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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-51

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Jamie Cassutt-Sanchez

Councilor Chris Rivera

Councilor Renee Villarreal

Councilor Signe I. Lindell

Councilor Michael J. Garcia

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE WRITTEN UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS AT EVERY REGULAR GOVERNING BODY MEETING WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, AND OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY.

WHEREAS, Santa Fe and the State of New Mexico are experiencing a large surge in COVID-19 cases that is disrupting the daily lives of all Santa Feans, has left thousands jobless, and has put many people at risk of eviction; and

WHEREAS, up until the recent, nation-wide surge, Santa Fe was successful in keeping daily case numbers low and was hailed as a model in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body and City administration prioritized and instituted safe practices early on when the threat of the pandemic became clear; and

WHEREAS, the economic fallout as a result of the pandemic is exacerbating existing income inequalities, with lower-income workers experiencing the brunt of layoffs; and

1 **WHEREAS**, many local and small businesses are struggling financially and are at risk of
2 permanent closure; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City’s tax revenue, which is used to provide essential services to all
4 residents, is also severely impacted as a result of declining economic activity; and

5 **WHEREAS**, on June 10, 2020, the Governing Body adopted Ordinance No. 2020-13 that
6 required the use of a face covering by everyone within the boundaries of the City of Santa Fe, with
7 certain exceptions, in an effort to stem the tide of infections; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the State also issued a mask mandate that requires all individuals to wear a
9 facial covering in public settings, except when eating or drinking; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham released a county-by-county tiered risk
11 system in a revised public health order issued December 2, 2020, that enables local communities
12 to reopen more of their economies as their respective risk of COVID-19 decreases; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the framework includes three tiers representing varying levels of risk; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Red signifies very high risk, Yellow signifies high risk, and Green signifies
15 medium risk; and

16 **WHEREAS**, regardless of the tier level, certain restrictions will remain in place, including
17 the requirement to wear a face mask in public and adherence to the State’s COVID-Safe Practices;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Police Department has recorded 202 calls requesting enforcement of City
20 and State requirements that resulted in 13 citations; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Police Department has labeled calls for COVID-19 enforcement as a
22 Priority 3 call — a call in which there are no immediate threats to life or property — resulting in
23 many situations involving COVID-19 enforcement being no longer active by the time an officer
24 responds to the call; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Fire Department has a dedicated ambulance that transports all known

1 COVID-19 patients, including those who arrive from other areas of New Mexico or from out-of-
2 state, to a local hospital to be treated; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Fire Department has seen an uptick in cardiac-related medical calls that
4 may be a result of residents believing the hospital is an unsafe location due to the treatment of
5 COVID-19 patients and delaying medical treatment to avoid possible exposure, thus exacerbating
6 potentially life-threatening health issues; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the number of positive cases within City departments continues to rise and
8 threatens the continuity of essential services and facilities; and

9 **WHEREAS**, City employees may be eligible for emergency paid sick leave in accordance
10 with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act if they contract COVID-19 or are known to have
11 been exposed to COVID-19; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the City provides personal protective equipment (“PPE”) to all staff who
13 have close contact with members of the public or other City employees.

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
15 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the City Manager is directed to work with City employees to enforce
16 all City and State COVID-19 restrictions, whichever is more restrictive in a given situation.

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager is directed to explore funding
18 sources that can be used to purchase COVID-19 tests that would be used for employees, including
19 remaining and future federal CARES Act funding the City received and could receive from the
20 State, prioritizing those employees who have regular and direct contact with the public; and to
21 explore the possibility of a contract with CHRISTUS St. Vincent Hospital to provide rapid
22 turnaround for results of those tests.

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager is directed to coordinate with local
24 hospitals to develop and disseminate communications to the public regarding the safety of hospitals
25 and urging residents to seek immediate medical attention for any urgent or emergency medical

1 needs including any respiratory symptoms, heart-related ailments, and cancer screenings.

2 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager is directed to provide updates to
3 the Governing Body at every regularly scheduled Governing Body meeting, until June 30, 2021, as
4 follows:

5 1. A written report with information compiled from the following departments:

6 a. Police Department

- 7 i. Number of calls related to COVID-19 enforcement, by police beat
- 8 area;
- 9 ii. Average response time to the calls;
- 10 iii. Outcome of the response; and
- 11 iv. Citations issued for violations of City or State COVID-related
- 12 restrictions, by police beat area.

13 b. Fire Department

- 14 i. Number of calls related to COVID-19;
- 15 ii. Number of transfers from the Santa Fe Regional Airport to area
- 16 hospitals; and
- 17 iii. The County or State of origin for each of the transfers.

18 c. Human Resources

- 19 i. Number of new positive cases among City employees since the
- 20 previous report, categorized by City department;
- 21 ii. Number of cumulative positive cases among City employees since
- 22 March, categorized by City department;
- 23 iii. Whether or not the City employees that test positive have been in City
- 24 facilities since during their period of infection, and if so, when they
- 25 were in said facilities;

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- iv. City buildings that were closed as a result of any positive cases; and
- v. Report on City-wide use of emergency sick leave related to COVID-19.

d. Emergency Management and Safety

- i. Availability of PPE for City employees.

2. A brief presentation regarding the information provided by the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief, based on the written report provided to the Governing Body. The Chiefs may give the presentation.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 16th day of December, 2020.



ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY