

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rolf Hechler at 9:00 a.m., who presided and Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

B. INTRODUCTION:

1. ROLL CALL:

Upon calling the roll, the following Commissioners were reported present.

Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Commissioner was absent
Hon. Ingo Hoepfner, Commissioner
Hon. Chaz Glines, Commissioner

Also Present: Gary Whitehead, City Manager
Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager
Jay Rubin, City Attorney
Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer
Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer
Luis Tavizon, Chief of Police
Wes Meyers, Sanitation Supervisor
Alona Neibergall, Human Resources Specialist

There being a quorum present, the Commission proceeded with the business at hand.

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Hechler called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Hechler called for Commissioner Glines to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):

Becca Eza, MainStreet Truth or Consequences addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I'm just here with some quick MainStreet updates like usual. A week ago, two of the MainStreet board members and I went to the Levitt Learning Conference to learn all about what it takes to put on the Levitt Concert Series. We came back with a lot of information, we're getting a lot of support from the Levitt Foundation, so we're really excited to start putting together this first concert series for this year, and then we'll continue to do it for the next two years after. We're hoping to finalize the dates and schedule in the next week or two, then start to look at what music we're going to have. They really want us to have a variety of genres for this, it's more than just, go see a concert, it's a community gathering, trying to bring people from all aspects of our community together to enjoy live music and gather in the park, so we're really excited to see how this comes together.
- Along with that, we're looking at the possibility of continuing the Dancing in the Streetlights downtown concert series that we dipped out toe into last year to see how it went, and it was successful, so we'll be taking a look soon at how we may schedule that for this year.
- Beyond concerts, this weekend, we are having a city cleanup. On Saturday, we're meeting at 1pm at the Healing Waters Plaza. This is part of our Clean and Beautiful Grant, which MainStreet does, along with the city, with OJ. This is kind of the community engagement part of it. We're meeting at the plaza, we'll have trash bags, disposable gloves, and some litter grabbers that people can check out, and we'll just spread out and clean up around town, gather back at about 2:30pm, take some photos, and see how much trash we've gotten.
- Also on Saturday, it is the second Saturday Art Hop, so please go downtown, check out what's going on at galleries and businesses open late then. It's always a fun time, and the weather should be nice.
- Finally, we're really getting into the role of things with the Fiesta planning, as some of you know as you're part of that committee. We're starting to finalize things around music, schedules, and whatnot. We're excited to get the ball rolling on that, and have another great Fiesta this year. You guys know how to get in touch with me if you have any questions about MainStreet. Thank you.

Steve Green addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- Referring to the Sentinel article, "Renewing the Spaceport Visitor Center Promise", Bruce Swingle doesn't speak or represent the citizens of Truth or

Consequences, you do. He is the business development director of a real estate development company, not an elected official. Recently, Mr. Swingle talked about three different zones in T or C, and their economic value in order of revenue generated. Zone 1: Date Street to exit 79, Zone 2: South Broadway to Williamsburg. Mr. Swingle doesn't appreciate the intrinsic value to the city of our downtown Main Street historic hot springs district, Zone 3, that cannot and should not be measured by dollars alone. A Spaceport Visitor Center anywhere in Zone 1 does nothing to showcase who we are. Most communities have what we have in Zone 1, Walmart, lodging, gas stations, restaurants. It is our historic hot springs district, encompassing 70 businesses such as hot springs, lodging, spas, restaurants, art galleries, unique shops, bookstores, healing arts, homes, a museum, a visitor center, a brewery, a movie theater, the Healing Waters Plaza, city offices, and the historic Lee Belle Johnson building, that make us unique and different. We are a welcoming tourist destination, and the assets that support who we are are located downtown. Our city has lost population, it is our downtown where lasting impressions of our community are formed, our visitors return time and time again, they buy homes, bringing back people who add value and economic stimulus to our city. The historic Lee Belle Johnson building is the crown jewel of downtown, located on what will be a new and beautified Foch Street, thanks to Main Street and the city. The director of Spaceport America approved the Spaceport tour bus operator using the Lee Belle Johnson as it's terminal and as the Sierra County Spaceport visitor central location, promise kept, supported by a vote from our citizens and Virgin Galactic. Go back to Santa Fe, I ask you, please contact our legislatures and the governor's office, ask them to fully fund the request on our ICIP to repair the Lee Belle Johnson so we can put back the Spaceport Visitor Center where it was, and where it belongs. Thank you.

Kathleen Sloan addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I have a question about the Talon Septic, it's on the agenda, do they have an NPDES permit? And if so, where does the effluent go? Where is their sludge going to go if there is sludge, and is that going to compete with the city trying to give away its sludge? Because, I think the city, leftover sludge goes into the trucks that are trucked at great expense to Las Cruces, and our solid waste, and that would not be good for us. Has it been 3 or four years – how long has Talon Septic been using our sewer system? Because it's been very hard on our sewer system. As far as I know, we didn't charge him impact fees. You know, we're just about to undergo an upgrade to the Wastewater treatment plant for \$5.5 million, and you're considering fees going up 25% year over year for the next five years, for solid waste, to pay for this. The people appear to be, in some way, subsidizing Talon Septic. Please explain that when you get to that agenda item.
- I'm wondering if it can be explained to me if Destiny Mitchell has a conflict of interest for being the head of the Chamber of Commerce. Business interests, that's a special interest, and would indicate favoritism over the people in general. In the past – I mean – is her school being given free space? Isn't that a conflict of interest in a city building? Please explain if that's so and if that's a conflict. I

believe she was also paid with T or C public funds to manage Fiesta, was that not a conflict of interest? Thank you.

D. REPORTS:

City Manager Whitehead reported the following:

- I'll just make a brief note, I wrote down some questions, and we can answer some of those when we get to Talon Septic, I'll be able to answer those. I'm going to have a brief report, it's been extremely busy at the city for the last three weeks, the magnitude of the process and the flow has been incredible. We continue to work hard at it and keep up with it. It comes in pretty fast, but we're making good progress, the team, across the board, is working hard to accomplish the goals that you guys are setting forward for us.
- Let me brief you a little bit on Foch Street. Thanks to Becca and MainStreet, we have a good process, every Monday we put out a notice to every person that signed up for information, so we're briefing everyone that's on the street, and certainly everyone that's around that's interested in the weekly progress. We're getting updates on a weekly basis, conducting many meetings. Foch Street is, as many of you probably thought when you started that project, it's a challenge, lots of unknown infrastructure in the ground. Most of it, abandoned, but it's still there, creates a problem, but we're working through getting that resolved as that goes forward. Probably the biggest issue that's come up that we're dealing with right now is New Mexico Gas Company's main service lines that service that area ended up being a little bit shallower than they had anticipated, and that we would have anticipated. When they were located, obviously you would assume that they were at the required depth, but they're not. So, we're in the process right now, working as quick as they can, to come up with a solution to get those lines in. The good part about the process for them is they will be doing most of their work through a process called boring, so we're able to continue working, but we just need everybody to know that it is going to be a little bit of a challenge and we'll continue to work through that. We also had a couple of issues that were there before, we relocated a fire hydrant, again, trying to take a look at the area and things we can fix. On the corner of Foch and Main, there was a fire hydrant that was installed, probably a little too close to the walkway, a little too close to the door of the business, so when we opened that area, we were able to go in there, relocate that, and put it into a safe spot. I want to thank everybody involved with that.
- The second big project we have going, shovel-ready, is our first major water project. It's going and seems to be moving very well. Believe it or not, we just don't hear much. So the contractor's working well, there are problems, but the contractor seems to be very aware of working in communities. They're working very close with the residents, making good strides, so when there's an issue, they seem to address it pretty quickly. Our water team is going out on a daily basis to meet with the general contractor, their field inspector and our field inspector from Wilson, so that we have a daily communication on that particular

issue. I've said a couple times, we'll continue to work with the schools, the hospital, and the nursing home to make sure that we can maintain pressure. We feel pretty confident that we've identified a valve, where if we have a break in the bottom half of the town, we can shut it off and it will eliminate the flow of the water moving through there, and maintain the pressure. We'll continue to work on that. The Mayor and I had a conversation with the superintendent and we'll continue to keep that open channel of communication so that we try our best to avoid causing a situation that the school has to then let the students out. We remain committed to that. The contract on shovel-ready started so quickly we didn't have a chance to really get our notification system going like we did on Foch Street. We really worked about six weeks in front of Foch Street, notifying, talking to folks, walking door to door. We didn't get that opportunity with this one, the contractor hit the ground running, once they got permission to work they started. However, we have done that now, on the back end. Your water department has gone, we've developed a letter through our PIO, so we've gone door to door on that entire street to hand residents the letter, so that we've notified them about the project, the time, those items. So again, the contractor was already doing a good job, but again, we've taken that time and we've done that door to door. We'll go now, and get in front of that process as it's going, because remember, shovel-ready has multiple pieces throughout the town. We'll continue to try to make sure we're communicating as best we can.

- An anomaly that's happened – it's happening on both of our projects – is that people are really curious about what we're doing. We've been notified by the contractor, easily on Foch Street, we can see it, we think we've begun to get it under control as we've worked, so the business owners are working and people are able to get in, we've built good walk paths, we're trying to make that open, but there are many days when people decide to walk in while the construction equipment is working, and they stop on the project – the equipment has to stop working. Yesterday, we had a situation on the critical water project where an individual was on-site, exploring and investigating the depth of the trenches. What we ask of the public is, please find a way to give us some space, give those contractors the ability – we certainly don't want anybody ending up being injured or hurt in a construction zone – I know it's new and we're excited, but please heed those signs. Those things are there for a reason and it's important that we do that. It could cause us some delays and problems with the contract, so we're going to do our best to keep the public notified, but we also need a little help from the public where we can.
- Last week we travelled to the Municipal League, it's legislative session. I'll say, Mayor, I'm sure you have a report that you'll give today, I'll let you talk about the session and the work that we've done up there, where that's landed, but we did have a very good meeting at the Municipal League. One of the main carets we brought back was a program the Municipal League has put in place to look at roofs for municipalities. They've recognized, from the insurance side of the house, that there are so many roofs – because we're self-insured, right – so it's such a problem that they've developed a department that will come out, and actually do an assessment of our roofs, evaluate our roofs, find the proper and

fair cost for repairing them. Even though they don't have the funds, they're not going to pay for them, they will still help us develop a strategy so that we can begin to budget and get these roofs taken care of, so they're not dealing with roofs, roof leaks, damage from water, etc. as insurance claims. Our team talked about that this week, and we'll begin that process. We made the decision yesterday, as you may have noticed, we're fixing the annex building, it was in pretty poor repair, and when we got there, the roof is also leaking, we have about four leaks inside, so we're going to do a small repair on that to try to fix that particular building, but we'll put this process in place to hopefully get active on that.

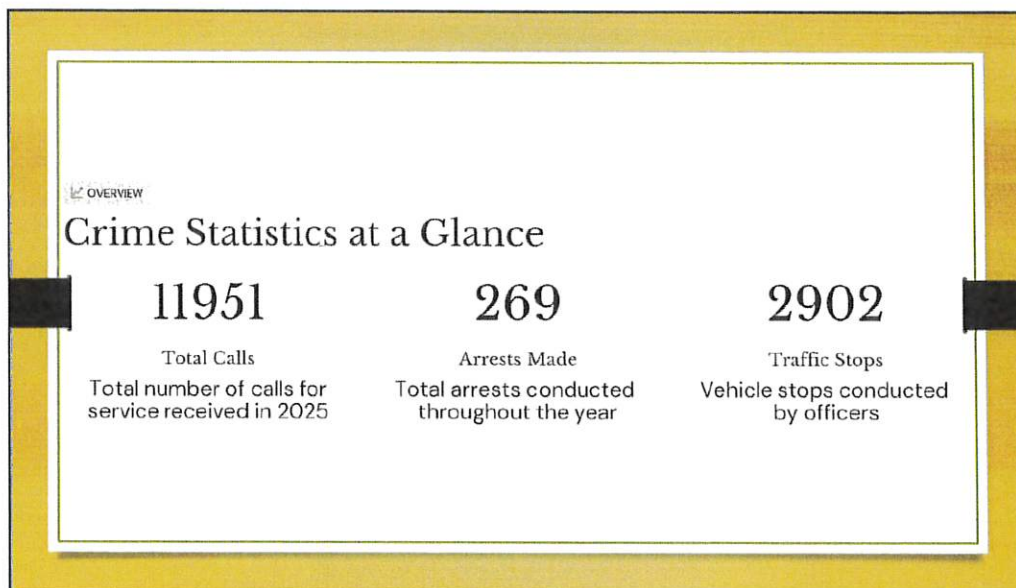
- To talk a little bit about water and wastewater, I have some good news, but I will share with you, it's been one year that we've been operating with a contract for 4x4 for water. Again, to operate a water and wastewater system, you must have someone with at least a level 3 credential in both water and wastewater. We have contracted with a provider that provides that service for multiple systems throughout New Mexico. He also lives here, Jesse Cole, with his business, 4x4 Services. That contract is up and we'll be preparing a new contract to come back to the Commission at our next meeting. I would just like to say, that process is working really well. Again, Jesse is on-site one day a month, in which he inspects our entire system, he goes to every location, and he and I meet with our water supervisor, and we go over any concerns that he might have found. He gives us work products, and work ideas for the month, and then he's also available to come and consult. When we have a major water leak, or the last day, where we had that problem, Jesse was called, he comes in and helps the team assess and find valves and those kinds of things. He knows the system, he's providing the service, not only for us, but for other agencies, it's probably the way of the future, because finding individuals with the credential of a 4x4, it's quite a license, and it's expensive. So this process is working well, we look forward to bringing that back.
- You've heard me speak to you, over the last year, as I've come up to speed, we ended up under an administrative order for the wastewater treatment plant. That order primarily revolves around some equipment at the plant that's not functioning. The weirs, and then our headworks. We worked together through the legislative session last year, ended up with a grant, we have some money, we have the bond money, we've put together about a \$2 million pot of money so that we can repair both of those. Once we had those identified, we were able to notify the Federal Environment Department of our plan, we created a work for it, we're going to get started on those, and I think what I am most pleased to tell you is that I received a letter, once we submitted our final plans, it was due the 2nd but we got it to them by the 26th of January, "After review by our technical staff, the materials you have provided have been determined to be a satisfactory response, and the administrative order is hereby closed." So the City of Truth or Consequences is no longer under an administrative order for our wastewater treatment plant. However, we have the plan now, we just have to close the door and get those things done. We'll be finishing up on Morgan Street, you know we have those apartments coming on, we have a sewer line issue there, there is no

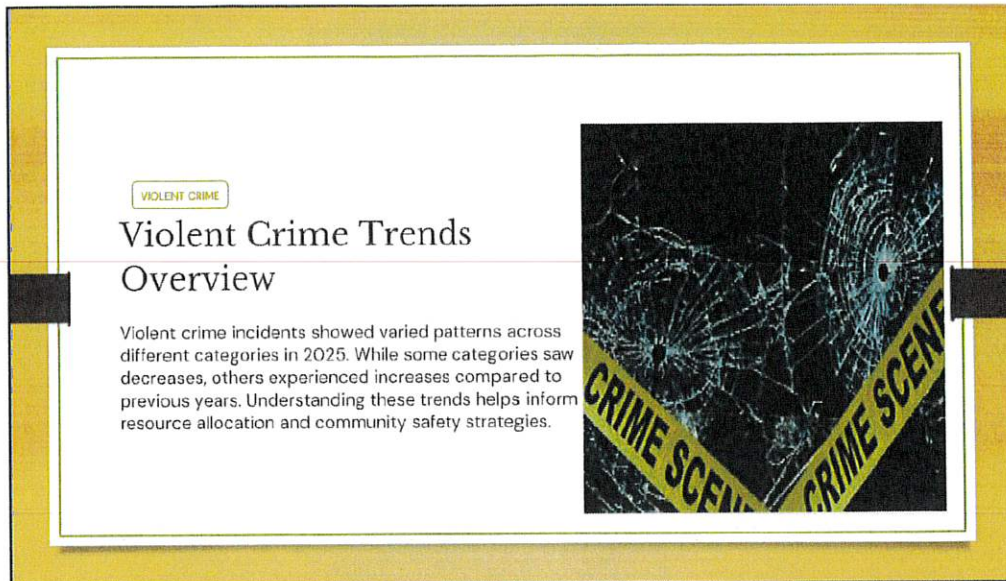
sewer line in a major portion of Morgan. We did find a piece towards the end, the private developer has a private sewer line on that property. We've worked with our engineers, and have developed a plan for us to create a connection so that the private line will become active, and they'll be able to hook up the houses and the developments they want, and then we'll be able to hook it to our sewer. We're excited for that, we will be finishing that up and that'll get that development open, they have four new apartments, and we expect that they'll be bringing the next set of plans to continue to build housing and rental houses for our community. With that, I think I will stand for any questions.

a. Police Department Update.

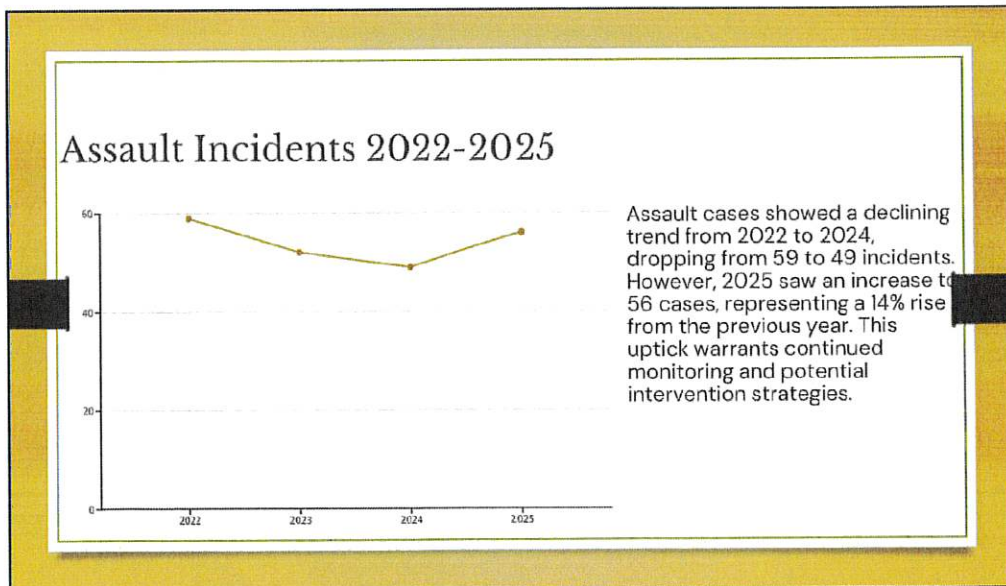
Chief Tavizon reported the following:

- As promised at a previous Commission meeting, I told you I would be preparing a 2025 crime trend for us, that way we get a little bit of a better understanding of what we've dealt with. This report will reflect on some of the 4-year analysis, since 2022 on certain standards. You'll also have copies of this available to you if you need it down the road. In this packet, it's a comprehensive analysis of crime statistics and law enforcement activity across violent crime, property crime, and police operations for the year of 2025:

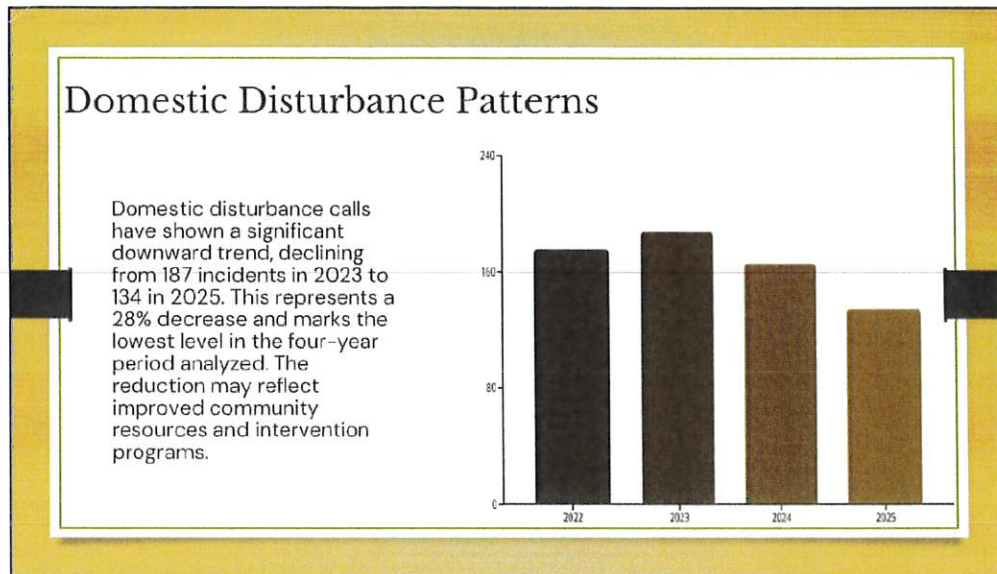




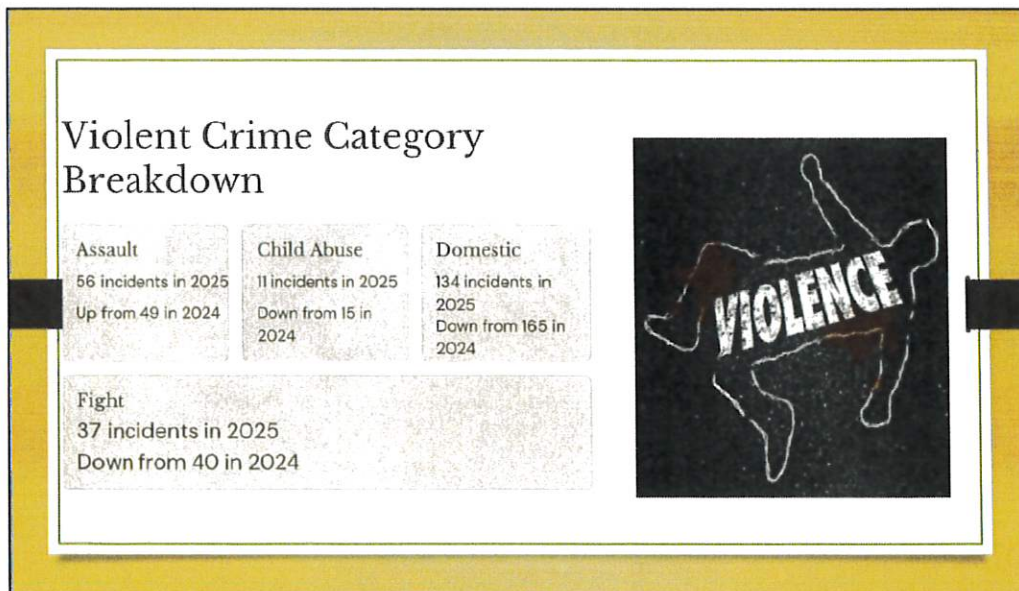
- So there was nothing that really stood out that was specific to [any one category], it was pretty much all over the place, kind of like our crashes. Understanding these trends helps us identify when we need to do direct patrols and try to combat some of these numbers that we're looking at.



- For assault incidences, the way the crime statistic reporting works *includes* batteries within these trends.



- For the improved resources and intervention programs, I know we work with our domestic violence shelter quite well, there have been some other cases and laws that have passed that have maybe attributed to this, the red flags and red flag laws, as well as domestic violence protection orders that have been implemented that may have helped to show these numbers.



- For this breakdown of the violent crime category, as you can see, the assaults were slightly up from the previous year, from 49 to 56. Child abuse cases were at 11 incidents, down from 15 in 2024. Domestic violence, 134 cases in '25, down from 165 in '24. Fights, these could be public frays, and could include school as well, but this is just the total number of fights – 37 incidences in 2025, down from 40 in the previous year.

Sexual Offenses and Rape Statistics

Sexual offenses and rape cases require careful attention and sensitive handling. In 2025, rape incidents increased to 4 cases from just 1 in both 2023 and 2024, while sexual offenses remained at 4 cases, down from 5 in 2024.

These crimes have profound impacts on victims and communities. The data underscores the importance of continued investment in victim support services, prevention education, and investigative resources.

2025 Figures

- Rape: 4 incidents
- Sexual Offenses: 4 incidents
- Combined total: 8 cases

- So these are initially called in, so we'll get these from dispatch, and during the course of the investigation, we'll determine whether or not there's evidence to take it to court, whether or not the DA's going to pick it up based off the evidence that's presented to them. So these numbers do not reflect adjudicated numbers that we've dealt with, just calls that we've investigated.

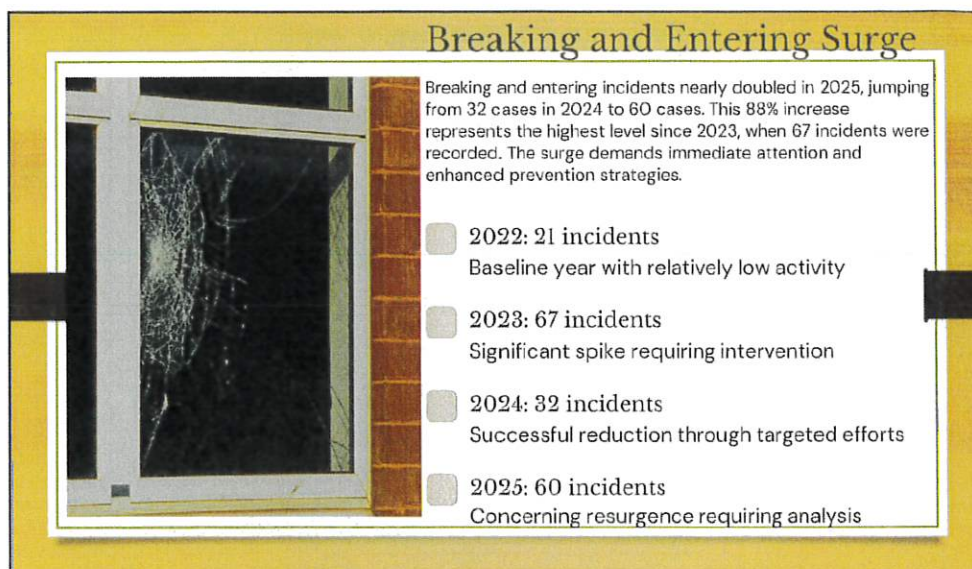
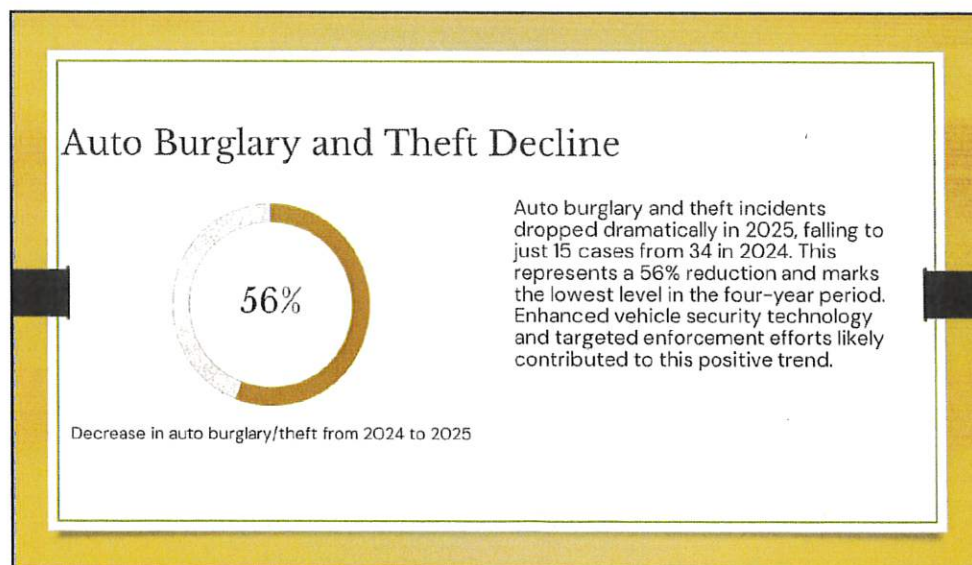
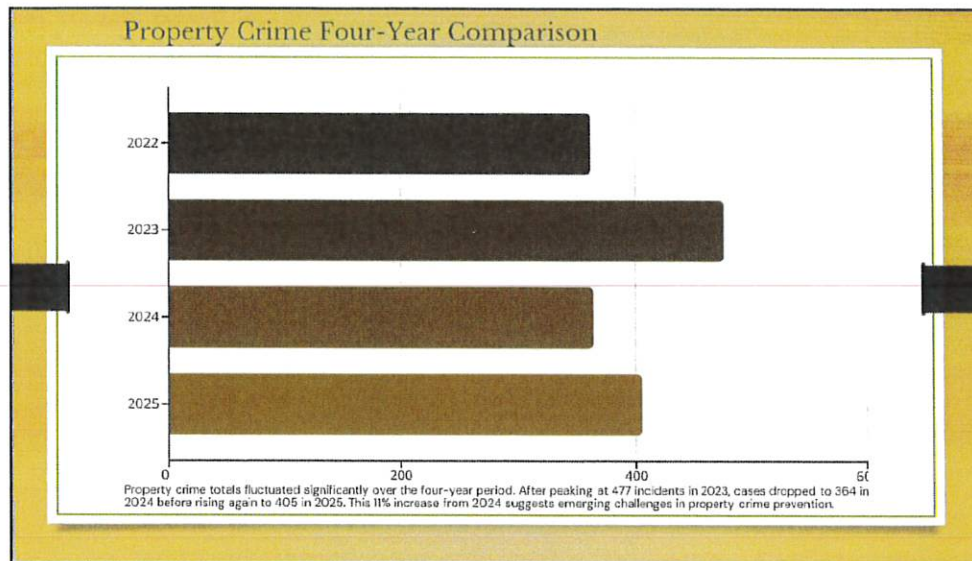
PROPERTY CRIME

Property Crime Trends

Property crime represents a significant portion of overall criminal activity, with 405 total incidents reported in 2025. This category includes auto burglary, breaking and entering, burglary, shoplifting, theft, and vandalism. Understanding these patterns helps law enforcement allocate resources effectively.



