

**JoAnne For Santa Fe
City Council District 4**

Issues Statement

FINANCIAL

- Strict accountability must occur beginning with the mayor and city councilors. An experienced city manager and competent and qualified department heads, managers and supervisors must be hired and trained to carry out the responsibilities of their positions. Deadlines to respond to audit findings must be established and implementation of corrective action must be monitored.
- What is it the city should accomplish? With the separation of powers between the city council and mayor, it is imperative that a true consensus be reached. Without this, there is no direction. With no direction, there is only chaos. Each level of city government should work together to determine the programs, standards and an appropriate budget. Strict compliance to that budget must occur. Any proposed deviation should go before the governing body for discussion and approval.
- Regular and consistent audits should be performed by neutral parties and the findings must be addressed in a timely manner by the city manager. Generally accepted accounting practices and procedures in cash handling must be developed and followed by all city departments that handle cash.
- The city council should work with the state legislature to establish more responsive reporting of the gross receipts tax to the city's coffers. Consistent monitoring and oversight of gross receipts revenue should be paramount primarily because it's important to double check on whether the city is receiving its due share of revenue from the NM Taxation and Revenue Department and to perform accurate revenue forecasting.
- Tax increases should be considered only by referendum.
- The city needs to establish credibility and trust in managing its own finances prior to moving forward with a public bank.
- The city should review its investment policies and procurement requirements to allow for competitive participation by local community banks and credit unions in its investment opportunities.

- All enterprise funds should be self-sustaining and revenue from those funds should be managed for each one's operations. There should be no budget transfers to other enterprise funds or to the general fund. Those funds are collected from rate payers for specific services rendered and should not be used for general city spending outside of their intended purpose.
- Parking rates are established to generate revenue to make the Parking Division self sufficient and also to cover the debt service for two parking garages — the Rail Yard and Convention Center. If parking is to remain a self sufficient enterprise fund, then the rates must remain the same. The city can't have it both ways. If at any point the city reaches an equal par on expense vs. revenue, it should reconsider the parking rate structure. The same should hold true for the water rates and any other enterprise funds.

INFRASTRUCTURE/CAPITAL

- As part of the ongoing budget process, the city must prioritize keeping up the maintenance of its buildings, streets, parks and trails. An example of this is the Genoveva Chavez Community Center. These are big investments and cannot be ignored. What gets measured gets done. All of infrastructure must be at the forefront and monies should be allocated to provide for preservation of these resources that are the mainstay of family recreation, well-being and every day travel within the city. New developments must always include operational cost is for ongoing maintenance. The city should follow through on the work started by AMERESCO—a report that offers a timeline for maintenance of structures.
- Continuing support for the Santa Fe Trails bus system should be maintained, as well. Many of the city's young people and senior citizens use the bus to get to work, grocery shop, doctor visits and for other reasons. Routes should be responsive to legitimate demand and not to the whims of individual councilors.
- To reduce liability and to increase safer mobility for its residents and for exercise, the city should create a master plan for installation of sidewalks on city streets where there are none and develop a method for funding, such as a Capital Improvement Projects Bond or a General Obligation Bond.
- The St. Michael's Redevelopment District is a good example of planning for the future and encouraging livable, walkable neighborhoods. Zoning, rules and regulations are no longer hindering the development potential for this untapped economic source. This is a positive, bold endeavor that will eventually have a positive economic and housing impact for the city.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The mayor and city council must continue to support the sanctuary city resolution. The residents who immigrated to Santa Fe and who became lawfully employed deserve to continue to be a part of this community. Police compliance with this resolution must continue.
- Support for police programs that address gangs, drug use and sales, and undercover investigations must continue. In addition, program support for substance abuse rehabilitation should continue and new program goals should be developed. Cooperation and collaboration with drug courts as stakeholders must continue.
- Police and Fire protection must be supported. Both of these departments must be kept up to date with the resources needed to meet the public safety needs of residents—both in state of the art equipment and training. The mayor and city council must ensure that all districts equally have the police and fire protection required by the population each serves based on response time. A “one-community” mindset must start to proliferate Santa Fe—one which professes that all of Santa Fe matters. The city should also focus on being competitive in pay and benefits as compared to other police and fire comparable jurisdictions to ensure that it keeps its trained employees.

