the Uniting American Families Act would allow same-sex relationships to be

10 treated no differently from opposite sex relationships and all legal requirements of qualifying under

11 the statute and proving the good faith nature of their relationship would remain; and

12   **WHEREAS**, the Uniting American Families Act would bring U.S. immigration law in line

13 with the thirty-one other countries that already recognize same sex partnerships for immigration

14 purposes, including: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland,

15 France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South

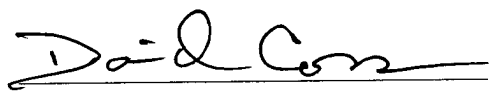16 Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom; and

17   **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe fully supports the measures of Congress to allow gay and

18 lesbian partners to access immigration benefits in an equal and fair manner, equivalent to opposite sex

19 partners who currently enjoy such legal rights.

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

21 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body expresses its strong support for the passage of the

22 Uniting American Families Act, and other laws that will end discrimination for bi-national same-sex

23 partners under the immigration laws and will allow gay and lesbian residents of the City of Santa Fe

24 fair and equal access to immigration benefits through their permanent partnerships.

25   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this
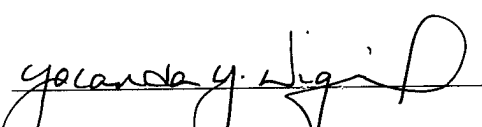
1 | resolution to New Mexico's Congressional Delegation; as well as the Speaker of the United States

2 | House of Representatives; the Leader of the Senate and the President and Vice-President of the

3 | United States.

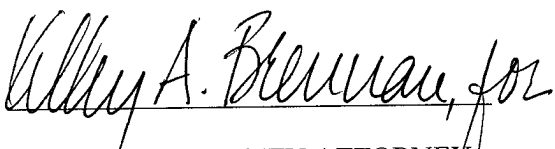4 | PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 27th day of March, 2013.

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7 | DAVID COSS, MAYOR

8 | ATTEST:

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11 | YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

12 | APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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15 | GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 | *M/Melissa/Resolutions 2013/2013-36 Uniting American Families*