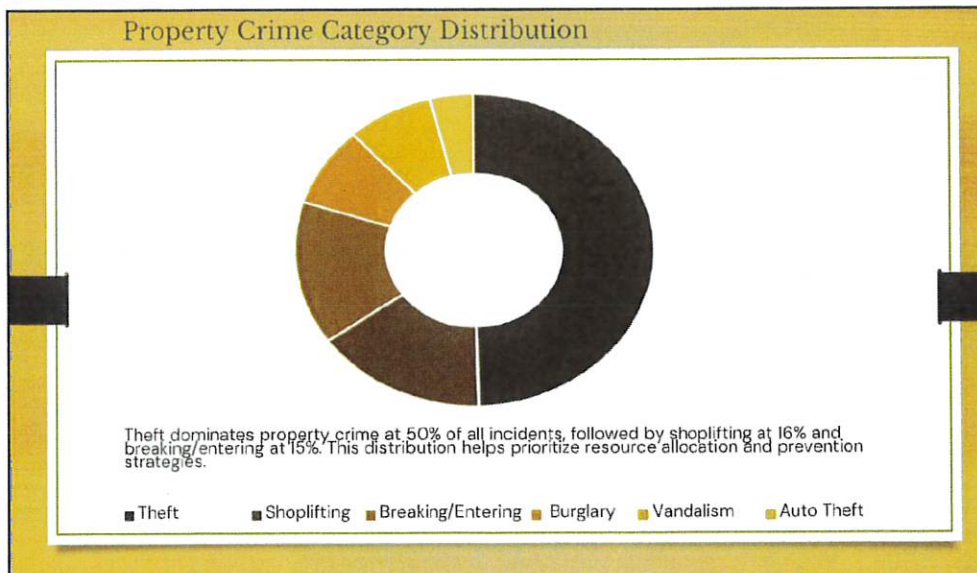
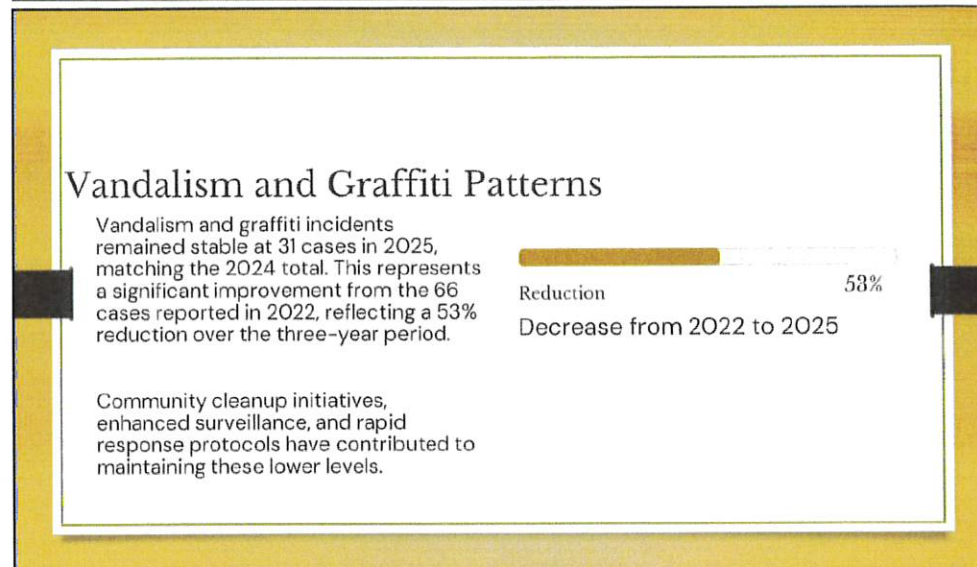
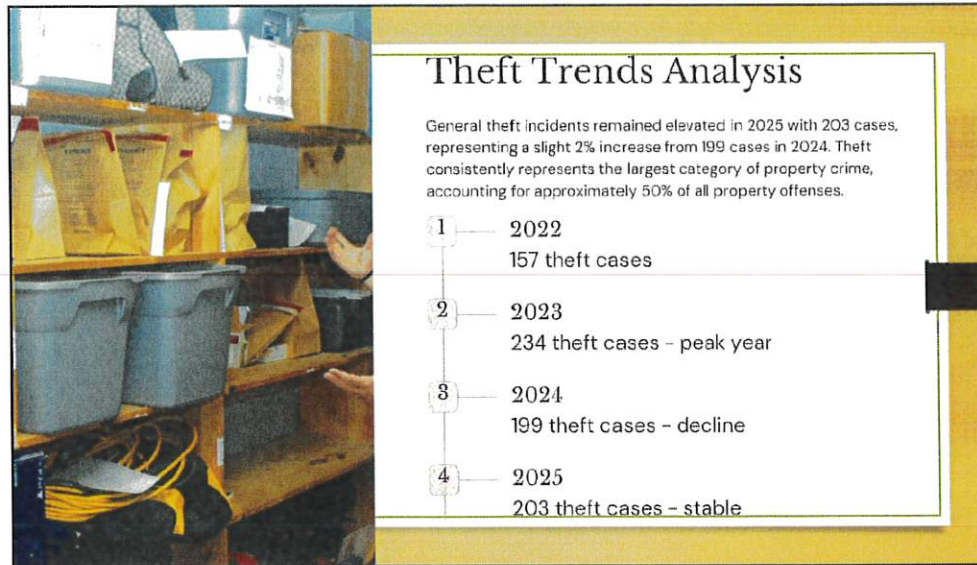
- Property crime trends - this is a pretty big portion of what our calls are. These are numbers that we're reporting federally, as well, so this is what this is based off of.



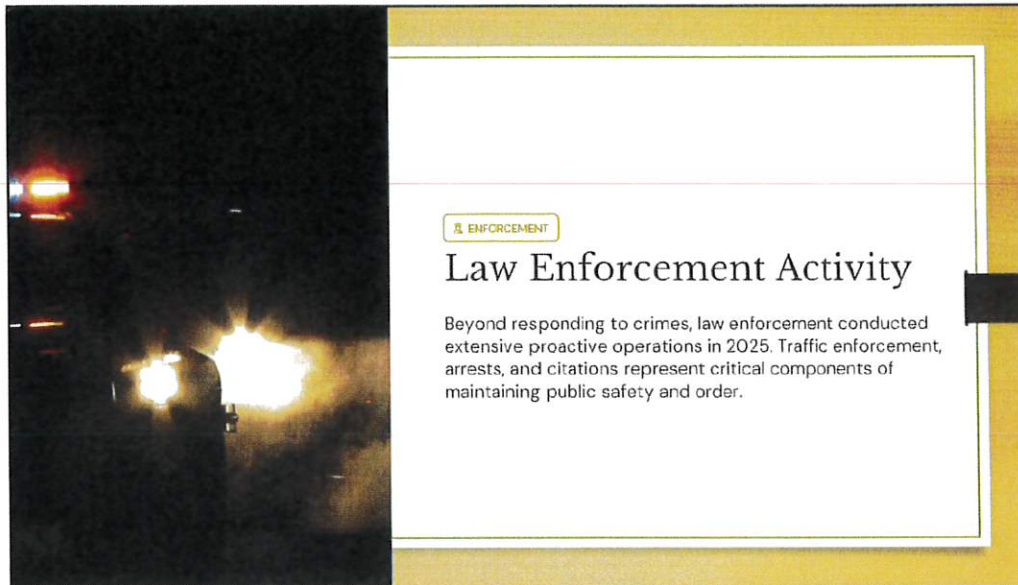
- For the enhanced prevention strategies for the breaking and entering surge – as you know, in this area we have a lot of snowbirds, so a lot of times they'll come in from being gone, they'll come home their residence that's been broken into, and it's a little bit after the fact, so as far as investigating goes, it's hard for us to gain or obtain any kind of evidence that, over time, would have been destroyed with the weather and natural occurrences, so it's a little bit more difficult for us to adjudicate these cases and get convictions on them, so these are just reported on. As you can see, 2022 was our baseline year at 21 incidences, and just recently in 2025, to 60 incidences. As a department, we've also implemented that if there's any kind of personal cameras that are at residences, if they want to register them with us or let us know that they're available to us, it helps with potential surveillance footage in the event that a residence is broken into.



- Shoplifting – this is one of the biggest areas that we deal with.



- This slide is at a glance – when you put it on paper, that's what it looks like, with theft being the largest category.

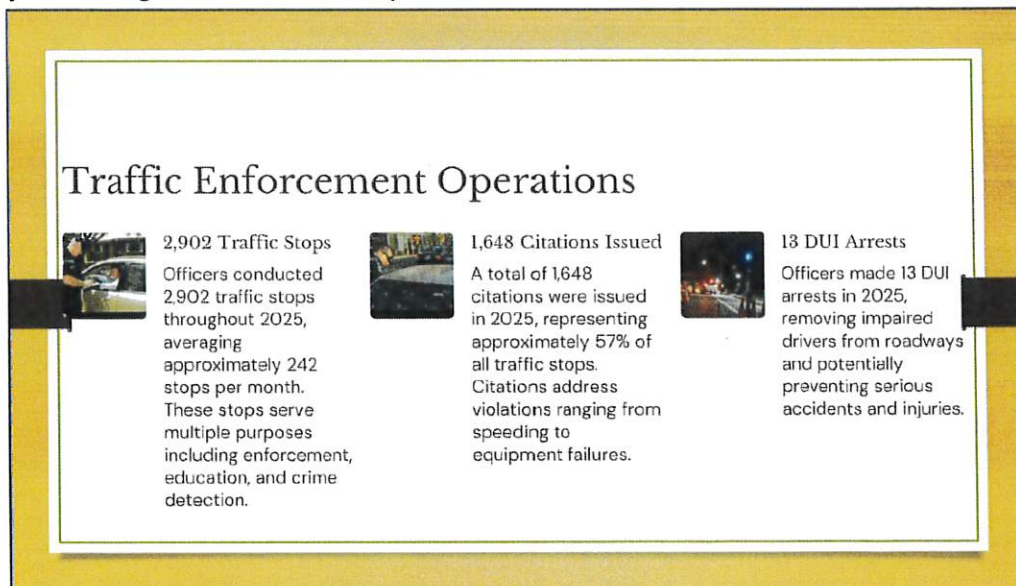


ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Activity

Beyond responding to crimes, law enforcement conducted extensive proactive operations in 2025. Traffic enforcement, arrests, and citations represent critical components of maintaining public safety and order.

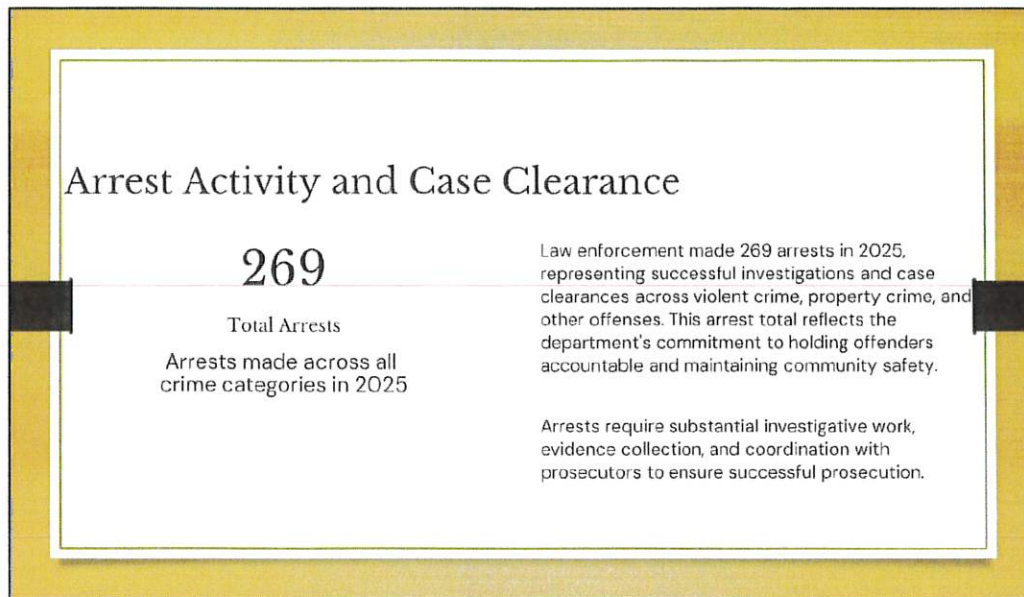
- We have programs in the school that help with preventative measures, we have community events, proactive policing, patrols, and different things put in place to try to change some of these patterns.



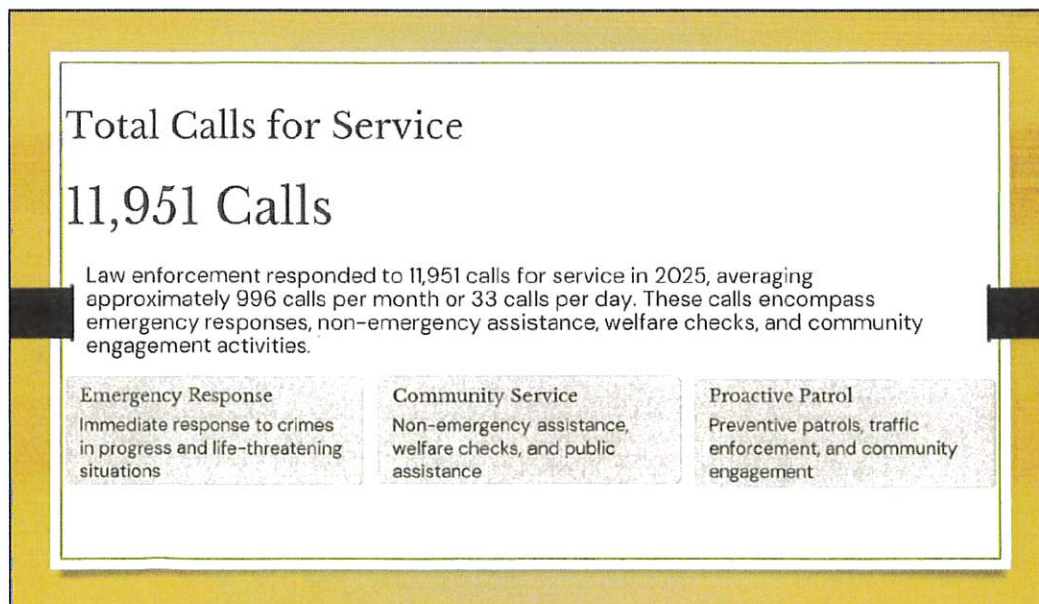
Traffic Enforcement Operations

 2,902 Traffic Stops Officers conducted 2,902 traffic stops throughout 2025, averaging approximately 242 stops per month. These stops serve multiple purposes including enforcement, education, and crime detection.	 1,648 Citations Issued A total of 1,648 citations were issued in 2025, representing approximately 57% of all traffic stops. Citations address violations ranging from speeding to equipment failures.	 13 DUI Arrests Officers made 13 DUI arrests in 2025, removing impaired drivers from roadways and potentially preventing serious accidents and injuries.
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- As well as serving the purposes of enforcement, education, and crime detection, traffic stops also help with prevention at times if it's a deterrence.



