

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-90

INTRODUCED BY:

Mayor Javier M. Gonzales

Councilor Peter Ives

Councilor Patti Bushee

A RESOLUTION

RELATING TO THE CHALLENGE OF FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS BY 2015; ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE AND DIRECTING STAFF TO EXPLORE THE RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD HELP END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY BY THE END OF 2015.

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Fe has supported ongoing initiatives related to housing for veterans; and

WHEREAS, ten percent (10%) of the persons currently receiving supported housing services in Santa Fe who would otherwise be homeless, are veterans; and

WHEREAS, seventy-five percent (75%) of the veterans currently served by existing programs in Santa Fe are between the ages of 40 and 69 years old, indicating an emerging need for expanded services related to health care, employment services and aging; and

WHEREAS, housing services for homeless persons in Santa Fe are provided through the collaborative efforts of seventeen (17) service providers whose efficacy is enhanced by the City of

1 Santa Fe's allocation of local and federal funds and other planning and advocacy efforts; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH) declared the
3 participation of its member agencies in the Zero: 2016 initiative to end veteran homelessness which
4 includes using an evidence-informed Common Assessment Tool for triage and developing a
5 coordinated approach to support and interventions that will accelerate local efforts to "get to zero;"
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, through the adoption of Resolution No. 2014-8 the Governing Body requested
8 that the City's Congressional Delegation support efforts to build, preserve, rehabilitate and operate
9 rental housing that is affordable for low income veterans and their families; and

10 **WHEREAS**, through the adoption of Ordinance No. 2014-9, the Governing Body amended
11 the Santa Fe Homes Program (SFHP) Ordinance to include veterans in the list of professions to
12 qualify for expanded eligibility standards to purchase homes created through the Santa Fe Homes
13 Program; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body recognizes that men and women who served in the United
15 States armed services have made extraordinary sacrifices to serve this nation and should not
16 experience homelessness; and

17 **WHEREAS**, ending homelessness for veterans and their families is critical to local elected
18 officials and cities as it will reduce the inefficient usage of costly health care services and emergency
19 shelters, as well as enhance the ability of veterans to positively contribute to their communities and
20 increase economic productivity; and

21 **WHEREAS**, preventing and ending homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015 is a
22 national priority that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and its federal partners, including the
23 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Interagency Council on
24 Homelessness (USICH), have taken decisive action to address; and

25 **WHEREAS**, despite this progress, there were an estimated 62,619 homeless veterans on a

1 single night in January 2012 in the United States; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the *Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* set a bold and
3 audacious goal to end veteran homelessness in the United States before the end of 2015; and

4 **WHEREAS**, on June 4, 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama announced that a growing
5 coalition of mayors, governors, and county officials are committed to ending veteran homelessness in
6 their communities by the end of 2015, and called on additional mayors and local leaders to join this
7 effort; and

8 **WHEREAS**, ending veteran homelessness means reaching the point where there are no
9 veterans sleeping on our streets and every veteran has access to permanent housing; and

10 **WHEREAS**, should veterans become homeless or be at-risk of becoming homeless,
11 communities will have the capacity to quickly connect them to the help they need to achieve housing
12 stability; and

13 **WHEREAS**, to aid the local elected officials in the pursuit of the goal of ending
14 homelessness among veterans, the Federal Government has provided resources and enforced
15 programs to strengthen our Country's homeless assistance programs.

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
17 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body hereby accepts the challenge of First Lady Michelle
18 Obama to end Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

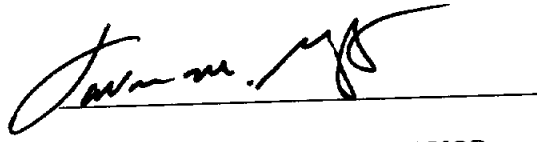
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff is directed to explore the resources and programs
20 provided by the Federal Government that would help end veteran homelessness in our community by
21 the end of 2015.

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff is directed to leverage the City's local
23 partnerships, resources and programs to develop a robust strategy through which veteran
24 homelessness will be ended by 2015.

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this

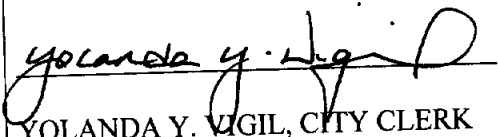
1 resolution to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the United States Interagency
2 Council on Homelessness and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 29th day of October, 2014.

4 

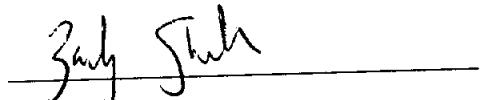
5
6 JAVIER M. GONZALES, MAYOR

7 ATTEST:

8
9 

10 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

11 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

12
13 

14 KELLEY A. BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY