

**Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting  
16 October 2023 and 8 November  
Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick**

All nine councilors were present at the October 16 and November 8 meetings: Louie Sanchez – District 1, Isaac Benton – District 2, Klarissa Peña – District 3, Brook Bassan – District 4, Dan Lewis – District 5, Pat Davis – District 6, Tammy Fiebelkorn – District 7, Trudy Jones – District 8, Renée Grout, District 9.

**United Soccer Stadium Lease at Balloon Fiesta Park**

At the October 16 meeting the City Council considered whether to approve a lease agreement allowing the United soccer team to build a stadium at Balloon Fiesta Park. Fifteen members of the community spoke in favor of the lease agreement, while 5 spoke against it. Members of the City Council expressed concern that input had not been solicited from neighbors or the Balloon Fiesta Commission. There was additional discussion of whether lease approval was premature considering that much of the land use process had not been completed. The City Council voted unanimously to defer consideration of the measure until the November 20 meeting. [EC-375](#)

**Air Quality Control Board**

At the November 8 meeting Councilor Lewis proposed an ordinance (O-23-88) to revamp the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board, changing it from an independent board to one more closely controlled by the City Council. There were many members of the community who spoke about the bill. Thirty individuals, including industry representatives, spoke in favor of the ordinance. Fifty people spoke against the ordinance, some citing a concern that the timing of this change was to circumvent the Board's upcoming consideration of cumulative health impacts. The ordinance passed by a vote of five in favor (Bassan, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Sanchez) to four opposed (Benton, Davis, Fiebelkorn, Peña). A link to the ordinance: [O-23-88](#)

At the November 8 meeting Councilor Lewis proposed a resolution (R-23-176) which establishes a moratorium for the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board to act until February 2, 2024. The measure passed by a vote of five in favor (Bassan, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Sanchez) to four opposed (Benton, Davis, Fiebelkorn, Peña). A link to the resolution: [R-23-173](#)

**Transit**

During the administration question and answer period of the October 16 meeting it was disclosed that all ABQ Ride routes are now operating reduced schedules.

At the November 8 meeting, Councilors Fiebelkorn, Davis, and Peña proposed an ordinance (O-23-89) to make permanent zero fares on all buses, ART, and SunVan. The ordinance passed by a vote of six in favor (Bassan, Benton, Davis, Fiebelkorn, Jones, Peña) to three opposed (Grout, Lewis, Sanchez). A link to the ordinance: [O-23-89](#)