October 12, 2026

Mayor Michael Garcia and Members of the Governing Body
City of Santa Fe
200 Lincoln Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Re: Request for Governing Body Support for The ROCk

Dear Mayor Garcia and Members of the Governing Body:

We understand that the City prioritizes "shovel-ready" projects in supporting community proposals, serving as fiscal agent, and in seeking capital outlay funding from the state legislature. The ROCk - Interfaith Community Services' Resource and Opportunity Center - is expected to meet all requirements of a "shovel-ready" project in a matter of months: site secured and free of encumbrance; architectural and engineering blueprints finalized and construction-ready; and regulatory permits and clearances granted. We expect that The ROCk will achieve this position well before any capital funding allocated by the 2027 legislative session is even available for expenditure, and it is the only known capital project that is capable of addressing the major gaps in Santa Fe's homelessness response system right now.

Despite the fact that the Governing Body has chosen not to include The ROCk as a specific line item in the City's 2027 Legislative Priorities Memo and Resolutions, we request that the City formally support, act as fiscal agent, and endorse any legislation or appropriation that may benefit The ROCk and work with Interfaith to pursue all potential sources of state funding that may be available for The ROCk during the upcoming 2027 legislative session pursuant to the City's endorsement of legislation that increases homelessness infrastructure and services as stated in the Legislative Priorities Resolution scheduled for approval at the October 14, 2026 Governing Body meeting. Interfaith continues to pursue funding options from federal and state (both legislative and executive) sources, from foundations, and from the private sector. The City's support of The ROCk is critical to this effort. We urgently request that support.

Since the Governing Body meeting in late June, Interfaith has continued moving The ROCk forward. We have completed a private capital campaign feasibility study, secured 30 letters of support from community organizations, established and held the first meeting with a Neighborhood Health and Safety Task Force that includes the SFPD and other first responders as well as representatives of local businesses, and developed a draft Operations Plan that is being vetted by the task force members and other community partners.

We are also pleased to announce that we will formally submit the site grading and drainage permit application for the ROCk by the end of this month. With the site purchased and architectural and engineering work expected to be completed before the end of this year, this is a major step toward construction readiness.

As you know, The ROCk is a purpose-built, 24-hour services center that will provide up to 125 emergency beds, on-location daytime services, and coordinated access to health care, housing navigation, and other services provided by partner organizations. It would turn the City's proposed legislative priority of expanding shelter and services for homeless individuals into a "shovel ready" project that will fill substantial gaps in Santa Fe's homeless response system.

Our work since June has focused on addressing the operational and neighborhood concerns raised by City officials and community members:

- **Governance and accountability.** We continue to take the steps necessary to expand and strengthen our Board, ICS's fundraising capacity and develop and adopt policies and procedures that will enable us to raise the capital and operating funds to finance the ROCK and effectively manage its construction and operations.

- **Health and safety.** A Neighborhood Health and Safety Task Force has been established which includes law enforcement (SFPD), emergency response (Fire/EMS), the Alternative Response Unit, Park Rangers, and representatives of adjacent businesses. They are providing input on safety protocols, crisis response, integrated care delivery, interoperability with first responders and input on operations affecting the neighborhood and commercial corridor.

- **Learning from other facilities.** Our team has engaged with the leadership of multiple similar facilities in other communities, and has personally conducted eight facility tours in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado to examine staffing, security, service delivery, and neighborhood engagement best practices.

- **Operational planning.** The draft Operations Plan focuses on providing a safe, welcoming, and trauma-informed environment for guests, staff, and volunteers, while ensuring guests remain inside the perimeter — not in arroyos, parks, on sidewalks, or on adjacent properties. The plan includes street outreach to engage people within a secure radius around the facility, and to connect them with services. Controlled access; staff trained in de-escalation, mental health first aid, and trauma-informed care; coordinated service provision with community providers; and regular neighborhood engagement are also features of the plan. Community partners are reviewing the plan before it is finalized.

- **Community support and fundraising preparation.** We have continued to meet with community organizations, city departments, and members of the Santa Fe legislative delegation to brief them on The ROCk's progress and to solicit input. The 30 support letters received to date

include the Thornburg Foundation, who was specifically referenced by Councilors in June. The completed capital campaign feasibility study informs our fundraising strategy and ongoing financing plans for The ROCk.

The City of Santa Fe needs both a coordinated emergency response for this winter and additional shelter capacity for the years ahead.

Interfaith has responded to immediate needs by applying for a grant from the state's Department of Workforce Solutions to expand its motel shelter program - in collaboration with Consuelo's Place, The Life Link and Youth Shelters & Family Services - from 30 to 100 beds. If funded, this would allow local "shelters" to address current waitlists and add shelter capacity this winter for both older adults and other individuals and families experiencing homelessness while other shelter services face closure, relocation, or funding uncertainty.

Interfaith has continued advancing The ROCk since June by completing the predevelopment work, strengthening its organizational readiness and operational planning while continuing to do the hard, unglamorous, essential work — serving people today while building the solution Santa Fe needs for tomorrow. We respectfully ask the City to recognize this progress by supporting The ROCk in its pursuit of state funding and as acting as fiscal agent. Our community needs coordinated action now and a sustained commitment to additional capacity. The ROCk is a perfect example of the public/private partnership the Governing Body aspires to establish. Interfaith stands ready to do its part.

Respectfully,



Kent Grubbs
Board Chair
Interfaith Community Services