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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-__

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Patricia Feghali

Councilor Alma Castro

A RESOLUTION

AMENDING RESOLUTION NOS. 2014-49 AND 2016-80 TO CLOSE THE STREETS SURROUNDING PLAZA PARK ANNUALLY FROM MEMORIAL DAY TO OCTOBER 31ST OR LATER AND TO CLOSE LINCOLN AVENUE AND PALACE AVENUE, NEXT TO PLAZA PARK, PERMANENTLY.

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe Plaza (“Plaza”) has been the commercial, social, and political center of Santa Fe since 1610; and

WHEREAS, the Plaza is a destination for many visitors interested in Santa Fe history and culture; and

WHEREAS, SFCC 1987, Section 23-5 regulates the use of the Plaza, Plaza Park and Plaza periphery; and

WHEREAS, SFCC 1987, Section 23-5.1 (S), (T), and (W) defines the Plaza and the Plaza Park area as follows:

Plaza means that inclusive area bounded on the north by the north curblineline of Palace Avenue running in front of the Palace of the Governors, and on all other sides by the facades of the buildings, excluding portals, or property lines lying to the east, south and

1 west of the Plaza Park as outlined in the map prepared by the city, labeled "Plaza Park
2 Map."

3 *Plaza Park* means that inclusive area bounded by the inside back of the curb
4 surrounding the Plaza as outlined in the map prepared by the city, labeled "Plaza Park
5 Map."

6 **WHEREAS**, the Plaza belongs to all of Santa Fe and is home to many annual events that
7 draw residents and visitors to the Plaza and creates social connections, economic development, and
8 funding for community non-profits, including but not limited to the eight major events authorized
9 by SFCC 1987, Section 23-5.2(A)(1)(a-h); and

10 **WHEREAS**, many cities are reducing vehicular traffic as a way to preserve and protect
11 historic areas as well as enhance pedestrian safety; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the City has limited vehicular access to the streets around the Plaza Park over
13 the years by closing Palace Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and Old Santa Fe trail for various reasons
14 and as described in Resolution Nos. 2014-49, 2014-75, and 2016-80; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the City already often closes San Francisco Street during the summer months
16 due to events, and closing San Francisco Street seasonally would lead to more predictability for
17 drivers and pedestrians; and

18 **WHEREAS**, specifically, Resolution No. 2014-49 notes that as a result of a 2003 safety
19 recommendation from the "Plaza Task Force," that "Palace Avenue in front of the Palace of the
20 Governors was closed to vehicular traffic with the exception of loading and unloading and
21 emergency vehicle access", and then the resolution goes on to authorize a "[c]ontinuation of the
22 closure of Palace Avenue"; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 2016-80 amended Resolution No. 2014-75 to extend
24 the established time period for vehicular traffic restriction around Plaza Park on Lincoln Avenue
25 and Old Santa Fe Trail to Memorial Day through October 31 "or such later date determined by the

1 city manager...; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Lincoln Avenue has not reopened to vehicles after the summer closure for
3 several years, to the benefit of pedestrians and visitors to the Plaza; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 2020-24 established a framework for evaluating the
5 temporary closure of streets to vehicular traffic during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, which only
6 applied to the year 2020 and is no longer relevant; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to create continued enhancement of pedestrian safety and
8 enjoyment of the Plaza area, the Governing Body wishes to further reduce vehicular traffic on the
9 plaza.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
11 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the streets around Plaza Park shall be closed to vehicular traffic, except
12 for bicycles and other human-powered, non-electric devices, from Memorial Day to October 31 or
13 such later date determined by the city manager, annually.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager shall direct appropriate staff to
15 take the appropriate steps to effectuate the following actions:

- 16 1) Amend Resolution 2014-49 to remove the “continuation” of the closure of
17 Palace Avenue along Plaza Park and establish that it shall remain closed to
18 vehicular traffic permanently; and
- 19 2) Amend Resolution 2016-80 to establish that Lincoln Avenue along Plaza Park
20 shall remain closed to vehicular traffic permanently; and
- 21 3) Amend Resolution 2016-80 to establish that the restriction of vehicular traffic
22 around Plaza Park, including San Francisco Street, shall occur annually from
23 Memorial Day to October 31st or such later date determined by the city
24 manager; and
- 25 4) Designate Palace Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Washington Avenue

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exclusively as a loading and unloading zone for Plaza vendors and Palace of the Governors vendors, and prohibit vehicular traffic, pedicab operations, walking tours, and bicycle tours from operating within this area; and

- 5) Designate cruise nights which will permit all four streets surrounding the Plaza to be open to vehicular traffic during the designated cruise nights.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

GERALYN F. CARDENAS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Marcos D. Martinez
Marcos D. Martinez (Jun 18, 2026 14:25:39 MDT)
MARCOS D. MARTÍNEZ, CITY ATTORNEY