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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-\_\_**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

Mayor Alan Webber

**A RESOLUTION**

**ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE CLOSURE OF STREETS TO  
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FOR A CERTAIN PERIODS DURING 2020.**

**WHEREAS**, businesses throughout the City of Santa Fe have felt the economic impact of mandated business closures, followed by limited reopenings, as a result of the COVID -19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, local businesses and the City government seek creative solutions to allow safe and open options for Santa Fe’s residents and visitors during the unprecedented situation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Order issued on June 12, 2020 restricts restaurants to fifty percent (50% ) of their normal capacity and restricts retail businesses to twenty-five percent (25%) of capacity;

**WHEREAS**, if restaurants and businesses are able to expand their capacities safely, that opportunity will improve their abilities to survive the health and economic crises;

**WHEREAS**, one opportunity for restaurants and other businesses to expand their

1 capacities safely is to occupy portions of City-owned properties, such as publically owned  
2 sidewalks, roads, or parking spaces; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City has identified a mechanism for individual business’s use of  
4 portions of public roads, sidewalk, and parking spaces through an obstruction permit;

5 **WHEREAS**, the State has provided the opportunity for restaurants holding an alcohol  
6 license to increase their footprints by twenty five percent (25%), under certain circumstances;

7 **WHEREAS**, there is legislation under review by the Governing Body to expand the  
8 permissible areas for the sale and consumption of alcohol to include City property; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the City closes certain streets to vehicular traffic annually to improve the  
10 pedestrian experience, community building opportunities, and economic development  
11 opportunities; in particular, the Governing Body adopted Resolution No. 2014-49—People to the  
12 Plaza—to close three of the four streets bordering the Plaza, from Memorial Day through the  
13 Monday following the annual Fiesta de Santa Fe; and

14 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the popularity of the People to the Plaza initiative, Resolution  
15 No. 2014-49 was amended by Resolution Nos. 2014-75 and 2016-80 to extend the time period of  
16 the closure to October 31 or such later date determined by the city manager based upon weather  
17 on an annual basis; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the City has compiled creative opportunities to “virtually experience Santa  
19 Fe” that allow people to attend cooking classes, take a virtual walkthrough of museums, take  
20 flamenco lessons, participate in daily meditations, or even listen to a live book reading from a  
21 local bookstore; and

22 **WHEREAS**, many members of the Santa Fe business community as well as the public  
23 have expressed a desire to provide increased and safer opportunities for pedestrian access  
24 throughout the City, such as through additional road closures; and

25 **WHEREAS**, during the pandemic, cities such as Boston, Washington D.C., Minneapolis,

1 Oakland, and Seattle, among others, have temporarily closed streets to vehicular traffic to provide  
2 pedestrians and cyclists with increased access while encouraging social distancing; and

3 **WHEREAS**, many of these cities have closed down multiple miles of streets to normal  
4 vehicular traffic, with New York City planning on eventually closing down 100 miles of roadway  
5 to vehicular traffic; and

6 **WHEREAS**, closing certain streets in Santa Fe until the end of October, 2020, would  
7 allow more restaurants and businesses to take advantage of the State and City opportunities to  
8 expand their footprints and would allow for greater access to those businesses by non-vehicular  
9 traffic.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City shall apply the following  
11 framework when evaluating the temporary closure of streets to vehicular traffic:

12 1. Temporary street closures will be established through the issuance of an  
13 Obstruction of Streets Permit issued by the City of Santa Fe Public Works Department.

14 2. Temporary street closures may only be implemented between July 1 and October  
15 31, unless extended by adoption of a resolution by the Governing Body.

16 3. At least seventy five percent (75%) of the businesses and residents whose  
17 primary access is on the proposed street must support the proposed street closure.

18 4. The terms of the closure shall ensure adequate emergency access, verified by the  
19 City's Police and Fire Departments.

20 5. The terms of the closure shall accommodate accessible parking, ADA  
21 compliance, and adequate access for deliveries before 10:00 a.m. each day.

22 6. In accordance with the provisions of Resolution No. 2014-49, all streets  
23 surrounding the Plaza shall be open to vehicular traffic during designated cruise nights

24 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.  
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ATTEST:

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ALAN M. WEBBER, MAYOR

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YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
  
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ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY