

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S) TO RESOLUTION NO. 2026-__
Seasonally Closing the Plaza to Vehicular Traffic

Mayor and Members of the City Council:
In relation to Resolution No. 2026-__.

This amendment WILL change the caption. x
This amendment WILL NOT change the caption.

I intend to propose the following amendment(s),

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-__

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Patrica Feghali

Councilor Alma Castro

[Amendment D – BLUE – Mayor Garcia](#)

A RESOLUTION

**[DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO COORDINATE WITH THE APPROPRIATE CITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY GROUPS, AND STAFF TO 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, TO
DESIGNATE A MINIMUM OF SIX AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT PARKING](#)**

**SPACES, TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING A “DROP-OFF/PICK-UP” AREA;
SPECIFYING THAT THE CLOSURES WILL BEGIN ON MEMORIAL DAY IN 2027.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager shall ~~direct~~ coordinate appropriate City advisory committees (including groups such as the Public Safety Committee and the Mayor’s Committee on Disability), community groups, and staff to take the appropriate steps to effectuate the following actions:

- 1) Amend Resolution 2014-49 to remove the “continuation” of the closure of Palace Avenue along Plaza Park and establish that it shall remain closed to vehicular traffic

permanently; and

- 2) Amend Resolution 2016-80 to establish that Lincoln Avenue along Plaza Park shall remain closed to vehicular traffic permanently; and
- 3) Amend Resolution 2016-80 to establish that the restriction of vehicular traffic around Plaza Park, including San Francisco Street, shall occur annually from Memorial Day to October 31st or such later date determined by the city manager; and
- ~~4) Designate Palace Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Washington Avenue 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~~
~~Designate cruise nights which will permit all four streets surrounding the Plaza to be open to vehicular traffic during the designated cruise nights.~~
- 4) Designate a minimum of six Americans with Disabilities (“ADA”) parking spaces within 100 feet of the Plaza; and
- 5) Assess the feasibility of designating a “drop-off/pick-up” area that is accessible for ADA purposes; and
- 6) Identify dates on which through-traffic will be permitted, which shall include weekends whenever possible, and, no later than April 1st, 2027, and by April 1st every year thereafter, the City shall publicize these dates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all closures are consistent with all SFCC 1987 requirements for obstructions and loading zones as well as with adopted International Fire Code regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the closures of the streets surrounding Plaza Park will begin on Memorial Day in 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

GERALYN F. CARDENAS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Marcos Martinez

[Marcos Martinez \(Jul 29, 2026 15:58:59 MDT\)](#)

MARCOS D. MARTÍNEZ, CITY ATTORNEY

Amendment D - M. Garcia

Interim Agreement Report

2026-07-29

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Agreement History

Agreement history is the list of the events that have impacted the status of the agreement prior to the final signature. A final audit report will be generated when the agreement is complete.

"Amendment D - M. Garcia" History

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