- A lot of times, cases are brought to the prosecutors, and they feel, for one reason or another, that the evidence isn't there, so they are the ones that ultimately have the final say in whether a case is fully adjudicated and put through the process in court. Regardless of if it's a major crime, a minor crime, shoplifting, if they don't feel that it's there, they're the ones that have the ultimate say in whether or not they will prosecute. They usually will give a declamation letter when they make that decision.



- With that, I will stand for any questions you may have.

Mayor Hechler: It's a widely-accepted premise in law enforcement that drug abuse and alcohol abuse are contributing factors to many things like theft, assault, murder,

domestic abuse, things of that nature. What is your indication about drug abuse in this community? Are there any trends or anything we need to be aware of?

Police Chief Tavizon: I would say it's consistent with that theory. We do have methamphetamines that are out in the community quite a bit. As you know, it's a terrible drug, it does change people. We've had a lot of theft cases that are associated with that. They'll steal, they'll try to sell it so that they can feed that addiction they may have. Fentanyl has gone down a little bit, which is positive, because we were seeing more overdoses and things of that nature with fentanyl. It's still out there, just not as abundant as it was previously. Methamphetamine seems to be one of those that is a game-changer for us. It's very difficult to change that mindset once they're addicted to it. But yes, sir, it is a big factor in some of those thefts that we deal with.

Mayor Hechler: Have there been any trends of reduction? I know that drug interdiction has been on the news quite a bit, especially stuff coming across the border. Have you noticed any decline or any change?

Police Chief Tavizon: I feel like there's probably been a decline, just because of policies that have been enacted through the state that make it more difficult for law enforcement to make those kinds of interdiction cases. There's probably been a decline on our side, on the local level. I know that the state and the county work in the interstate, they may see different amounts travelling through the big egress there of I-25 into Albuquerque, but for us, the interdiction part slowed down quite a bit, we haven't had as many drug cases as we had in 2022 when I first took over. It's still out there.

Mayor Hechler: Do we actively work drug cases or do we just wait to see what happens and then take care of it?

Police Chief Tavizon: If we get a case, we'll work it as far as we can. We used to try to transfer things over to the feds if it met their threshold. That threshold has increased, so the majority of those have fallen back on us. We work with the prosecutors to try to get those cases prosecuted, and there are some challenges. There are some new case laws out there that make it a little more difficult.

Mayor Hechler: Do we share information with the Sheriff's Department and other agencies back and forth so that it can be more effective?

Police Chief Tavizon: Yes, sir we do. State and federal.

b. Department Head Report.

Wes Myers, Sanitation Supervisor, reported the following:

- I have a brief report for you this morning. A couple weeks ago, on January 23rd, the department hosted a public tour of the recycling facility for members of the recycling committee and the public. We were pleased with the strong community turnout. The session included a comprehensive question and answer session,

followed by a live cardboard recycling demonstration. We illustrated our operational processing capabilities, and I think we all had a good time.

- In a collaborative effort with the Streets Department, we have completed the installation of twelve new deterrent signs in identified hotspots including Poplar Street, Morgan, and off West 9th. Our team has provided signage and worked with the Streets Department in strategic locations for the sign placement. Streets then did a wonderful job installing these signs, and we would like to urge residents to remain vigilant—if you witness illegal dumping, please report it to law enforcement to help us maintain a clean community.
- We would like to talk about residential waste collection practices to ensure efficient service and compliance with city ordinances. We would like to remind residents of the following Polycart placement protocols:
 - Placement Window: Containers must be placed curbside by 6:30am on the scheduled collection date, or the evening prior.
 - Route Variability: While routes typically run between 6:30am-3:00pm, exact pickup times fluctuate due to safety briefings, mechanical maintenance, or route optimizations such as doubling up a route on a heavier workload day like Wednesdays – which is a large route for our drivers – and we may end up consolidating the two so we can get the drivers back to do maintenance, cleaning the truck out, washing, greasing, etc. We'd like to remind residents that they should avoid timing their driver based on typical arrival, as routes may be reversed or doubled to improve efficiency. Your actual pickup time can vary, but is always between 6:30am and 3:00pm.
 - The same rules also apply to holidays; the Solid Waste Department only observe three major holidays where no collection occurs: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. On all other holidays, we will have drivers out collecting commercial and residential waste. A great example would be this upcoming holiday, Monday, being President's Day. We will be closed to the public, but we will still be collecting both commercial and residential waste. These days follow the same placement window of 6:30am or the night before, and we will have your trash picked up.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I have a couple questions. I drove by Riverside the other day and I saw a trashcan that was clearly snow-coned. Does the department have anything in place where they can maybe put a little sign on it that says, "We cannot empty this if it's snow-coned, can you please put it in separate loads?" or something like that? Do we have any way to let the public know that they won't be picked up if it's snow-coned over?

Wes Myers, Sanitation Supervisor: We don't have anything in place when it comes to putting a note on their can. It is in the ordinances that snow-coning is not allowed. Depending on the severity of it, our driver will either pick it up or refuse it, and then we'll get a call. That's when we explain to them, and we will go back and pick it up, but we like to make sure we can give the customers the ability to ask us, talk to us, we can

inform them, educate them, and then take care of it from there on. We do have some policies in the ordinances that address that.

Alona Neibergall, Human Resources Specialist, reported the following:

- We currently have 7 positions open, with 1 (possibly 2) pending. We will be interviewing this afternoon to fill one of those positions. Hopefully, we'll be down to 4.
- In November, we hired a finance specialist. She is going to be doing the bulk of the payroll process moving forward, her name is Karina. She hit the ground running and she's doing a great job.
- I will be moving forward with preparing the part of the pay study for the exempt employees. I will be following the same process we did for the non-exempt employees, making sure that the employees are placed on the highway correctly. I've been in contact with Valiant, the company that did the pay study, and I'll be reaching out for guidance if needed.
- In the last four years, prices for benefits and the mandatory PERA contributions have increased for our employees. I found out yesterday that PERA will not be increasing this fiscal year. However, for benefits in January, they rolled out a half-year's benefits. The employee benefit program will end at the end of June, and then the state is restructuring the benefits coming July. That's to align with the fiscal year instead of the calendar year. Employees will have more options come July, and hopefully they'll be in open enrollment. They said March, but I'm guessing later towards July.
- Some goals I will be working on this year will be building out a training program, updating policies, and finishing up job descriptions.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you for that report. 7 positions open is better than it was, so good job with the positive movement.

Alona Neibergall, Human Resources Specialist: About half, yeah, thank you.

City Manager Whitehead: Just to add a comment in support, the decision we made when we did the study was to take care of the lower end, those employees that were working by the hour, and then we would consider and do the salaried employees, so we're on that trend. That will be a full presentation to you during the budget process. Alona will prepare all the information, and that will be what we will interject into the budget.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer, reported the following:

- The city recently completed the audit for fiscal year 24/25. It was successfully turned over to the state auditor in time, including the federal single audit. We are now waiting for the state auditor to accept the final audit, and to publish prior to releasing any further information as required by law. I would like to extend my gratitude to the entire city staff, as they were very supportive in fulfilling this process.

CITY COMMISSION FEBRUARY 11, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- Miss Kerin Salcedo, our Accounting Officer, has successfully completed second quarter reporting to the state, which in turn, has been fully accepted. The Finance Department is committed to ensuring that we continue to exceed our expectations of the past, and move forward to continue professional growth to the future of the city. We are fully staffed with the payroll specialist's departure. We now have redefined positions with Miss Karina Gomez as our Finance Specialist. She has exceeded our expectations and has taken on multi-functional tasks to assist with the office needs.
- As I reported to the department heads during the recent meeting which was held last Wednesday, the mid-year trend is on point with the departments staying within budget. We have a couple of departments we will need to adjust accordingly, including the portions from the enterprise funds for their part in the expenses for utilities, insurance, and other coverages, including the administrative costs, which will be placed on a future BAR once the reviews have been completed and calculated. This process will then bring the general fund back on the revenue from the expenses the fund has been covering. Our next phase will begin the budget process for the new fiscal year 26/27.
- The Finance Department will be conducting a training of the Tyler system for pre-budgets on February 24th, there will be two timeslots for the course, one at 8am and the other at 1pm, either via Zoom or at the Gardner Learning Center for a classroom-like setting. I have sent out an email to invite the Commission to participate and gain an understanding of the new process prior to the pre-budget review. I will stand for any questions, thank you.

Commissioner Glines: When do we expect to hear back from the state auditor?

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: They were delayed because of the extension. We were advised that it probably won't be any time soon. I don't have an answer for that.

City Manager Whitehead: I would just indicate, based on last year, we didn't receive the audit until probably August of last year, and it was timely filed in December. So I would anticipate, over the summer is probably when we would get the notification that we could then review it. That seems to be their trend on that.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: Once it's accepted, they'll publish, and then we'll bring it back to the Commission.

Mayor Hechler: So we've completed the budgetary process. That means that we'll be eligible to apply for funding and things of that nature? Or do we wait until we get the results of the audit?

City Manager Whitehead: I apologize, can you rephrase the question? You said budget.

Mayor Hechler: Well since we completed the budgetary process, we met our deadlines. Does that keep us eligible for application of additional funds? Or do we have to get the results?

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: It depends on the funding source you're requesting from. There are certain funding sources that require the audit, and some don't. So it would depend based on that.

Mayor Hechler: For instance, we are going to be applying for Colonias and other things.

City Manager Whitehead: Absolutely. We've had presentations where the board and those sitting on that board would say, "Are your audits turned in?" we have the ability, if you go to the state auditor's website, it will indicate that the submission of our audit is timely and we're current. Jocelyn would be correct, we can't talk about the findings, we can't go over it, we couldn't give that to that board, but we would be able to indicate that we are current, and we are timely, if we were applying for a grant that asks that. We do get that question asked a lot, that's an important thing and that's why Jocelyn was very focused on getting that in on time, because it's a big trigger with grants and those processes. With confidence, I tell you we are timely and we are able to continue moving down the road with anything that we would need to apply for.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, thank you.

City Manager Whitehead: Just to wrap up the reports, the Library was due to be here today, and I couldn't get there on Tuesday, so we've agreed that we will go back over the library at the next quarter. Pat and the staff are doing a great job over there at the library, and then the golf course was also due to be here today, they're just busy. I would indicate that the positive trend continues to work forward. We've really identified, I think all the sprinklers are now found and exposed, almost operational. They've replaced a controller, so this summer we should have the majority of the sprinkler system working on the electronics like it should. We have one pump down, it's at the shop getting repaired, but the second pump is working. Just across the board, the trends seem to be very positive there, play is up, and we're seeing people out there. I was there Saturday in the morning and there were a lot of folks out there, then yesterday, I stopped in the evening, and they were there until about 6pm. The high school golf team is now preparing for their season, so those kids were out there. So your golf course is busy. With that, I will stand for any last questions and that will wrap up these reports.

2. City Commission Reports:

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell reported the following:

- First I wanted to say that we've spent a lot of time in Santa Fe in the past three weeks, I will let Mayor Hechler report on our activities there, but it was good to meet with our legislature and with the governor's chief of staff, it was very interesting to see how the process worked and I was happy to be there

- As the Commission liaison to the T or C Recycling Committee, Sustainable T or C, we're working on launching an educational campaign informing the public of what items can be recycled. We had a wonderful open house at the Sanitation Department on January 23rd, it was very well-attended. It was funny to see a long-time pro-recycling advocate say, "Well I didn't know you could recycle that." So really getting the word out there education-wise for 2026 is something that committee is really committed to doing.
- As the Commission appointee to the Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Board, I attended the first meeting there on January 6th. I was excited to meet all the players on the board. They meet quarterly, but they seem to be very involved in tourism and recreation in Sierra County, so I'm glad to be a part of that.
- On January 29th, I met with the Jornada Resource Conservation and Development Board. I've been their liaison from the Commission for the past four years. Continuing that, they have a lot of projects coming up, mainly the Turtleback Trails Network. They're working alongside with that, and getting us funds, and inviting the Commission to the Dam Owners Conference, which is the first week of May, and I would really like to see someone from the Commission or city management go to that. It's very educational and informative, and Merry Jo says "Hi". That's all I've got today.

Commissioner Hoeppner reported the following:

- I just wanted to say it was an honor representing the community up in Santa Fe. I think it was successful for us. Like Mayor Pro-Tem mentioned, the Mayor will update you all about that. It is really interesting to see how things work in Santa Fe, how much effort and work they put in. They are really running around everywhere, with voting and trying their best to be there for us. The nice thing is that we have good representation in Santa Fe. It was a very informative event, and we learned a lot. It was amazing to go and represent the city.
- It is Art Hop time this Saturday, I would like to invite everybody to check us out and to come downtown and see what galleries and different businesses are providing for our guests and tourists. It is also Valentine's Day so it is a day of love. I hope to see you all out there.

Commissioner Glines reported the following:

- I was also proud to go to Santa Fe and represent our community. I'm learning a lot still, as it is. I learned a lot about how our legislature actually operates, as Commissioner Hoeppner said. The speed at which they're moving is impressive, to say the least. I'm glad they fit us in, they actually sat down and listened to us. It was rewarding.
- I've got a new baby, so I'm pretty busy, but a bit about what I'm up to: at the start of this month, the Sierra County Arts Gala on February 6th, that was really impressive. It was their 30th anniversary, and it was an great example of downtown and the community event itself. Grapes Gallery is fantastic, we had a good time. It was just a great overall representation of the community and I really enjoyed attending.

- Right now, I'm going through the New Mexico Municipal League PowerPoints that were sent to us. I'm just trying to learn at a rapid pace while I'm actively fulfilling my seat right now. Thank you.

Mayor Hechler reported the following:

- I'll keep my report pretty brief – I've made four trips to Santa Fe so far, two with the majority of our Commissioners and two with City Manager Whitehead. It's amazing to me how things change from one trip to the next. We have to constantly stay in contact with our senator and our representatives because they have so many things going on at the same time, we have to make sure they stay on track for us. Our representatives and our senator have various representations in our community. For instance, Rebecca Dow only has 12% of our community in her district, yet she's really supporting us. What I'm hoping to see as fruits of our labor from our visit is this. So, we spent some time with Diego Arencon for the governor's office. We made a heavy push for capital money in the line of the line at the sewer plant. If you'll remember, the governor gave us \$1 million last year, we have some bond money that we may throw into it. The goal is, if we can be successful in getting some additional capital money, is to not have to increase fees. We're working really hard to get ahead of the game so that we can get several million dollars for the sewer plant so that we can make our improvements. Knowing what the goal is and how we're going to get there is really important, so we made these visits. I did follow up on those particular visits, I sent another email to Chairman Arencon, I also sent an email to our lobbyists asking them to follow up. We're making a strong push to try to get support of this \$3 million for our sewer plant, I think that's important. This is a short session, having only made four trips I guess is okay, next year is a long session and I'm sure we'll make more. So that's the major part of the report I have today.
- In addition to that, I've been corresponding to Ala Alhalholy, she is the congressional field representative for representative Vasquez. Manager Whitehead, she wants to come to our community on Friday, perhaps we can find a few minutes to meet with her. The former field representative is the one we were working with for Clancy Street, if you'll remember, we have \$1.5 million in the hopper, it's at the federal level, we haven't been informed yet on if we've received it or not. We haven't been informed yet that we didn't, so I'm hoping that we get that up for the Clancy Street lift station. Let's meet with her on Friday if we can, spend a little time with her, and maybe start thinking about another project you want to try to put into the hopper that we can request funding for, and we'll move ahead on that.
- On January 30th, I attended a presentation from Lancing Adams, our state tourism director. He informed us on some grant opportunities, as well as other general information for our communities. It was nice to have that meeting with him and to finally get the information that we needed. There's some good stuff in there, that maybe we can apply for, for the Lee Belle Johnson center and things of that nature. I forgot to mention this at the beginning part of my presentation, but we probably will get some funding for the Lee Belle Johnson center, we've requested a half a million dollars, I think we've got support for that. We won't

know until it actually comes, but it looks pretty good. It also looks like we're going to get some funding for Marie Street from our two representatives. At least we'll have enough money for planning and things of that nature, it's looking pretty positive, again, we don't know definitively, but hopefully that's what will happen. If we have at least enough money for planning for Marie then we can go forward and you'll see later on that we're going to Colonias and some other places for additional funding, so I think that will set us up nicely to have another successful year in getting the money that we need. I think that concludes my report, thank you.

