

**Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting
8 January 2024
Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick**

All nine councilors were present at the January 8, 2024 meeting: Louie Sanchez – District 1, Joaquin Baca – District 2, Klarissa Peña – District 3, Brook Bassan – District 4, Dan Lewis – District 5, Nichole Rogers – District 6, Tammy Fiebelkorn – District 7, Dan Champine – District 8, Renée Grout, District 9.

New City Councilors

This was the first council meeting for newly elected city councilors Joaquin Baca, Nichole Rogers, and Dan Champine.

Council President and Vice President

The council voted to elect Councilor Dan Lewis as Council President. The vote was eight in favor (Baca, Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Rogers, Sanchez) and one opposed (Fiebelkorn).

The council voted unanimously to elect Councilor Renee Grout as Council Vice President.

Mesa del Sol Building Height

The council voted unanimously to amend the Level A Framework Plan for Mesa del Sol to change the maximum allowable height from 80' to 110' for a specific 30-acre parcel on a case-by-case basis. In this case, maximum height increase is for Kairos Power for a research and development and manufacturing facility. According to its [website](#), Kairos Power's Albuquerque laboratory is designed to test its high-temperature salt technology for reactor coolant. Two speakers spoke in favor of the amendment. No speakers opposed it. [R-23-196](#)

Air Quality Control Board

At the December 4, 2023 meeting the City Council passed a resolution calling for the creation of a joint city/county working group to improve the operation of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Joint Air Quality Control Board. The measure passed by a vote of seven in favor (Benton, Davis, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Peña, Sanchez) and two opposed (Bassan, Fiebelkorn). Mayor Keller vetoed the resolution on December 21, 2023. [R-23-197](#)

At the January 8, 2024 meeting the City Council failed to override the veto due to a lack of a motion to override.

General Comments

- Albuquerque/Rehovot, Israel Sister City. During the general comment period eleven people asked the council members to put pressure on Mayor Keller to sever the Sister City relationship between Albuquerque and Rehovot, Israel, citing concerns over continuing such a relationship with a “genocidal apartheid state”.
- Homelessness/Affordable Housing. Five people spoke about the continued need to address affordable housing and homelessness. One speaker read a poem she had written about the death of a homeless man due to exposure in December.