

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-41**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4 Councilor Calvert

5 Mayor Coss

6 Councilor Wurzburger

7 Councilor Ives

8 Councilor Rivera

9 Councilor Bushee

10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **RECOGNIZING AND HONORING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,**
12 **BEN LUJAN, FOR HIS DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE ON**
13 **BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO AND THE CITY OF SANTA FE; AND**
14 **DIRECTING STAFF TO DETERMINE A FUTURE DATE TO HONOR SPEAKER LUJAN.**

15
16 **WHEREAS**, in 1975, after having served as chair of the Santa Fe County Commission,
17 thirty-nine-year-old Ben Lujan took his seat in the New Mexico House of Representatives and has
18 continuously served ever since; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Speaker Lujan's leadership service as majority whip from 1983 through 1998,
20 majority floor leader from 1999 through 2000 and speaker of the House of Representatives from 2001
21 through the centennial session of the legislature places him among just a handful of legislators across
22 the country who have served in leadership positions continuously for thirty years; and

23 **WHEREAS**, during his long service in the House of Representatives, Speaker Lujan fought
24 tirelessly to protect homeowners from suddenly escalating property taxes; to boost the minimum
25 wage for New Mexicans; to attract new businesses with job training programs and tax incentives; to

1 improve New Mexico roads, highways, public buildings and other infrastructure; and to ensure that
2 New Mexico's water supply remains plentiful and clean; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Speaker Lujan also found time to pose the official state question, "Red or
4 Green?", although it took him eight years and all of his political skill to forge the consummate
5 compromise and to answer the question with "Christmas"; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Speaker Lujan championed legislative reform efforts, including implementation
7 of a new member orientation, which, while accepted as routine today, was not offered to the newly
8 elected Ben Lujan and his peers, as the veteran legislators sought to maintain their power and control;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, Speaker Lujan knows the importance of providing excellent constituent
11 services and has helped countless residents of his northern New Mexico district, as well as other New
12 Mexicans, wade through the bureaucracy of state government; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Speaker Lujan helped create thousands of jobs throughout the State of New
14 Mexico, including in the City of Santa Fe, by sponsoring annual legislation to fund the Job Training
15 Incentive Program; and

16 **WHEREAS**, over the last several years, Speaker Lujan has been instrumental in the
17 acquisition of significant grant and low-interest loan funding assistance for the City of Santa Fe for
18 the following critical water projects:

- 19 • Canyon Road Water Treatment Plant Upgrade and Rehabilitation Phases I through III
- 20 • Buckman Direct Diversion Project
- 21 • Emergency Buckman Well No. 9
- 22 • Emergency Buckman Well Nos. 10 -13
- 23 • Buckman Well Purge/Recycling Project
- 24 • Watershed Improvement and Management Projects – over the last 4 years; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Speaker Lujan's tenacity and no-nonsense demeanor in the legislative arena

1 often lead casual observers to mistakenly believe that his legislative efforts are paramount in his life,
2 while the few who know him better understand that his deep affection for Carmen, his wife and
3 life-long partner, their children and their grandchildren have been, are and will forever be foremost in
4 his head and heart; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Speaker Lujan's leadership has never relied upon the trappings of office but
6 upon determination, advocacy on behalf of his constituents and the causes in which he believes,
7 moreover, loyalty to the legislative institution; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the retirement of Speaker Lujan marks the loss of a great legislator who fought
9 tirelessly for the City of Santa Fe and the state of New Mexico.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
11 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body hereby recognizes and honors Speaker Ben Lujan
12 for his dedication and commitment to public service on behalf of the people of New Mexico and the
13 city of Santa Fe.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff is directed to determine a future date to honor
15 Speaker Lujan to express gratitude to Ben Lujan, the man, the friend, the neighbor and the family
16 man who has been willing to serve, and to Speaker Ben Lujan, the leader, the inspiration, the
17 embodiment of success in his thirty years of leadership.

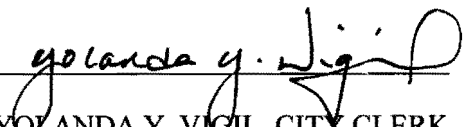
18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution
19 to Speaker Lujan.

20 **PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this 11th day of April, 2012.

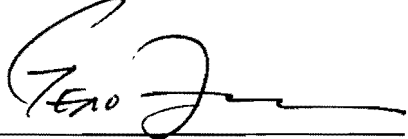
21
22 

23 DAVID COSS, MAYOR
24
25

1 ATTEST:

2
3 
4 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

6 
7

8 GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

M/melissa/2012 resolutions/2012-41 Ben Lujan