3. City Attorney Reports.

City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

- I don't really have anything specific to report on, I will just say that in the last week or so I've had the pleasure of working with Gary and Traci on several routine items, we're making progress, and I imagine sometime in the near future, we'll have some stuff on the agenda for the Commission to consider, but everything seems to be going smoothly at this point.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, January 16, 2026**
2. **City Commission Regular Minutes, January 28, 2026**
3. **Acknowledge Golf Course/Recreation Advisory Board Minutes, January 5, 2026**
4. **January 2026 Accounts Payable**
5. **Take Home Vehicle Form: Streets Department.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

F. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING

1. **Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 36 25/26 Budget Adjustment Request. Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer**

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: As you see in the packet, there's a large amount of BARs for this approval. As I had mentioned in the past, we've been trying to clean up the numbers from previous finance directors and whomever handled the budgets. As we move forward – and I've been here a year so we've come a long way but there's still a ways to go – some of the things we're adding to the BAR:

- For the first example, we budgeted \$5,000 for the animal shelter donations, but Tara received \$858 more, so we're adjusting the budget to increase for her animal shelter donation fund, which is \$5,885.

- On item number two, the Finance Department (as I mentioned in my report) had our payroll specialist have an early retirement, which we were not prepared for, and the PD had a person leave their department as well, so these were payouts as part of the delayed comp.
- Item number three is just the expense that was made for the Shop With a Cop. We didn't know exactly how much money would be in until all the numbers were in, and the amount was \$6,597 which was pretty good for the donations they received, in combination with the leftovers from last year. So we're just adjusting the budget for that.
- For items 4 and down through 6, as I mentioned this was on budgets before I was here so some of the numbers were not exact to the award documents, so this was basically an accounting process on our part, and for transparency to show that we're fixing the numbers according to how they were supposed to initially be, versus the way they were submitted. Moving forward, hopefully after this cleanup we won't have these kinds of BARs in the future. I would like them to be exactly as the contract is listed. I'm not sure exactly how these numbers got here, but we're cleaning them up now, is what's happening, so this is basically for reporting. As you can see, on the red where it says completed, the majority of these projects are already done, so these are just adjusting the numbers to clean them up and cancel out.
- Number 7 is the same concept as well. If you look on the green, green being for increase and the pinkish color being decrease, so that shows you how we're doing it.
- On item 8, it's for WSPI-1 that we are increasing the budget for to make sure the numbers are correct on that one as well.
- Number 9 is another adjustment to clean up.
- Number 10 down to the water is another adjustment that we were doing for the projects that were completed. The Foch Street project, for some reason we missed putting that into the BAR to have it in the numbers, so that's just adding it to make sure we have all the numbers that are complete for all the awards.
- For The water state grant, I'll defer to Traci on this one

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: This is just another cleanup, when we were transitioning budgets from previous years that were identified within different departments, this one here was combined. Kerin's just splitting that one out.

Mayor Hechler: Which one are you on?

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: Number 10, it's 380-7034-32380 labeled "Wtr-State Grant". So that's right. Initially the funding sources were combined, which we're not technically supposed to do, so this is separating them the way they're supposed to be separated and identified as individual. The Foch Street is basically what I mentioned just a second ago, to make sure all the Foch Street funding is accurate and in the financial system.

- The other one we have, item 1 on a separate document, is for the SJOA for vehicle purchase of \$88,000 that was awarded.

I know this is a little frustrating, but I have to do it in order to clean up the numbers. I will stand for any questions.

Mayor Hechler: There's an attachment at the end of your budget adjustments with a bunch of numbers on it with no reference, what's all that about? Page 156.

City Clerk Torres: That might have been a part of the excel sheet that was in the back, so just disregard that.

Mayor Hechler: On item number 2, the separation of money that we paid for folks that are retiring, that will be budgeted for next year, right? You'll anticipate who's going to retire and figure out how to budget that so we don't have to –

City Manager Whitehead: That's a tough question. The conversation amongst employees might be, "I'm thinking about retiring." But if you're asking me to budget repairing a building or put money into deferred comp so I can make sure if somebody decides to retire, I'm going to make that 0 and I will put the money where I know that I'm going to spend it. That's what you have here, it's really hard to say, "I really think Angela's going to retire, let me figure out how many hours she's going to have on the exact day that she retires that we're going to owe her for." And just set that aside in a budget. I'm going to say no, we're probably going to continue to operate like this, and when an employee decides it's their time and they want to move on, and we owe them some compensation for their sick leave or vacation time, we'll just do it as an adjustment like this, because it's hard to budget.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: Like for our department, Mindee just lucked out and somebody gave her a lot of money for her house.

Mayor Hechler: So, you don't factor in when somebody gets eligible, you don't just automatically assume that, "Well they're eligible, they're probably going to go." Should we anticipate that? And Part B of that question is that it's the tendency of employees to try to increase their numbers before they retire, and we should have policies in place that try to protect the city. So how does that balance work?

City Manager Whitehead: Well one of the things that I asked and kind of instituted when I came on board, we put a notice on in July this year, that we would not allow any accrual beyond the 240, and we're requiring and constantly asking staff that if they get up around 240 or 230, you need to take time off, you need to make the time. So, it feels like those that have been around a minute are averaging around 200. I would need to go in and look with Alona to find out how many, but I don't feel like when I look at the leave calculator that we have, that there's a significant amount of employees that have a lot of leave coming. We have a lot of senior staff that have been around a lot, and we have a lot of new staff. I still would just say, it would not be in our best interest to necessarily budget \$10,000 from everyone's department in case someone decides to leave. Even if they didn't retire, if somebody worked for us for 4, 5, or 6 years and had that, and they decided to take another job somewhere else, it could happen to us. We

would look at that, and through my first year here, it's tough when you get those, but I don't know that that would be our best idea to budget, to set that side of the money aside.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, I just thought it was a significant hit, so I'm just looking at it.

City Manager Whitehead: And just to support Jocelyn and the staff, she had a lot to talk about here, and if you'll remember this year in the budget, we did create divisions amongst all of our projects, they're all in the 300 account, and then we found times where, I think there was one for USDA, where they budgeted it under USDA and then they budgeted under WSPI-1 so it's not a problem, it just kind of ended up as an entry into the accounting system twice. There are a lot of things like that, and maybe the expenditures, if you go look, some of those are really low, there's an \$1,800 change, we just didn't spend all the grant money, so you've got a line item open with a few dollars in it, and there's no reason to carry that, we ought to have a clean set of books, and that's really what you're looking at here. The finance team did a good job and they continue to on cleaning these items up.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, thank you sir.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve Resolution No. 36 25/26 Budget Adjustment Request. Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell and Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 37 25/26 Budget Adjustment Request.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: This one is the SJOA one.

City Manager Whitehead: And again, just to support on this, Jocelyn did advise you on the last item, but the SJOA received emergency funding and we are the fiscal agent, so the funds came in and we need to account for them so we can get them to buy a new van.

Commissioner Hoeppner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 37 25/26 Budget Adjustment Request. Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Revised Notice of Intent and Resolution No. 38 25/26 Authorizing and Approving the Submission of a Completed Application for Financial Assistance and Project Approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority for the Colonias Infrastructure Fund.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: We previously brought to you two notices of intents, one for the Electric Department, and one for Marie Street to apply for Colonias funding. This particular item pertains to the Electric Department, I'm bringing you back a revised notice of intent because we've decided to increase our request from \$5 million to \$12 million for the Electric Department, and with the application process, a resolution to submit application through Colonias is required. With that, I'll stand for any questions.

City Attorney Rubin: I was just going to ask, per the resolution, "The City will be committed to a 10% match." is that the way I'm reading this?

Mayor Hechler: Right. You and I have had this discussion, Mr. Whitehead, but since we own our own utility, are we able to apply for Colonias funds? Have you figured that question out yet?

City Manager Whitehead: I won't know until this happens. As you know, we've been working really close with the Council of Governments, they have a grant writer that's able to support us, so Gwen has been working for some time with the Electric Department, trying to find avenues for grants and funding spots that could help us. The executive director, Jay Armijo, is involved in this, he also sits on the Colonias board, so he's the reason that we've upped the ask. He requested that we go ahead and apply for the full amount that we can, we've moved the request into the housing side of the requests for Colonias, so we're really rolling the dice here to see if this isn't a funding source. I can't answer saying we will be successful, but I feel some level of confidence since someone who sits on the Colonias board, that reviews those applications, has kind of guided us a little bit to think about how we might put in this application. That's where we're at. The nice part, from the water side, we could apply, but again, we will have a 10% loan, the staff felt like our plate is full with water at this moment, and we didn't want to potentially be looking at those two costs to the city, but the Electric Department is pretty solvent, and if we were fortunate enough to get the \$12 million, we could easily handle the \$1.2 million match, and \$12 million would be an incredible shot in the arm for our grid.

Mayor Hechler: I remember during our assessment, most of our poles are more than 38 years old, so they have no evaluation, and that entered into our decision-making process, and we decided not to sell the Electric Department, I think that was a good move. So there's a total of \$80 million available, and 15% of that is around \$12 million. What was the strategy of asking for the full 15% instead of just going half? Do you think we have a better shot at going half?

City Manager Whitehead: Our representative from the Council of Governments, who sits on the Colonias board, gave us a strong indication that we should make the application

for the full amount we're entitled to. I would assume, the impression would be that it's probably eligible for funding, and if we ask for all of it, then the board could come back and do their math, and we may get \$1 million, or we could get \$6 million. That was the intention that I took from our conversation with the director there.

Mayor Hechler: And it seems like the request is really simple, just for poles, so it can't be used for anything else.

City Manager Whitehead: Oh this could be used for everything, we're applying for it for system-wide grid improvements.

Mayor Hechler: Okay.

City Manager Whitehead: So we would use it for poles, transformers, conductor that's not wire, Bo if you're listening, conductor. We also do have another grant in for the resiliency fund, where we've applied for I think \$2.5 million for our substation rehab. So we're attempting to find as many pots of money as we can, and we do have \$1 million ask in to the governor for a transformer. So we're attempting to find any pot of money that might be available. The answers may be no, we may find out that they say, "You're a municipally-owned Electric Department, it's not eligible." but we won't know until we ask.

Mayor Hechler: No, I think it's a good ask, I'm just making sure.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the revised Notice of Intent and Resolution No. 38 25/26 Authorizing and Approving the Submission of a Completed Application for Financial Assistance and Project Approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority for the Colonias Infrastructure Fund. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 39 25/26 Authorizing and Approving the Submission of a Completed Application for Financial Assistance and Project Approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority for the Colonias Infrastructure Fund.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: As stated before, this is just one of the steps that's required to apply for Colonias funding, we have to have the resolution to complete the application and submit. This one is for Marie Street, with a total project cost of \$1.5 million. We're asking for a grant of \$1.3 million, that would require a 10% match of \$136,000 or so, with a loan component of \$136,000. I stand for questions.

Commissioner Glines: My first thought is, where do we stand with our ICIP to Marie Street for the funding we asked for in Santa Fe, along with this new street improvement?

City Manager Whitehead: As you saw, there was a process in getting capital from Santa Fe, I think our three representatives have indicated that they are putting some level of funding into Marie Street, so we think we've arranged about \$150,000 from them, which we requested it for planning, design, and construction. It's not going to go far in the construction side, but you do it that way so you can use it for everything. We hope that if that comes through, we would be ready in July to enter into a contract with someone to start the design work on Marie Street. This ask would then come on top of that, where we would know we would have the \$1.5 million. The nice part about Colonias funding is that you can phase it, they're okay with that, and we know \$1.5 million is probably not going to get Marie Street done like we would like to, there are three major water lines that run on the West side of Marie Street, we have our effluent line, we have the main service line that fills the tanks, and we have a service line that feeds the area there. Other than that, the water side of Marie Street is pretty simplistic, it generally crosses there at Kopra, and there's access on Foch. That's where we would be on those, so that's the vision. If we get that \$150,000, we'll do the planning, design, get that kicked off. Part two of that is, Commissioner Fahl was adamant that we get that dam on Marie Street redesigned. I've spoken with some engineers on how we would do hydrology on that to take care of that, so we could use that study for part of that as well. I hope that answers your question.

Commissioner Glines: That answers it, thank you.

Mayor Hechler: If we do get some funding from our legislatures, would that be able to be used for match?

City Manager Whitehead: No, capital outlay cannot be used for match.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, so we're going to have to come up with that anyway.

City Manager Whitehead: We would have to come up with that. Streets, we ended up with a little under \$300,000 a year off of the gross receipts tax that we have for street funding. So that's what we'll be using this year to fix the roads, we're going to use that to help us pay for the street sweeper, so that we could get to the match on this amount.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 39 25/26 Authorizing and Approving the Submission of a Completed Application for Financial Assistance and Project Approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority for the Colonias Infrastructure Fund. Commissioner Hoeppner and Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 40 25/26 Approve Resolution and Purchase Agreement pertaining to the Sale of 612 E. 2nd Street, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

City Manager Whitehead: In your packet you have the information. Early last year, this individual reached out to us and made us an offer. The city took over this property many years back, 2017 I think, we have several properties that are sitting on our inventory that we need to figure out a process to move forward to liquidate those and take some proposals. This individual made us an offer last year of \$10,000. Looking at the appraisal, and looking at the piece of property, my first instinct was that it's probably worth a little more than that, but I met with the individual, we had a good conversation, we made a counter-proposal at \$15,000 and the individual said it wasn't timely for him, he didn't feel like he could do it, and he has since come back and has made a counter-offer matching that \$15,000 offer. We think everything is in order from his original proposal, we've looked at it, the city does have the ability under \$25,000 to sell a piece of property, it is compliant, and we do have the ability to sell at less than appraised value, so our recommendation is to move forward and accept the purchase agreement. Didn't think there was any reason to present this in executive session, this is a pretty straightforward proposal and offer. With that, I'll stand for additional questions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I have one question, are there any buildings on this property?

