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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-77

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Carmichael Dominguez

A RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE REDISTRICTING OF THE FOUR CITY OF SANTA FE COUNCIL DISTRICTS PRIOR TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF 2016; AND DIRECTING THAT THE GOVERNING BODY AND STAFF COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITIZENS' REDISTRICTING COMMISSION AS REQUIRED BY THE *SANTA FE MUNICIPAL CHARTER*.

WHEREAS, on March 4 , 2014, the voters of Santa Fe approved an amendment to Section 6.03 of the of *Santa Fe Municipal City Charter (Charter)*, effective May 5, 2014, which called for the four dual-member districts numbered one through four to be reviewed and revised at least every ten years by an independent citizens' redistricting commission (Commission); and

WHEREAS, Section 6.03 of the *Charter* calls for the Governing Body to establish, by ordinance, a procedure for the appointment and deliberations of the Commission which will, to the maximum practicable extent, ensure that the Commission's decisions will be based exclusively on the following principles in the following order of priority:

- "A. each district shall contain as nearly as possible substantially the same

1 population based upon the most recent federal census;

2 B. districting plans must avoid dilution of minority voting strength;

3 C. communities of interest, including those based upon ethnic and
4 economic factors, shall be preserved within a single district whenever reasonable;

5 D. each district shall be formed of compact, contiguous territories. The
6 total length of all district boundary lines shall be as short as possible;

7 E. districting plans shall compensate for census undercount of
8 minorities;" and

9 **WHEREAS**, on January 2, 2014, the City of Santa Fe annexed approximately 4100 acres,
10 primarily on the southern and western borders of the City, into the City limits; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the annexation incorporated at least 13,250 new residents into the City limits;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, because of the areas in which they lived, those residents were not equally
14 absorbed into the four City Council Districts; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in particular, Council District 3 now has at least 49% more residents than any
16 other district; and

17 **WHEREAS**, because of this, residents in the four Council districts are not equally
18 represented; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe will have its next regular municipal election on March 1,
20 2016; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the City has the opportunity to equalize the populations of the four Council
22 districts before this election through the process of redistricting; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in order to do so, the governing body must develop an ordinance listing the
24 procedure for the appointment and deliberations of the Citizens' Redistricting Commission in a
25 timely manner so that the Commission can complete its deliberations by June 1, 2015, at the very

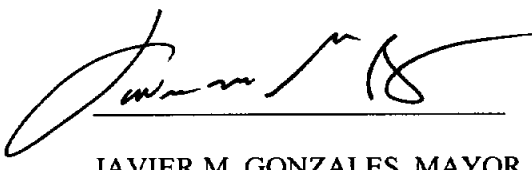
1 latest.

2 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
3 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the City of Santa Fe shall redistrict its four City Council Districts no later
4 than June 1, 2015, so that such redistricting will be in place for the March 1, 2016 municipal election.

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Governing Body and staff shall immediately
6 begin to collaborate to develop and pass an ordinance detailing the appointment and deliberation
7 processes and a timeline for the Citizens' Redistricting Commission so that the Commission can
8 complete its work of redistricting no later than June 1, 2015.

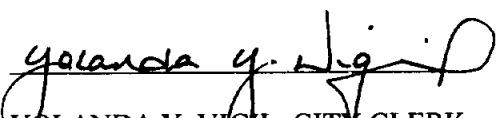
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body directs staff to prepare a request
10 for qualifications for an independent consultant, experienced and competent in the skills necessary for
11 districting, for the purpose of collaborating and working with the Independent Citizens' Redistricting
12 Commission."

13 PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2014.




JAVIER M. GONZALES, MAYOR

17 ATTEST:

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19 
20 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

21 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

22 
23
24 KELLEY A. BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY

25 M/Melissa/Resolutions2014/2014-77 Redistricting