

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN DETENTION  
3 CENTER TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND SERVICE.  
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5 WHEREAS, the Bernalillo county metropolitan detention  
6 center is a state-of-the-art center that opened in December  
7 2002 and is currently capable of housing two thousand two  
8 hundred thirty-six inmates and alleged offenders; and

9 WHEREAS, the detention center utilizes a modern pod  
10 design that enhances efficiency and effectiveness by  
11 permitting direct visual and physical access to, and  
12 supervision of, all inmates and alleged offenders; and

13 WHEREAS, the center is equipped with advanced  
14 technological video surveillance to further enhance awareness  
15 of the movement of inmates and alleged offenders, thereby  
16 reducing the opportunity for contraband to be brought into  
17 the center; and

18 WHEREAS, the center is staffed with more than three  
19 hundred highly trained correctional officers, all of whom are  
20 expected to have high-level leadership and communication  
21 skills; and

22 WHEREAS, the center has an interest in promoting good  
23 relations with the families of inmates and alleged offenders,  
24 as demonstrated by a Christmas celebration held in December  
25 2008, at which eight hundred seventy-five children of inmates

1 and alleged offenders received gifts; and

2 WHEREAS, the mission of the Bernalillo county  
3 metropolitan detention center is "to protect the public and  
4 provide a safe and secure environment for both inmates and  
5 alleged offenders and staff under the principles of direct  
6 supervision and in accordance with American correctional  
7 association standards"; and

8 WHEREAS, although the security and protection of the  
9 public is considered to be the primary focus of its mission,  
10 the center believes that ensuring quality operations and  
11 inmate services in a fiscally sound manner is essential; and

12 WHEREAS, one aspect of quality operations is providing  
13 safe and easily navigable access to inmates and alleged  
14 offenders by family members who wish to visit an inmate or  
15 who are seeking the release of an alleged offender; and

16 WHEREAS, visitors to the center certainly include the  
17 friends and family members of the inmates and alleged  
18 offenders; and

19 WHEREAS, although visiting hours are posted on the  
20 center's web site, navigating a system that is primarily  
21 designed for the incarceration of inmates and alleged  
22 offenders can be confusing; and

23 WHEREAS, visiting an inmate can be an emotionally trying  
24 and upsetting situation, one that would benefit from a clear  
25 and accessible process and from personnel available to

1 support and assist visitors; and

2 WHEREAS, having a family member arrested is a traumatic  
3 event for all concerned, and family members have a need to  
4 know the rights and responsibilities of the alleged offender,  
5 the process for seeking the release of that offender and how  
6 long such a process is expected to take; and

7 WHEREAS, in all situations, the friends and family  
8 members of inmates and alleged offenders are entitled to  
9 courteous, helpful and timely attention from the staff of the  
10 Bernalillo county metropolitan detention center;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Bernalillo county metropolitan  
13 detention center be requested to develop a plan to improve  
14 access and service; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the director of the Bernalillo county  
17 metropolitan detention center.

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