City Manager Whitehead: There are no buildings. We maintain it yearly, we have to keep the weeds and those kinds of things in check. It's a nice piece of property, it's a completely vacant piece of land.

City Attorney Rubin: I'll just elaborate with one legal point, just to go forth with what Mr. Whitehead said, yes you have the legal right to sell property below the appraised value pursuant to 3-54-1B, and I think the 6th 'whereas' in the resolution is the important aspect of that. Again, you can sell property below the appraised value, as long as you put forth in the resolution your reasons for doing so, and here, we have said that "the City has advertised and marketed the real property on numerous occasions over the past several years. The City has not received any other reasonable offers, and the City is not optimistic that a more favorable offer will be forthcoming in the future" so that's the reason as to why you're going forward. That was important to put that in there, I thought.

Mayor Hechler: Yep, I think so.

City Manager Whitehead: When we had this on the agenda a year ago, I received one call after the meeting inquiring about the property, and they never came back. I indicated, our first thing would be, to be honorable, if somebody comes in and makes an offer on a piece of property, we should see that to its full and make a decision, but no one came back after it was published and offered, etc. So we've not received any other inquiries or offers on this particular piece of property. The property owner lives in the

neighborhood, he has a home, it's connected to this person's property, so it'll make a nice connection for what they're doing in the neighborhood.

Mayor Hechler: No, it makes sense. I remember the correspondence we received before and it was good for us not to sell it at the time. So, hey, we made a little bit more money.

City Manager Whitehead: We got closer. Let me just reiterate, the offer to us is \$15,000 in total, so we'll have some closing costs, and those kinds of items, then we'll pick a title company, if the Commission approves this, and we would have those costs associated with this.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 40 25/26 and approve Resolution and Purchase Agreement pertaining to the Sale of 612 E. 2nd Street, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion/Action: Best Friends Grant.

Tara Manning, Animal Shelter Supervisor: This grant is from Best Friends. A little backstory on how we got the grant, as you know in November of 2024, and I think in May of 2025, we got the Best Friends grants, one's for the adoption and one was for the medical grant. Part of the stipulation was that we had to put our data, as far as how animals came into the shelter and how they left the shelter, onto this website, [Shelter Pet Data Alliance](#), and we had to do it in a timely manner. I did it all the time on the first of the month, because I do my reports, and it was part of their first stipulation for the other two grants we had received, so I got in the habit of it. Apparently, what happened is if you put your information in on a timely manner, you got entered into this drawing for a grant. So they picked five shelters and rescues across the entire country, just five, to get \$5,000 each, and we were one of them. So that is beyond exciting. We found out about it, so this is just for the approval of it because we found out about it, it had to be docu-signed and submitted back to them within about three days because it was very time-sensitive. So what we're looking at here is just for the approval of it at this point, it has already been signed and sent off, and the check is actually on its way already. I will stand for any questions, concerns.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: What do you expect to use this money for?

Tara Manning, Animal Shelter Supervisor: That is totally up to what the shelter needs. I did ask Best Friends as far as what shelters have done with it in the past, a lot of them will use it for training to better their staff, or to better technology, because let's face it, everything changes all the time as far as illnesses, medications, what we can do for shelter care, some use it for shelter supplies, some use it towards buildings like if we

needed a storage shed for anything, it is an open-ended grant. It is something I'm currently working on putting some suggestions together, and then I'll be sitting down with City Manager Whitehead to come up with how we want to use it. I have no idea currently what exactly to use it for, because that's a good chunk of money, but I'm sure I can find something.

Mayor Hechler: That's a nice problem to have.

Tara Manning, Animal Shelter Supervisor: It's a nice problem to have, exactly.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I was thinking a doggie swimming pool.

Tara Manning, Animal Shelter Supervisor: I am not opposed to that.

Mayor Hechler: Ms. Manning, obviously your passion for our animal friends manifests itself into continued revenue sources for our shelter. Thank you so much for your dedication to your job, and keep up the good work. It's nice to have you here.

Tara Manning, Animal Shelter Supervisor: Thank you, it means a lot to me.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the Best Friends Grant. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Contract Agreement Amendment Proposal – Wilson & Co. Critical Waterline Project.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: City Manager Whitehead updated the Commission on this change order at the last meeting during his manager report. Upon further discussion, we decided that this needed to come back to the Commission for official action. So that's why we're bringing it back. With that, I'll turn it over to City Manager Whitehead.

City Manager Whitehead: Yes, again, this is part of our critical water line project, which is our \$17.5 million water project. The Commission, in 2022, approved the HUD grant application. When I reviewed this purchase order against the HUD grant, it appeared that the Commission had approved the amounts in the contract with Wilson & Company to perform the design, the construction, construction management, bidding, and those items. However, when we went back to look, we had not approved the full amount in the purchase order amount. If you look at the documents that are presented, you can see the HUD document talks about the project being a \$20 million project, that's what the Commission, through work with Wilson & Company and your PER, indicated that fixing those water lines in the Street Street areas would effectively cost us. Wilson & Company provided you a proposal of \$3.1 million to do that design work for that \$20 million project. That design also includes all the construction management. The action you took

at that time was, you received a \$1.6 million grant from senator Heinrich, that was eligible to be used, it covers our match, and it was eligible to be used for planning. So, the purchase order you let and the contract was for \$1.6 million for partial planning and design. In this particular case, all we're doing is now asking you to complete the purchase order, give us authorization to grant the \$1.4 million that Wilson will need to finish the design work of critical water, and then as we move into the bidding and the construction management. So, this will get the project for its full three years. That's why we brought that back, and when I had reviewed the HUD, I saw that approval, but again, the purchase order was not done correctly, so this did require that it come back to you for approval. I hope I've explained that well.

City Attorney Rubin: I thought you did a really good job explaining this to me yesterday, because I was in the dark. I saw these in the packet, seeing these lengthy contracts, "Oh my gosh do I need to refamiliarize myself with all this again?" but actually, it's a much more simple concept. If you look in your packet, you'll see here the change order request, there it is right there in black and white in the amount of \$1,415,774.75 total increase. Mr. Whitehead then showed me the line item budget where he actually identified where the money is going to be going, and it adds up to \$1.4 million. So that was the easy way for me to understand what's going on here.

Mayor Hechler: I just have a couple general questions. So, we're talking about installation of over 37,000 linear feet of water line, that's the project, right?

City Manager Whitehead: Correct.

Mayor Hechler: Okay. What happens, and what's occurred in the past is that we've had disruptions. Is there a disruption plan if we affect the hospital or the schools? Should that be in the contract? Is there a discussion about that? How do we plan on handling that? One of the things I would recommend is that we have the maintenance supervisors at the hospital and/or the schools present at some of our meetings so that they can hear, not only what we're doing and what areas we're affecting, but I'd like to have some assurances that, "Hey, if there's an incident where we disrupt a water line, this is how we're going to go around that so that we can ensure that you have water." is that a discussion we need to have with our engineers? Or how does that work?

City Manager Whitehead: Yes, I think it's a discussion we will continue to have with our engineers, and it is ongoing. If we go back to the water break that happened a month ago when the new construction started and shut the schools down. We've had a face-to-face meeting with the schools, they are now in our email chain of all the information that's happening. In this particular project, critical water, we shouldn't have any effect on the schools or that infrastructure at the hospital, including the fire department, all in that area, because this will be over on the Street Streets. We will have disruption to, potentially, our wastewater plant, we could have disruptions to Williamsburg. So we will continue to mature that, at the session in Santa Fe, we spoke with the legislatures about looking at ways we could fund, the school is asking for ways that they could find some workarounds, so yeah the conversation needs to keep going and we will continue to ask

our engineers to consider the downside. We approved a change order yesterday on the shovel-ready project. I think we'll be bringing that to you for your review, but it's to install an item called an insta-valve, and that is an emergency measure that the contractor could then use if they break a line, or a line breaks – I don't want to say a contractor because in our original case, they didn't break the line they just exposed it and it broke - but we've added \$60,000 in shovel-ready so that we would have the contingency for this item called insta-valve to be able to do that. I think we just have to keep talking about it and work on it.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, yeah, I just wanted to make sure that was on the radar somewhere, because it's going to happen. We have three years, \$50 million, there will be issues that will arise and I just want to make sure that we have a way out when those things happen.

City Manager Whitehead: And I would add, in this particular project, a big chunk of it, \$750,000 of this, is not going to be spent at this moment, it's really for the construction phase. Traci and I began to start looking at that piece, we had a good conversation yesterday on the Cantrell project, to really have them assess to us, what that construction management is going to look like, to make sure that we are getting the best dollar. My hope is that we don't spend everything that they have, but yet we still need to make sure that we're getting good inspection on these projects. I certainly don't want to be the one that said, "Yeah let's cover that and that compaction looks like it's okay." I'm not qualified to do so, you have to keep that in mind. We want a quality project, and it takes dollars to pay those engineers to manage it, but we'll continue to work and tighten our belt there. No matter what we end up with, let's say we only get \$32,000 linear feet of pipe because of the bidding, it looks like the prices are better, the entire design for that area will be complete. So we would not have to go spend more dollars – PER's done, engineering's done, so we could go find the money that we need to finish it if we ended up short on our bid. We're paying them for a 100% design and concept.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the Contract Agreement Amendment Proposal – Wilson & Co. Critical Waterline Project. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Update: Capital Project List.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I'm not going to spend the time and go project by project, I think you guys are very familiar with all the projects that are on here. I just wanted to highlight a couple of points. Currently, the city has obtained and we have in our coffers almost \$70 million in funds for various projects from the airport, animal shelter, parks, streets, water, wastewater. The other item I'll highlight on your second page of that, is that over the last year and a half, we have completed a little over \$17

million in projects for the various departments as well, those projects were funded and they've been fully completed. Some of these would reference some of those projects we're cleaning up on the BAR. Your next section is going to be pending and future applications, these are items that have been brought to the Commission or ones that you guys are familiar with through the legislative process. We currently have approximately \$25 million in projects that we're applying for. On the last page is just the list of the ones that we do for fiscal agents, so that's going to be your MainStreet and Foch Street projects, and then the SJOA that we're fiscal agents for. With that, I'll stand for questions on any particular projects or funding sources that the Commission may have.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: This is very helpful to see.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: As you can see, with all of these projects, especially the ones that we have full funding for, all of them include a lot of meetings. Not only, obviously bringing things to the Commission to update you on, but just internal meetings. All these departments are very involved in each one of these funding sources, construction meetings, engineering meetings, Gary's probably overloaded with a lot of meetings for some of these, you know. There's a lot of juggling, we're doing great.

Mayor Hechler: I have a general observation, these are the fruits of this Commission, previous Commissions, and our management's direction over the last several years, the culmination of what we have in front of us here today, it's a lot of work. I would say that we've been pretty successful. Now we have to put it into the ground and move forward with it, so good job to you guys, good job to our previous Commissions, previous mayors, you know, this is work that's been done over 4-5 years, it's coming to fruition now. I appreciate the hard work.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I have one more question, on WSPI-1 and WSPI-2, we have grants for those but we also have a loan component. Where do those loans come from?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: They come from the applicable department. In the case of WSPI-1 and WSPI-2, that's one of the loan components that's associated with our water enterprise fund.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Okay, and then we have that as debt repayment, right? We pay that back?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Yeah, you'll see me come to the Commission here, hopefully very soon, with an ordinance for the WSPI-2 and we're going to pay off what we call the pre-development or the design loan that we have with Bank of the Southwest. We will bring it to you as a bridge loan, and that bridge loan will be for the full amount of the USDA WSPI loan. We'll use those loan funds to pay off the design portion for Bank of the Southwest. We'll have the remaining to move into the construction portion of WSPI-2. Once we spend all of our allowable loan funds, we'll

come back to you, USDA will pay off Bank of the Southwest, and then we will have only the loan portion that we'll be paying to USDA, which, it's a loan and it stinks, but at least it's very low interest through the USDA process.

Mayor Hechler: Well, it's nice to have everything together at our fingertips, see where we are. Good work, and thanks for keeping these up. You update these spreadsheets every day, don't you?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I try to update these as funding comes in, and I would say every few months. Just as a simplified breakdown, for each one of these projects that were funded, I have what's called a grant matrix, and that one tracks every invoice that we've paid, every request I've submitted for reimbursement for each project, as well as every time a reimbursement comes in. That's something I work closely with finance on, so we ensure that invoices are getting paid, reimbursement requests are getting submitted, and our funding is coming back through the grant. Those, I update very often.

Mayor Hechler: Okay.

City Manager Whitehead: Mayor, just to give you context, I spend some time trying to study other websites and communities to look at what they're doing. I happen to be on the City of Las Cruces, and they have 35 total community projects for a budget of \$53.2 million. The work you have exceeds the number that Las Cruces has for projects, and they have two more people that work for them, in every department.

Mayor Hechler: It's been an interesting ride, I'll put it that way. Thank you and good job.

4. Discussion/Action: Fire Department presentation request for purchase of Spartan ERV 500-Gal Pumper on International HV5.

Fire Chief Tooley: I'm presenting you a little appetizer to start with before the entrée: **(Copy is attached hereto and made a part thereof)**

This is just a printout, we did 190 calls last year, this is broken down, each page has a different section. The first page is strictly fire, then it goes into overpressure, explosion, etc. on page two. These are done by what we call the NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) codes, which has now changed to the NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) codes. This all changed in the state of New Mexico. The 300 series, the third page, is anything that was rescue, medical, we did some automobile accidents, and it's split up on the graph showing with injuries versus without injuries. Page four shows hazardous conditions with no fire. Then we get into service calls in the 500 series, then good intent, and finally the last one is your false alarms and so forth. So you can see we can run quite a few false alarms, get cancelled in service, but this September we will be finishing our 103rd year as a volunteer organization to this community, so we're very proud of that. What you have in front of you for this

presentation to approve is a firetruck that we spec'd out through the state fire marshal's office. Currently, we got rid of our two small mini-pumpers, and what we needed was something a little bigger, we needed 4-wheel drive, we didn't need quite a class-A pumper, but we wanted the pump to be able to put it in service, that's why it's 1,250 gallons a minute. It only carries 500 gallons, but it allows us to get on some of these dirt roads behind the river and so forth and not take our big metro trucks out. This is going to fill a little niche, it's also got what we call an ultra-high pressure system in it, it's 1,500 PSI at 20 gallons per minute, and you can actually fight a lot of fire with that. So that'll help us with dumpster fires, car fires, and so forth. We have been working on this spec, we finally got it approved by the state fire marshal's office. We have this money set aside in our budget. With approval, it's still going to be a year or two before we see it, we're trying to lock in the price now. Believe it or not, this price, over \$700,000 – our 75 foot ladder truck that we bought, we started approval maybe in 2019 or 2020, we paid cash for that it was \$780,000 at that time – this truck is almost that price now, and the ladder truck is over \$1.4 million. So we're really trying to lock in the price right away so that we can keep it at this price, even though it's going to be a year or two before we actually see it. It'll be stationed at our south side there in Williamsburg, and we'll have a full compliment, we'll have four trucks out of the north side and four trucks out of the south side our of Williamsburg. I'll stand for any questions you may have.

