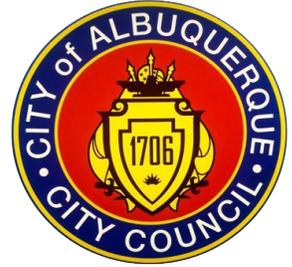


District 5 Newsletter



City Councilor Cynthia D. Borrego



As you can imagine, these last few months working under New Mexico Department of Health orders have been and continue to be times of extra diligence, requiring a vision for recovery drawn in a framework of current resources and cautions. It is essential to recognize and celebrate our City's successes and bravery, in spite of our cares—the first responders, essential business operators that are doing it right, and our stars—Albuquerque's high school and college graduates who fill us with pride and hope for the future. Congratulations and Thank You Graduates for the promise you embody!

Many of us find solace and joy in the spring weather. Its outdoor amenities, bicycle and walking paths, Bosque and foothill trails, the delicious sunsets, and awed sunrises offer some of Albuquerque's greatest treasures. Albuquerque has more parks than most other cities! We are rich in these outdoor amenities, so please consider all the options and stagger your excursions into the great outdoors to allow for COVID-19 social distancing at a 6 ft. minimum in groups no larger than 5.

The City of Albuquerque appropriated \$500,000 to fund a small forgivable loan program for Albuquerque small businesses. Quickly absorbed, an additional \$50,000 was donated from the One Albuquerque fund for a final round of loans. In addition, the City of Albuquerque also corralled \$500,000 to support the creative economy. Finally, when the National CARES Act neglected aid to non-profits struggling with expenses incurred in service to COVID-19 effected peoples, Albuquerque City Council identified and voted to apply \$1,000,000 in smaller appropriations to 44 City non-profits meeting these circumstances.

In May, I sponsored Memorial 20-2 (<https://cabq.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>) that, while explicitly of the NM State Health Department Health Orders, recommends Albuquerque's reopening advisory councils formed by state, industry, and municipal representatives, consider alternative means for reopening such as methods to allow outdoor operations. Recommendations in M-20-2 were taken to heart by several other Council members and the Mayor.



I myself sponsored, along with Council Vice-President Diane Gibson, two pieces of legislation drawn from ideas presented in M-20-2. Through the creation of the Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit (TODA), Ordinance 20-16 sets out clear guidelines for City wide dining establishments to serve in outdoor areas such as parking lots and landscaped places. Resolution 20-57 advances a portion of the yet to be approved City Development Process Manual that defines and allows parklets. Parklets or 'parquitos' are outdoor activity centers for retail or dining converted from on-street parking places. Both O-20-16 and R-20-57 were passed unanimously by City Council on June 1, 2020. During the course of COVID-19 health concerns, the cost of application for TODAs and parklets is zero.



On a micro-level to our area, a District 5 economic initiative to call-out, market and organize retail centers in District 5 has been able to progress through technology's advanced communication capabilities. Keep watch for my continued legislative and programmatic advocacy in the upcoming weeks during, what is aimed to be a strong incubation and rebirth of Albuquerque's economy.



Though our economy and physical health are priorities under these emergency conditions, we should also look to the wellbeing of our mental and intellectual health. Local leaders want to share and enjoy life with everyone and miss the day to day energy of connection. In gratitude for the people of Albuquerque and empathizing with home-schooling needs, I created the 'Lavender Libros' YouTube Channel. Each week on Wednesday and Friday a new children's book is presented by local leadership. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-rWA5T7PWCD4P-QXuZkdw> for a spark of childhood imagination—an authentic moment with everyday people—your government, school, and community leadership.

Please stay positive District 5 neighborhood and community members. None of us are the cause of the Coronavirus, but we can all be heroes by acting responsibly and with care for one another's health and wellbeing.

Residents Resources

- If you are displaying symptoms, contact the New Mexico Department of Health at 1-855-600-3453.
- If you need assistance with childcare, food, diapers, etc., check the City's website, here.
- If you are in an unsafe environment due to domestic violence, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).
- To get information on Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, click here, or contact 505-266-1900.
- The New Mexico Crisis and Access Line has counselors available 24/7 to speak at 855-662-7474.
- The Department of Senior Affairs can be reached at 505-764-6400. A full list of resources available for seniors can be found here.
- The Child Abuse Hotline can be reached at 505-841-6100.
- For Adult Protective Services, contact 505-476-4912.
- The Agora Center is available at 505-277-3013

For information on these and other District 5 activities please visit Councilor Borrego's City Website <https://www.cabq.gov/council/find-your-councilor/district-5> or you may call her at 505-768-3100, email: cynthiaborrego@cabq.gov. District 5 Policy Analyst Susan Vigil is also available to answer your questions, comments or concerns at 505-768-3189, e-mail: susanvigil@cabq.gov