HOUSING

- Housing is a growing need that must be priority and cannot be delayed. It is clear that the city is sorely lacking in workforce housing as shown in a 2014 study. That study found that one-half of the city’s workforce lives outside the city—mainly because housing is not affordable. Not only is this a problem for the workforce, but it also has a negative impact on the city’s economy. People earn the living wage in this city and go home to their city and spend money there. This practice creates lost economic opportunities for Santa Fe. An idea that has been implemented in another city is making use of their unused, vacant dorm rooms (such as those at the University of Arts and Design) where tourists may rent for low rates when visiting for short periods of time. This could also a be useful, affordable way to provide housing for city residents.
- Some planning and zoning ordinances and community outcry for “not in my backyard” have stymied the goals of affordable housing, The need for overlay districts, allowable higher densities and consideration for “tiny homes” are necessary for affordable housing goals to be achieved. Long range planning

of housing clusters along future Rail Runner train stations (such as the station to be built near Las Soleras) is an example of creative housing that could be located around convenient transportation for residents to travel to and from work. Albuquerque has done a notable job of providing housing opportunities that are not only affordable, but have addressed the new normal of what is desired in today's reality and that is the need to serve requirements of millennials. This generation will become Santa Fe's future and their housing needs are more related to livable, walkable neighborhoods that offer every day conveniences where cars, garages and large square footage homes are not desirable. There is also a need to address affordable housing for seniors.

- The Siler Road housing and arts project must be supported. This is an example of planning for the future and it addresses workforce housing and livable, walkable neighborhoods. It also addresses the support for the city's art culture on the south side.
- Short Term Rentals should continue to be monitored for compliance and for financial impact.
- Financial support for community agencies that feed and shelter the homeless, such as St. Elizabeth's, the Food Depot, Santa Fe Youth Works and many others must continue and new ideas for support for these programs should be explored.

SOCIAL ISSUES

- Support for maintaining Santa Fe's position as a sanctuary city and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA—"Dreamers") must continue.
- Support for the living wage must continue.
- Support for agencies offering substance abuse rehabilitation must continue.
- Cooperation and collaboration on the goals related to pre-kindergarten education must continue with the school board, state, federal and educational institutions.
- Panhandling on city streets is a growing problem. Programs implemented in other cities — such as posting signs in areas with a phone number of who to call for help in cases of hunger and shelter should be studied for possible implementation in Santa Fe.

ECONOMIC GROWTH/JOBS

- Sufficient housing and jobs are the cornerstone of economic growth. The city doesn't create jobs, businesses do. The city must create the conditions, i.e. tools and policy that allow businesses to flourish and to allow potential companies to locate in Santa Fe.
- Residents must understand that more jobs but constrained growth cannot co-exist. A growing community with planned goals that foster economic growth are what will give Santa Fe the engine to thrive in the future. The city cannot rely solely on tourism for its economy because some day another city will be the choice destination. The city's economic base relies primarily on tourism, government, film and the arts. It needs to create more of an economic base to rely on and those areas could be in developing more of the creative experience such as those brought by Meow Wolf. Another example would be in luring technical industries and a third would be encouraging packaged goods of locally made products based on items used every day and for which Santa Fe is known. These are all clean, viable options which would contribute to Santa Fe's economy. More brainstorming on other ideas should occur where entrepreneurship is the focus and there must be a continuing think tank of the city's economic development arm that encourages community input.
- The city is on the right track with the work done on the St. Michael's Redevelopment District. It may not see immediate economic benefit, but foundation has been laid so that over time, results will be achieved. The Siler Road project is another effort that must be supported for its long-term economic, arts and housing plans.
- Immediate attention to the University of Art and Design future use must be continued as the city will no longer receive the revenue it has been getting to pay the bond debt. There are many ideas floating on its future use and the focus needs to be on how its use could help meet some of the city's goals in other areas. Examples of ideas are: housing, arts, creative experiences, a venue for start up companies to flourish, educational uses, and many more. The city must not lose focus on the revenue it needs to generate, though, to pay the bills.
- The Santa Fe Airport has long been an underutilized source of economic stimulus. Progress in the development of the airport has been made but more is needed. Santa Fe residents spend air travel money elsewhere which affects the funds that could remain in Santa Fe. Support for maintaining the airfield, updating the airport terminal, offering increased food service and

attracting more flights to other cities would have a positive impact on the city's economic base.

- Evaluation of the purpose of the city's economic development department needs to occur to determine what, if any, changes need to be made to make this a viable, effective and productive operation.