

**Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting  
17 April/1 May 2023  
Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick**

**Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative – Update.** None. The current status: both the Albuquerque City Council and Bernalillo County Commission passed a resolution to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement to establish the Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative. Per a conversation with Councilor Benton on April 13, the parties are working on a Memorandum of Understanding. There has been no further discussion at the council or on the City’s Housing Forward website.

**Outcome of previous Council action:**

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 was signed by the mayor on April 17. [R-23-120 Text](#)

**Programming of Funds and Projects for the 2023-2032 Decade Plan for Capital Improvements Including the 2023 Capital Budget**

R-23-100. The council unanimously (except Councilor Jones who was excused from the meeting) passed the measure at the April 17 meeting. The mayor signed it on May 1. [R-23-100 Text](#)

**Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)/City of Albuquerque Cooperation**

R-23-118. Declaring City’s Intent to Collaborate with APS ...to Enact Protocols for First Responder Scenarios that Involve School-Aged Youth. At the May 1 meeting the council unanimously approved a resolution stating that the fire, police, and community services departments shall establish procedures (“Handle with Care” communication plan) to notify APS if a school-aged person is involved in or witness to any traumatic situation that required first responders. Three speakers spoke in favor of this resolution, including a 4<sup>th</sup> grade APS student. [R-23-118 Text](#)

**Housing**

O-23-59. Residential Rental Database Ordinance. At the May 1 meeting the council failed to pass an ordinance which would have established a database of rental units in Albuquerque. The proposed ordinance failed on a two (Davis, Fiebelkorn) to seven (Bassan, Benton, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Peña, Sanchez) vote. The ordinance would have required property owners provide 14 datapoints including the rental rate with annual updates. Thirteen members of the public spoke in favor of establishing the rental database; nine spoke against it. After the measure was defeated several citizens in the gallery shouted expletives at the council and called them “cowards”. [O-23-59 Text](#)

**Speed Camera Fine Enforcement**

O-23-78. Creating Parking Offense for Motorists with Multiple Automated Speed Enforcement Fines Currently in Default. At the May 1 meeting the council passed an ordinance which enables the city to place a boot on a vehicle parked on a city street or lot if the owner has three or more unpaid fines assessed by speed cameras. The measure passed by a seven (Bassan, Benton,

Fiebelkorn, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Peña) to two (Davis, Sanchez) vote. The measure was sent to the mayor for signature/veto on May 9. [O-23-78 Text](#)

### **Menaul Metropolitan Area Redevelopment Plan**

R-23-92. At the May 1 meeting the council unanimously passed a resolution approving the Menaul Metropolitan Area Redevelopment Plan. The Metropolitan Redevelopment area is bounded by I-40 to the south, Phoenix to the north, I-25 to the west, and the North Diversion Channel to the East. [R-23-92 Text and Plan Details](#)

### **Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board (AQCB)**

R-23-128. At the May 1 meeting the council approved a resolution declaring a position on AQCB's Petition 2022-3. (Link: [Petition 2022-3](#)) Petition 2022-3 would change the AQCB's rules to require consideration of health, environmental, and equity impacts when evaluating permit applications.

AQCB was created pursuant to the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act as an entity independent of the city or county. The city and county appoint members to AQCB.

R-23-128 declares that AQCB Petition 2022-3 could be harmful to the city due to lack of stakeholder involvement. Four citizens representing the construction and paving industries spoke in favor of R-23-128, whereas eight citizens representing the petition's sponsors spoke against it.

The council passed the resolution by a five (Bassan, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Sanchez) to three (Benton, Davis, Fiebelkorn) vote. Councilor Peña was excused due to Zoom connectivity issues. The resolution awaits the mayor's signature or veto. [R-23-128 Text](#)

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