

1 A MEMORIAL

2 ENCOURAGING A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO ADDRESS ISSUES CAUSING
3 AND STEMMING FROM PANHANDLING NEAR LAS VEGAS BUSINESSES.

4
5 WHEREAS, the New Mexico behavioral health institute at
6 Las Vegas, New Mexico, is the only publicly funded
7 psychiatric hospital in New Mexico and serves adults from
8 throughout the state; and

9 WHEREAS, the New Mexico behavioral health institute
10 provides adult psychiatric services to approximately one
11 thousand patients per year; and

12 WHEREAS, planning for discharge and after-care of each
13 patient begins at the time of admission but, at times,
14 community resources may not exist in the patient's community
15 of origin; and

16 WHEREAS, hundreds of patients without a safety net are
17 discharged into the Las Vegas area every year and often
18 become housed in unregulated boarding homes; and

19 WHEREAS, some of these discharged patients, who are
20 without a job or source of income, turn to soliciting funds
21 near local businesses; and

22 WHEREAS, this practice can be disruptive to these
23 businesses; and

24 WHEREAS, the city of Las Vegas does not have an
25 ordinance prohibiting panhandling; and

1 WHEREAS, other municipalities, such as Albuquerque and
2 Santa Fe, have experienced legal issues pertaining to
3 enforcement of their panhandling ordinances; and

4 WHEREAS, issues addressing the root causes of
5 panhandling and the effects of panhandling on businesses are
6 ongoing and should be identified and addressed; and

7 WHEREAS, the boarding homes that house many panhandlers
8 might serve as a helpful resource to individuals in need and
9 be best suited to work with individuals who may be unaware
10 of, or not have access to, alternatives to panhandling; and

11 WHEREAS, a dialogue among the New Mexico behavioral
12 health institute, boarding home owners and managers, local
13 business owners, the city of Las Vegas, San Miguel county and
14 Las Vegas residents who panhandle would be helpful in
15 searching for solutions to mitigate the need for panhandling
16 and to identify other alternatives; and

17 WHEREAS, such a dialogue could prove useful in helping
18 to address the issue of panhandling in other areas of the
19 state;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that representatives of the New Mexico
22 behavioral health institute, boarding home owners and
23 managers, business owners, the city of Las Vegas, San Miguel
24 county and Las Vegas residents who panhandle be encouraged to
25 identify root causes of and solutions for panhandling in

1 Las Vegas; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the executive director of the New Mexico
4 behavioral health institute, Las Vegas boarding home owners,
5 the mayor of the city of Las Vegas, commissioners of
6 San Miguel county and the president of the Las Vegas-
7 San Miguel chamber of commerce. _____

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25