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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-63**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

Councilor Amanda Chavez

Councilor Signe I. Lindell

Councilor Lee Garcia

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

Councilwoman Renee Villarreal

**A RESOLUTION**

**CREATING A ONE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE AND INCENTIVIZE EMPLOYERS TO PAY FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES' PARKING IN CITY OF SANTA FE ("CITY") PARKING FACILITIES AT SANDOVAL STREET, THE SANTA FE COMMUNITY CONVENTION CENTER, AND THE RAILYARD.**

**WHEREAS**, local employees are spending a significant portion of their income on parking in the downtown and Railyard Areas; and

**WHEREAS**, local merchants are competing with employers outside the downtown area, who can offer free parking, making recruiting and retention of employees in the downtown area difficult; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Parking Division currently offers a "downtown business employee rate" for monthly parking of \$35 per month for all three City-owned garages for workers who are employed by a downtown business and earn \$15 an hour or less with an annual salary not to exceed \$31,200, including tips; and

**WHEREAS**, if an employee does not qualify for the "downtown business employee rate",

1 a parking permit is available at the standard rate of \$68.25 per month; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in 2022 the Average Median Income (“AMI”) for Santa Fe is \$56,450; and

3 **WHEREAS**, most federal housing subsidies serve those making 80% of AMI or less,  
4 equivalent to \$45,150 annually or \$21.71 per hour; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a minority of employees working for businesses downtown are eligible for  
6 the current downtown business employee rate program; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation (“SFRCC”) surveyed  
8 businesses within the Railyard and Guadalupe Districts, regarding employee parking needs and  
9 their employees’ commuting and parking practices; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the survey indicated that 45% of respondents have between 1-5 employees,  
11 while 25% of respondents have 21 or more employees, demonstrating the wide range of business  
12 sizes that require parking for their employees; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the results of the survey indicate that most employees park on the street or  
14 pay a daily rate in a parking garage, while several employers indicated they already purchase  
15 parking permits for at least a portion of their employees; and

16 **WHEREAS**, fifty percent (50%) of the survey respondents said that they would pay  
17 between \$20-\$30 per permit for their employees to park in City-owned parking garages; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body wants local businesses to ensure sufficient and  
19 convenient parking for their employees; and

20 **WHEREAS**, many downtown service industry workers do not have a convenient and  
21 reliable method of transportation to get to work, which can lead to lower staffing levels; and

22 **WHEREAS**, service workers are essential to the City’s vibrant restaurant and lodging  
23 industries that provide the bulk of services to Santa Fe’s tourism sector; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the City continues to develop its multimodal transportation network, but a  
25 current need exists for downtown employee parking while the network is fully established.

1           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**  
2 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the City shall continue to offer a downtown business employee monthly  
3 parking rate of \$35.00 per month for all three City-owned garages, for eligible persons.

4           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City shall implement a one-year pilot program  
5 called the “downtown business employee parking program” (“Program”) through which downtown  
6 businesses located within the Paseo de Peralta perimeter may purchase parking permits to be used  
7 by qualifying employees.

8           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Program will allow employees to park at the  
9 Railyard Parking Garage, Sandoval Parking Garage, or the Santa Fe Community Convention  
10 Center Parking Garage.

11           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that 150 parking permits shall be allocated to the  
12 Program, available on a first-come, first-serve basis at a rate of \$25 per pass, per month.

13           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Program shall incentivize businesses to purchase  
14 parking permits for employees by pricing bulk purchases at a rate that is lower than the monthly  
15 parking permit that is currently available for employees making \$15 or less per hour on an annual  
16 basis.

17           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that business owners may purchase no more than ten  
18 parking permits for their employees earning less than \$21 per hour, or \$43,680 annually, including  
19 tips.

20           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that monthly parking permits offered through the  
21 Program shall be sold directly to businesses, issued in the name of the business, and may be shared  
22 by employees at the business owner’s discretion.

23           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Parking Division shall administer the Program  
24 and collect data for the final report, verifying qualifications for program, and securing affidavits  
25 certifying business-use only and program compliance.

