

**Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting  
20 March/3 April 2023  
Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick**

**Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative - Update.** At the February 22, 2023 meeting the City Council unanimously approved the resolution to pursue a joint Powers Agreement to establish the Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative with Bernalillo County. The mayor signed the resolution on March 9, 2023. Per discussion with Councilor Benton on April 13, the parties are working on a Memorandum of Understanding.

**APD Public Information Officer (PIO)**

During the April 3 meeting's Administration Questions and Answer Period, councilors asked the city administration and the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) in particular why the APD PIO continues to issue disrespectful and unprofessional tweets on the APD Twitter account. The comments from councilors indicated this has been an ongoing problem which had previously been brought to the attention of the city administration and APD. Councilor Davis asked the APD Chief Medina to commit to restricting the PIO's access to the account until training on the city's policies could occur. Neither Chief Medina nor the city administration made this commitment, but said the situation would be addressed. Council President Davis stated that he would work to defund the APD PIO position if the situation is not addressed.

**Housing**

R-23-107. The council approved a resolution authorizing the acquisition of land and existing improvements and construction of a building within the downtown 2025 Metropolitan Redevelopment Area. The project by Alb. Downtowner LLC comprises 207-unit multi-family on 0.8 acres on First and Silver SW. The mayor signed the resolution March 28, 2023. [R-23-107 Text](#)

EC-23-263. At the April 3 meeting the council approved the administration's Executive Communication requesting a change order to an existing purchase order. The change order adds an Environmental Assessment to a purchase order for services related to a development project at the Uptown Transit Center. The project would include 200+ affordability-restricted multi-family units in a residential tower. [EC-23-263 Text](#)

**Gibson Health Hub**

EC-23-272. On April 3 the council approved a lease agreement between the city and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for space to provide services at the Gibson Health Hub.

**Transit**

R-23-120. At the April 3 meeting the council approved permanent elimination of fares for the Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) and SunVan Paratransit Service for the disabled. This action awaits the mayor's signature. [R-23-120 Text](#)