

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-38

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

A RESOLUTION

**RECOGNIZING THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2);
HONORING THE SACRIFICES THAT ESSENTIAL WORKERS HAVE MADE TO
PROTECT AND SAVE LIVES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES; AND DECLARING
SUPPORT FOR A PERMANENT COVID-19 MEMORIAL TO BE LOCATED IN NEW
MEXICO TO HONOR THE VICTIMS OF COVID-19.**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2
virus; and

WHEREAS, wide-spread cases of COVID-19 caused the World Health Organization to
declare a global pandemic that lasted from March 11, 2020, until May 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic had, and continues to have, negative impacts on
human life, community, and economy; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments, health departments, Native leadership, and
public servants have taken bold actions to protect residents, support struggling local economies,
and find innovative ways to provide services; and

1 **WHEREAS**, public health guidelines and policies targeted at prevention such as social
2 distancing, wearing masks in public, and staying home helped to mitigate the spread of COVID-
3 19, prevent illness, and lessen the burden on individuals and society; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in response to the rapid spread of COVID-19, essential workers put
5 themselves at risk to provide critical services to help protect communities and save lives,
6 sacrificing their own health and safety; and

7 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-income persons and
8 communities that face systemic racism, exacerbating inequities already prevalent in the United
9 States' systems that United States residents must address as a nation; and

10 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on Native American communities,
11 which saw an increase in the estimated loss in life expectancy at birth by 6.4 years between 2019
12 and 2021; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the average life expectancy for the Native American population decreased
14 from seventy-two (72) years of age to sixty-five (65) years of age, and has caused the incalculable
15 loss to the communities of their elders who carried with them the communities' cultures,
16 languages, and traditions; and

17 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has harmed the health and well-being of children by reducing
18 access to care and health services, disrupting schooling, undermining their sense of safety and
19 security, increasing stress on caregivers, and by tragically robbing over 140,000 children living in
20 the United States of a parent or caregiver; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the symptoms and severity of COVID-19 can vary dramatically by
22 individual and the long-term health implications for survivors is largely unknown, as many
23 survivors suffer with lingering side-effects of the disease long after they no longer test positive;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has taken the lives of over 7 million people worldwide, 1.2

1 million people in the United States, and more than 9,650 New Mexican residents; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Stephanie Garcia Richard, the New Mexico State Land Commissioner, has
3 dedicated an acre of public trust land near Mesa del Sol in Albuquerque for Bernalillo County to
4 erect a COVID-19 Memorial, commemorating the more than 9,650 New Mexicans who lost their
5 lives to the virus; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Memorial should offer visitors a pilgrimage experience and an
7 opportunity to “travel” through personal and collective expressions of grief; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body wishes to support the placement of a permanent
9 COVID-19 Memorial to commemorate the impact COVID-19 has had on New Mexicans; and

10 **WHEREAS**, each life lost to COVID-19 matters, leaving a hole in the hearts of loved
11 ones, family members, and their community.

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
13 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that it acknowledges the lasting impacts that COVID-19 has had, and
14 continues to have, on the State, communities, and individuals of New Mexico.

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that it honors the sacrifices that essential workers have
16 made to protect and save lives in their communities.

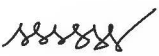
17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that it supports the designation of a permanent Covid-
18 19 Memorial in Bernalillo County on state trust land, to memorialize New Mexicans who lost
19 their lives and in honor of those who are forever impacted by COVID-19 and the pandemic.

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21 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 11th day of September, 2024.

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23 
24 Alan Webber (Sep 12, 2024 17:12 MDT)

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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8 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *Legislation/2024/Resolutions/2024-38 (R)/ Supporting COVID-19 Memorial*