City Manager Whitehead: Also, we have our CPO here, who will talk to you about the procurement side of the house to make sure everything is in order for that as well.

Fire Chief Tooley: I think currently we're carrying about \$1.2 million. We just got another allotment of \$200,000 or so. We received a little over \$500,000 each year. If we don't spend that, we have to justify to the state fire marshal why we're holding onto those funds. Part of that fund is going to be this \$700,000 truck here. So we're not asking for any money from the city, this is all coming from our fire fund, so we appreciate it.

Carlos Miyagishima, Chief Procurement Officer: Like Chief Tooley mentioned, the firetruck Spartan ERV 500 gallon pumper, that was part of the fire fund, which was exactly \$715,789. It was part of the Source Well contract, and we're just hoping to get that going.

City Manager Whitehead: So everything with procurement is in order for you? All items are ready to go?

Carlos Miyagishima, Chief Procurement Officer: Yeah, everything is good to go. We are just hoping to get it approved.

Mayor Hechler: The sole source, there's no place else we can go for this thing, right? It's pretty specialized.

City Manager Whitehead: It's not sole source, the purchasing contract is through Source Well. We have cooperative agreements, the Fire Department, they are participants in that, so this is being purchased through a Source Well agreement, and if you'll look at

the first page of the procurement, you can see they've provided the set contractual discount on the truck. That's the \$38,975 that the Fire Department receives for utilizing the Source Well agreement.

Fire Chief Tooley: Just one quick note on that, so the specs we have to put together have to be sent to the state fire marshal. So every little thing on that truck, from the paint, to everything on that truck, has to be approved. If there are any changes, then we have to go through the whole process again. It was a big jump for us to at least get the state fire to say, "Looks good, we can approve it and we can move forward." Thank you.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the Fire Department purchase of the Spartan ERV 500-Gal Pumper International HV5. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Rubin: The last comment Mr. Tooley said, where the money's not coming from the city's side, and I asked where it was coming from.

Fire Chief Tooley: We get asked that all the time. The state fire fund is generated from a sales tax on insurance, there's a 3% tax on all insurance, from homeowners to automobiles and so forth. That money is collected all year, and then it is split up based on your ISO rating and how many qualifiers you have to your Fire Departments in the community. We were able to get all of that money, finally, in 2020. We would get money, we would get money for the grant, and then they would take money to the general fund. We were able to finally get all that money in 2020, so that's why we had a big increase in our funding of about \$500,000, plus other grant monies that we can go after. But that's a great question, it's a 3% tax and everybody pays for it on your insurance.

Mayor Hechler: You opened up a couple of questions. Can you explain to us what the ISO rating is and how well we're doing as a volunteer Fire Department, and why we get all this money?

Fire Chief Tooley: So we have to go back a little ways, ISO has been around, it used to be the Insurance Service Organization. It is now owned by Verisk. They rate every Fire Department in the nation from a grade of 1-10, with 10 being the least, you don't have much coverage, and 1 being the best coverage. Not necessarily from the Fire Department, but also the water. It's basically a community judgement as far as what your insurance rates are based upon, so that ISO rating is done through the state of New Mexico with the state fire marshal's office. They come in and they basically go through us about every 5-10 years to re-evaluate your entire community, from your water system, to your communications, to the Fire Department, and your risk reduction. The state fire marshal has tied our money to that rating, so the better the rating you get, the more money you receive. So we are currently, still, the only all-volunteer Fire Department in the state of New Mexico that's a Class 2, and we're very proud of that, because we receive basically \$150,000 per qualifier, so each station, plus our

administration station at the city. Currently, right now we're receiving over \$500,000 a year, so we're very proud of that, and we try to be very frugal with our money. We don't ask for a lot from you guys because we do receive quite a bit, so that we can get all of our equipment, bunker gear, trucks, radios, whatever we need, we try to use strictly our state fire fund for that.

Mayor Hechler: Great. Thank you, Chief, and thank you for what you do.

City Manager Whitehead: I will just piggyback, if you heard him say that it's a community effort, it's not just about the trucks and the department, it is also our ability to deliver water. Currently, our system might be struggling with our water problems, to deliver the right pressure, and that's why it's important. Chief Tooley is in many of our meetings when it comes down to location of hydrants, and those items, he participates as well, because that ISO rating is about our community, not just the number of trucks we have. We've kind of transitioned into our next item, which will be the Baker Supply portion, so I'll hand it over to Carlos for that.

5. Discussion/Action: Approval of Purchase Requisitions over \$60,000.
a. Spartan ERV 500-Gal Pumper on International HV5
b. Baker Utility Supply Corp.

Carlos Miyagishima, Chief Procurement Officer: Yes, this is regarding Baker Utility Supply Corp. The Procurement Department, along with the Water Department, they issued a statewide price agreement contract, it was to fix water leaks, fixtures, etc. Previously, a few months ago, they had put up a requisition for \$40,000 and they wanted to do another requisition for \$40,000, obviously exceeding the \$60,000 threshold. This new one is for the same reason, to fix water leaks. That is what the Baker Utility Supply Corp is about.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: Which is also on state price agreement, which would allow us to move forward

City Manager Whitehead: Let me just also brief you, so under procurement, one of the rules indicates that you cannot divide procurement up to avoid the \$60,000 threshold. One of the concerns would be, "Well the manager has the ability to break those apart." You can't do so, so in this particular case, this is close enough to that threshold, even though it's a statewide price agreement, the purchasing is already done, but we did issue a PO for \$40,000 and the second \$40,000 would pass the \$60,000 threshold, by which I'm authorized to do so, it's relevant and important that it comes to you for that approval.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the purchase requisitions for the Spartan ERV 500-Gal Pumper on International HV5 and the Baker Utility Supply Corp. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion/Action: Talon Septic Lease Agreement.

City Manager Whitehead: Before you today is a final draft of the Talon Septic lease. If you'll remember, that lease expired at the end of December. In the middle of December, you granted us the ability to extend it for two months while we completed the work necessary. I think the contract inside your document has the – I left it in green when it was presented to you so you could see the items – so I'll try to go over those, and then we had some questions asked, and I'll attempt to answer these questions. Our tenant is also here with us, so you can ask additional questions of them. The first item that I'll bring up; this contract would start January 1st, 2026, so we're backdating it, it's important that we keep these on a normal course of business contract. We propose that this become a 5-year contract, renewing every 5 years. The original contract that the city allowed really was a temporary lease with the provision to purchase the land. It looked like the intent was for the lessee to ultimately end up buying the land. There were some conditions that happened when I first got here, they could not get an appraiser on board, we could not get to the title so we granted a small extension. Ultimately, they could not find an appraiser that would give them fair market value, or at least a value appraised on the land, so we began to explore other options. During that time, it became evident to me that – and this is a personal position as the city manager – I didn't feel like it was in our best interest to sell that piece of land, just to carve out a chunk of that particular area of land and liquidate it. I met with the lessee and discussed my visions and goals for that particular area, they concurred, provided that we could at least provide them an opportunity, if that existed in the future, to purchase, and then that they would have some ability for long-term. They are absolutely compliant on their permit, they've applied through the state to get the permit for this particular project they're doing for treating raw septage, and they didn't want the ability for the city to shut them down with a 30-day out clause, they've invested considerable dollars to be able to do so. That's where we settled on a 30-year lease, renewable every 5 years. To remind you and give you context, you have some term of a 99-year lease on a piece of landfill that we own that's connected to the current golf course. It sits in the middle of that piece of property, so I kind of looked at that and structured the lease off of those terms. It would be a 30-year lease, the Commission would look at it every 5 years. The next piece that I added to that would be a rate accelerator. This current market value will remain the same, the lease is currently at \$1,150 per month. So they'll continue to pay that for the next 5 years, and then at the end of that term, there'll be a calculation off of the CPI (Consumer price index) that would then allow the city to increase that at a reasonable rate, and a normal rate for doing so. The next items that we proposed changing that weren't in that, since the original lease was really intended to be short-term with the potential sale. So what we've done is cleaned it up to say, "It's a long-term lease, and the lessee does have the ability now to install items..." again, I kind of modeled this off of the lease that we have on the golf course land, where they would come to us to propose an improvement, and we would have to do so. Where this property is located, it's connected to the airport. It's on the East side of the highway as you go by the airport, so it's in the airport zone and it has restrictions, that's what item B – if you'll look at item B – that would indicate to the lessee that you couldn't put up a 7-story building on this piece of property, it wouldn't comply with the FAA. So they would

have those restrictions they would have to comply with, but they could put up buildings on this particular piece of property. The one condition that exists is that they are treating raw septage, and they are required every 5 years to go through that permit process, they're required to be compliant, so as long as they're compliant, the lease would be in order. However, if for some reason, the Environment Department decided they no longer wanted to grant the permit, we would extend them a lease for one year, which would allow them the requirement to clean up the site, so they would be responsible for cleaning the site. Another condition, on item 5, this is the area where we explored the land purchase, so what we've effectively come to is at every 5-year period, the lessee has the ability to write a letter to the city requesting potential sale of this property. I anticipate that I'm not going to be the city manager forever, so this provision is really for that time, for the next manager and the next Commission to take a look at what we're doing in that area, and see if it's in the city's best interest to potentially sell the property, and then they could enter into an agreement to buy it at fair market value. It would require appraisals and all those things at that particular time. I also added a line that if the city decided on their own that they wanted to sell the land, they would have a first right of refusal since they're already currently inactive on the piece of property. Item 8 is the next issue that surfaced when I looked, if you drive on I-25 coming home when you come from Albuquerque, Socorro, any of those places, you'll notice that there are a set of billboards that are on those properties. We own those billboards. A couple of those are actually on the property that we're leasing, so what this does is it really cleans that up, it says that the new tenant doesn't own those leases, they belong to the city and we'll continue to service our customers that have those billboards, and then it also provides us access to those billboards. We need to get there, we need to fix them, we have one billboard that's in really poor repair, as I've looked at those, it's probably a project that we need to take on and kind of clean up and make sure we're maximizing our dollars on how we manage those billboards, which then steps into another issue, we have the Love's Truck Stop who have asked to use our water tank for a billboard, so we really need to look over our entire billboard and make sure what we do for these customers, and what we do for Love's, if we do that, is consistent with a traditional billboard policy, so that's what that allows. Their main concern would be that we wouldn't want anybody entering the septage part of the site without them knowing within 72 hours, but 48 hours, we could get to the rest of it. They are leasing 7 acres, as you can see from our lease proposal. They're paying the fair market value, we did have that appraised, I think I have that appraisal here with me, if not, I can provide it back to you in my file, but the city did go through a formal appraisal process at the time, and that's the rate that they are being charged, it's not an arbitrary number. And we will now continue working with our other lessees on the property to get them so that that property is leased at the same rate across the board. The last piece would be termination, traditionally we are required to have a 30-day out clause, but in this particular case, an out by the city would require some form of a material breach. I've attempted to identify what we would think that material breach is. So again, under this contract, the city would not have the ability to just go say, "We've decided we don't want you to take septage." Or "We're doing something different and you have to move." We would have to find a reason that they violated, they'd have to not be in compliance with their permit, or not in compliance with their payments, and then it also would give them 30 days to remedy the

situation that they may have created. With that, I will try to answer any of your questions, and then I will go into answering some of the questions that we were asked earlier in the meeting.

Cheryl Shipley, Talon Septic: Mark's normally here, he's out at work, so he's asked for me to cover this. I just want to say thank you, we've appreciated this opportunity. I think, as discussed in prior meetings, you know the importance of us having a settling pond in a county where over 50% of their constituents and residents are on septic still. Not necessarily in the City of Truth or Consequences, just a blessing that you guys are giving the cat back to the county, and everybody else, for us to be able to lease this land. The original purpose was to purchase the land, we are still interested in purchasing, but we do see a vision of, like What Gary said, that maybe there is some in the future, with everything going on in our county, that we can work together. I just want to stress the vital importance of being able to lease this land for the term that is stated in the contract, to benefit the constituents and everyone else in the county. Nobody really thinks about it until you can't flush, or you can't dispose of something appropriately, and we provide that important service here in Sierra County, and we are grateful for it, so thank you to Traci and to Gary for working with us to be able to add those additional provisions which we feel protection for our business, and for all the people that work for us as well, so thank you. Any questions?

Mayor Hechler: In applying for those permits, how long do those permits last? Are they in conjunction with your contract with us, or do they have a shelf life?

Cheryl Shipley, Talon Septic: They coincide with this, so in five years. In the meantime, we have additional things we have to make sure that we protect the land, and are doing what we've complied with, Gary can tell you, he called to make sure we did everything right, there was a lot of money put into this, a lot of time, and a lot of state inspectors that came out to make sure we were doing the things we needed to do. So how long? It complies with this, so within the next five years, they will come out, they're going to make sure that we're doing and following all the rules and regulations, and we will submit a renewal for our current permit. If there are any changes, they'll let us know, again, they gave us a timeframe to make the changes and to carry on.

Mayor Hechler: Other than what you deposit into this pond, are there any byproducts that you have to haul out of there?

Cheryl Shipley, Talon Septic: There are different things, and I'm not going to probably cover everything, but ultimately, there are some provisions within our product where we have to till out there, which we do regularly, and there are a couple other items, if you want something specific, please let me know and I can get Mark to put something in writing for you, and send it back to you. But yeah, if you are aware of the topography out there and the limiting layers, that is why this was put there. It wasn't just random, it wasn't to disturb anything else, but the limiting layers of the land layers, all of that kind of stuff, is why this is where it's at.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, thank you.

City Manager Whitehead: One of the questions was, is there a permit for the particular project? Again, the state of New Mexico has granted Talon Septic a full license permit, I reviewed that, I spent some time online asking. One of my visions when I saw that, and I see that we had some issues of competition in town, we have asked Talon, will there come a time when they'll open this to other providers of this service, where they could use that? And it is a probability, competition is competition, and they'll have to work through that on their own, but what I felt comfortable with is that going through this particular process, we have the ability to lease, I could lease another two or three acres to another provider in town that could go through the exact same process that Talon did, to get the exact same permit, and the Environment Department would potentially grant it in this particular area. The Environment Department is really clear that the two things that exist on this particular land is that the depth of the ground water is significant, it's over 400 feet, and then the runoff from this area is really good, it's really flat. Those are the two things that allow them, then, to get a permit without a liner. That was one of the concerns I had was, "How come they're able to do that without a liner?" the depth of the groundwater, and the fact that there's not a lot of surface runoff in this area allowed the Environment Department to grant them a pit without a liner. So technically what they do, and I'm not getting into [Talon's] work, but they would deposit their liquid septage into this area, they have two settling ponds, and over time, when it dries, mother nature takes care of some of it, the sun, the wind, the rain, causes it to break down over time, they actually put a chemical on top of it when it's there so that it helps it break down, and as the settling pond fills, then they have the ability to go in and use a tiller machine and actually till it into the soil, so technically, all the septage that they're putting in has to comply, so it can't be grease traps, it can't be environmentally hazardous material, it has to be raw human septage, so they have a real requirement when they pick up, that they know what they're picking up, they have those requirements. Ultimately, it will return itself back to the earth in this area. So they are permitted, they can put 200 lbs of nitrogen per acre a day. Their permit, right now, is at 600 gallons per day at 1.9 acres, and they can expand it to 1,200 gallons a day when they get to the 3.8 acres, that their permit would allow them to grow to. Again, as it relates to a permit, they are fully compliant, the state of New Mexico knows where they're at, they have a 5-year operating, and they'll be subject to all the same testing and provisions that we would, if we were to take that over. I actually approached them from the position of, potentially we ought to think about buying it, because then we could service the public, but it wouldn't be in our best interest. The costs would potentially be prohibitive from what we would do, and they're already doing it. Also, you could duplicate it for another vendor, so we've not created a monopoly, we've not done something that can't be duplicated, so I feel really good about that bigger issue. The question we had was about the sludge, I think I've answered the question on the sludge that's developed there, the way it's deposited, as long as they're compliant with what they're allowed to pick up, it will be a return to the environment. The question was, "Are we using the water/wastewater?" so when we came on board, Talon had been granted a contract to deposit waste in our wastewater treatment plant. Certainly not knowing how to run a wastewater plant, I feel a little better today than I did a year ago, it was odd that we were doing it, it did seem

odd that we didn't provide a contract to allow everyone that was doing it to do so, but in discussions with other operators of wastewater plants with the Environment Department, it is not in our best interest to deposit septage, at that point, into the wastewater treatment plant. It messes with the biology, so it's not the best. There are other systems, I have found out, that still do that, throughout New Mexico, because they have no choice. We have people on septic systems, they need to get that pumped, so they do it, but it's not in our best interest. April of last year was the last time Talon Septic deposited any liquid waste into our system, so we've not taken any, which was nice. The contract that you granted was an extension through June of last year, so again, April of last year was the last time that particular situation happened. I would say, from a personal standpoint, if we had a situation in town where a resident was changing from a septic tank and getting on our sewer system, and there was a small load, potentially we might allow that into our septic system to help that resident not have a huge cost, but it's not anything we would be looking to do, and it would be an emergency-type situation if we did so. We would also probably reach out to Talon to see if we couldn't pay the fees to put that there in their area. Let's see, sludge at the sewer plant, a great question, Andy's not here, but since I've been on board, we have not deposited any sludge from our wastewater treatment plant back into the landfill, so we are not paying, I thought that was not the right use for that. When I came on board, it seemed like if they got too much of the sludge and the compost from the wastewater, and nobody was coming to take it, and the beds filled up – because it's pretty full right now – we were loading it up in a dump truck, taking it to the landfill, loading it into the trucks, and hauling it to our provider, so we were paying the \$40/ton or whatever the costs are, to use that, we were actually paying it. We are in a spot right now where we're waiting for it. We'll be starting to haul it to the golf course, we'll use it there, we'll put it into the ground, we'll return it to the areas that we need. We're going to improve our baseball fields using it, and we're going to do a better job making sure that the public knows they can come and get it, even if we have to reduce the fee. It does us no good to spend dollars to take that and haul it out, it's a good product, the public can use it, and we're going to find ways to use it. So again, we've not done that since we've been here, I think we've completely changed that particular process. The last question, when the original agreement came up with Talon to potentially buy or sell that, an appraisal was done on the land, I think I said that earlier. So it was appraised, we have that appraisal, and those are the values that Talon is paying. They're paying fair market value based on an appraisal, not just a number that we've put on paper. With that, I will stand for any questions.

Mayor Hechler: Is that sludge available to the public now? It's not sludge, but it's -

City Manager Whitehead: They keep saying it's not ready, so it has a process it has to go through. If you go out there and look at it, they have temperature gauges in them, they have big, long probes, they water it, and they're doing things, I think it has to meet a certain temperature and condition, and the Environment Department has to, then, tell us that it's ready to go. We've been waiting three months, I mean, the last time I was out there last week, I bet there's 20 piles ready, and then some of the other beds, so we're ready. I'm hopeful that this week we'll get the green light to start moving it.

Mayor Hechler: And once that happens, you'll announce it to the public and let everybody know so they can get it?

City Manager Whitehead: As soon as I get it to our golf course and our ball fields first. I'll be a little selfish.

Mayor Hechler: I want some.

City Manager Whitehead: Yeah, it's a good product. We can use it, we can make our grass grow better, and at the golf course, there are a lot of areas where we could just till it into the soil, it's ready for compost, and it just goes away. Maybe in the future, we're doing more public outreach before we take it there, but that's the process when we have too much, just take it to a place where we can grow grass and do things with it, deposit it. Our recommendation is that we approve the new lease agreement with Talon Septic and move forward with this.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you. Thank you, Miss Shipley. I have a couple of questions still, so this contract, is this going to be a template for what you see in the future for that particular area? And what other potential is there out there, how much property do we have out there, how are you going to subdivide it? Is this the process we will be seeing form now on?

City Manager Whitehead: Yes, this is the process I'd like to see. I'm not exactly sure, we tried to reach out to a surveyor so they could go to the site and see exactly what we have in that area. Cortez Gas is leasing just under 3 acres, and this will be 7 acres. There's a significant flat area to the South, but yes, I think this would be the process we would want to do on that entire track, and then be able to move this on property at the airport. Our vision here would be, we would take these revenues, and we want to add them to the airport budget. We feel like that's the enterprise out there, let's use the land around it and create revenue, and revenue sources like this.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the Talon Septic Lease Agreement. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion/Action: Quiet Title Request – 700 Fir Street.

City Attorney Rubin recused himself from this item.

City Manager Whitehead: I was approached by Attorney Jay Rubin, who represents parties Sission and Brees, at a property located at 700 N Fir. He presented me with documents, as he was working through a quiet title issue with his client. Through his investigation, it was determined that the City of Truth or Consequences, in 1974, held a lean on this particular property. It looked like in 1981, through a quiet title deed, transferred that property to additional parties. You have that information in your packet.

Mr. Rubin is the city's attorney, this became a conflict of interest, so we reached out to our second attorney, John Appell, at Coppler Law Firm. We provided all the documents to him, and I believe you have his narrative, which is, first of all, the lean surpasses the four year requirement, on a particular issue. If this particular lean was in order, we would have had four years to perfect that lean. There's case law that defends that, so this would supersede that time. He's indicated that his recommendation is that we move forward with the item, to say that the city is not adversely affected, has no rights to the lien, and would not be adverse to the quiet title. In that discussion, he also requested that I look at the utility service, because there could be a case where we would have an outstanding utility bill, potentially within the four years or longer. I did go to the Utility Department, the customer has been a good customer since 1989. The account is current and active, right now they have just a 45-day bill. There are no liens on the property for utilities, no liens beyond the 1981 title which was granted and moved on. So our recommendation would be that we take our attorney's recommendation and sign the letter that says we are not adversely affected, and they can move forward with the quieting of their title.

Mayor Hechler: I wanted to make sure that was the right property, because I went by there this morning, and it's a beautiful property, it's in great shape. The one next to it seems abandoned, so I wanted to make sure we got the right one. Evidently, we did.

City Manager Whitehead: Yes. The names were consistent with the file, the same family seems to own it. We did not get into the nuts and bolts of the case, the questions would really just be, does the city have a lien? Do we have a right to that property? Are we giving up something the public is due? And in this case, we're not.

Mayor Hechler: I think that makes perfect sense.

Mayor Hechler made a motion to approve the Quiet Title Request for 700 Fir Street. Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Rubin: Sometimes I have to be in that position, where I need to recuse myself. When you're practicing law in a small town, there's always the possibility of a conflict of interest, and my usual philosophy is that the city is my top priority. I usually explain that to clients, and even in this case, I told my prospective clients that I don't think there's a problem, but nevertheless, if the city manager or the city Commission, or even the other attorney, feels that there is a conflict, I would have gotten out of the quiet title suit, so that's the way I always proceed here, I just want you to be aware of that.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you and that was a good example.

8. Discussion/Action: Approval of records inventory list for destruction.

City Clerk Torres: Our departments have been working diligently to keep up with their records retention. Our Human Resources Office has 12 boxes that are ready for destruction, and our Wastewater Department has 4 boxes. In your packet, it will show what records are ready for destruction and they correspond with our records retention schedule. I'm bringing this for approval so we can go ahead and continue with the process of setting this up to get these boxes shredded. I'll stand for any questions.

Mayor Hechler: And you're in compliance with the state records request, and as long as we're there, we're good, right?

City Clerk Torres: Yes.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the records inventory list for destruction. Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion/Action: Review, Approve and/or Allocate Funds to the Geronimo Springs Museum/Sierra County Historical Society for the Historical Mural at Geronimo Springs Museum.

City Clerk Torres: The Geronimo Springs Museum requested funds from the Lodgers Tax board in the amount of \$15,000 to paint a mural on the side of the building. In your packet, you'll see the area where it is to be located, in the front of the building. They don't have a picture of it yet, but the board did approve it without the picture. The only stipulations that the board had is they want them to create a social media page, because since Marilyn has been gone, they haven't kept up with that. They also want them to add a hashtag on the mural, so that when people come, they can use that as well. The board did approve the entire \$15,000 for the allocation for the mural.

Commissioner Glines: I've actually seen original renders at the Arts Gala, he's currently showing. He's a well-known artist here in town, he's done a lot of murals already.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Is it Chris Krieg?

Commissioner Glines: It is Chris Krieg.

Mayor Hechler: I think he does good work.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the contract and allocation in the amount of \$15,000 to the Geronimo Springs Museum/Sierra County Historical Society for the Historical Mural at Geronimo Springs Museum. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion/Action: Review, Approve and/or Allocate Funds to the Veterans Memorial Park & Museum for the Billboard Vinyl.

City Clerk Torres: This application is from the Veterans Memorial Museum. Every three years or so, they replace the vinyl on the billboards on each side of the exits, so that's what this is for. Their request was for \$1,541.88 and the board recommended approval of the entire amount.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the contract and allocation in the amount of \$1,541.88 to the Veterans Memorial Park & Museum for the Billboard Vinyl. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion/Action: Review, Approve and/or Allocate Funds to the Veterans Memorial Park & Museum for the Brochure Reprint.

City Clerk Torres: The Veterans Memorial Park also put in an application for their brochure reprint. The request was for \$894.85, and the board recommended approval of the full amount.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the contract and allocation in the amount of \$894.85 to the Veterans Memorial Park & Museum for the Brochure Reprint. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- 1. Threatened & Pending Litigation (*Dianne Gunning*) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7).**

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session at 11:50 a.m. to discuss Threatened & Pending Litigation (*Dianne Gunning*) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7). Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hechler reconvened the meeting in open session at 12:08 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell certified that only matters pertaining to Threatened & Pending Litigation (*Dianne Gunning*) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) were discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken in executive session.

I. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION; ACTION (if any)

- 1. Threatened & Pending Litigation (Dianne Gunning) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7).**

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to allow our City Attorney to continue litigating in this matter. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

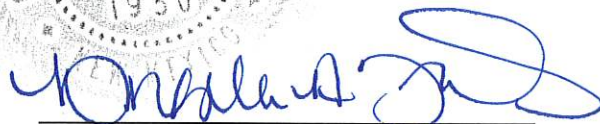
Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 11th day of March, 2026.

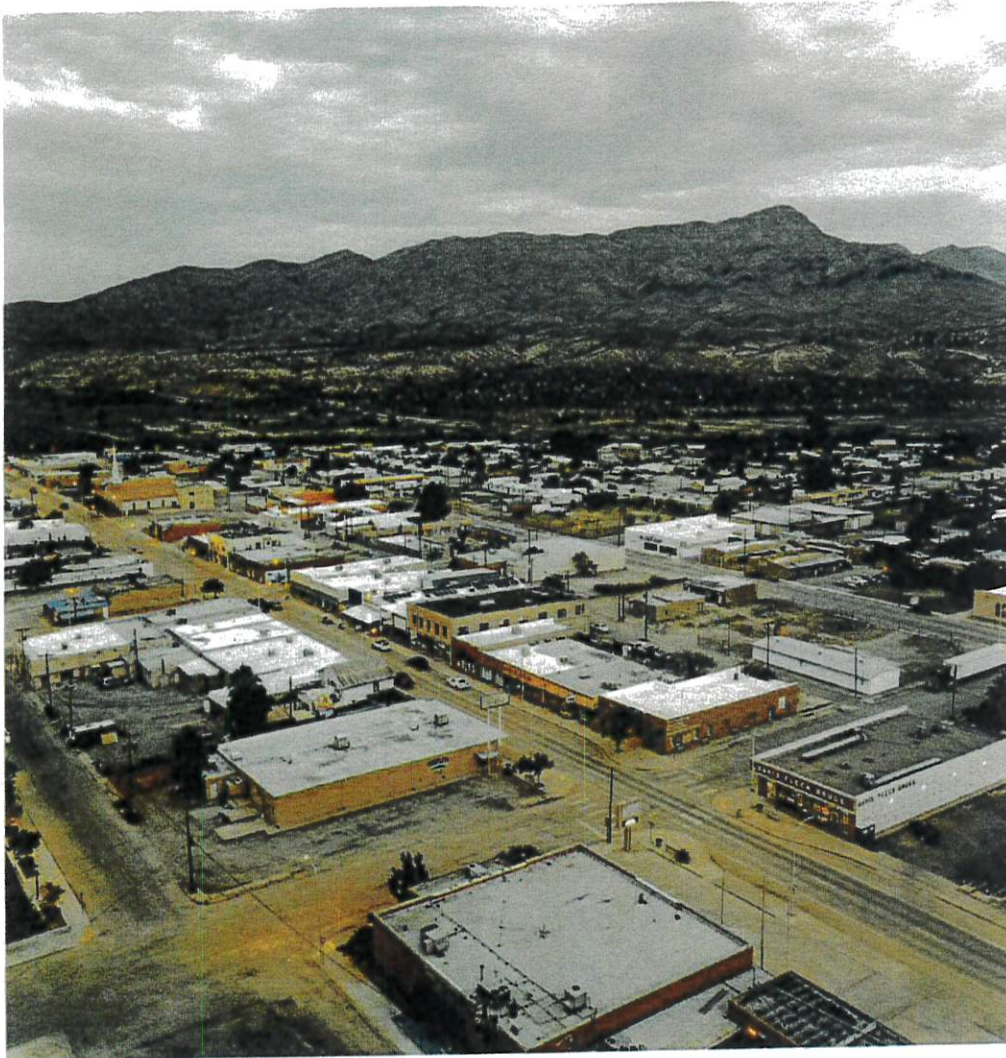


Rolf Hechler, Mayor





Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk



WAYFINDING

Connecting People with Places



Lm.



PREVIOUSLY...

Let's catch you up!

ON-SITE INVENTORY
PUBLIC MEETING
PUBLIC SURVEY
SIGN DESIGN
PUBLIC MEETING
PUBLIC SURVEY
COMMISSIONER MEETINGS
FINALIZED SIGN DESIGN
SIGN PLACEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC MEETING
DESIGN INTENT
CONTENT MAPPING
WAYFINDING PLAN



A SUCCESSFUL WAYFINDING SYSTEM:

- Connects people to places
- Simple
- Celebrates identity
- Supports park once/active transportation
- Accessible/equitable

Why We Need Wayfinding:

Wayfinding improves and better distributes traffic.

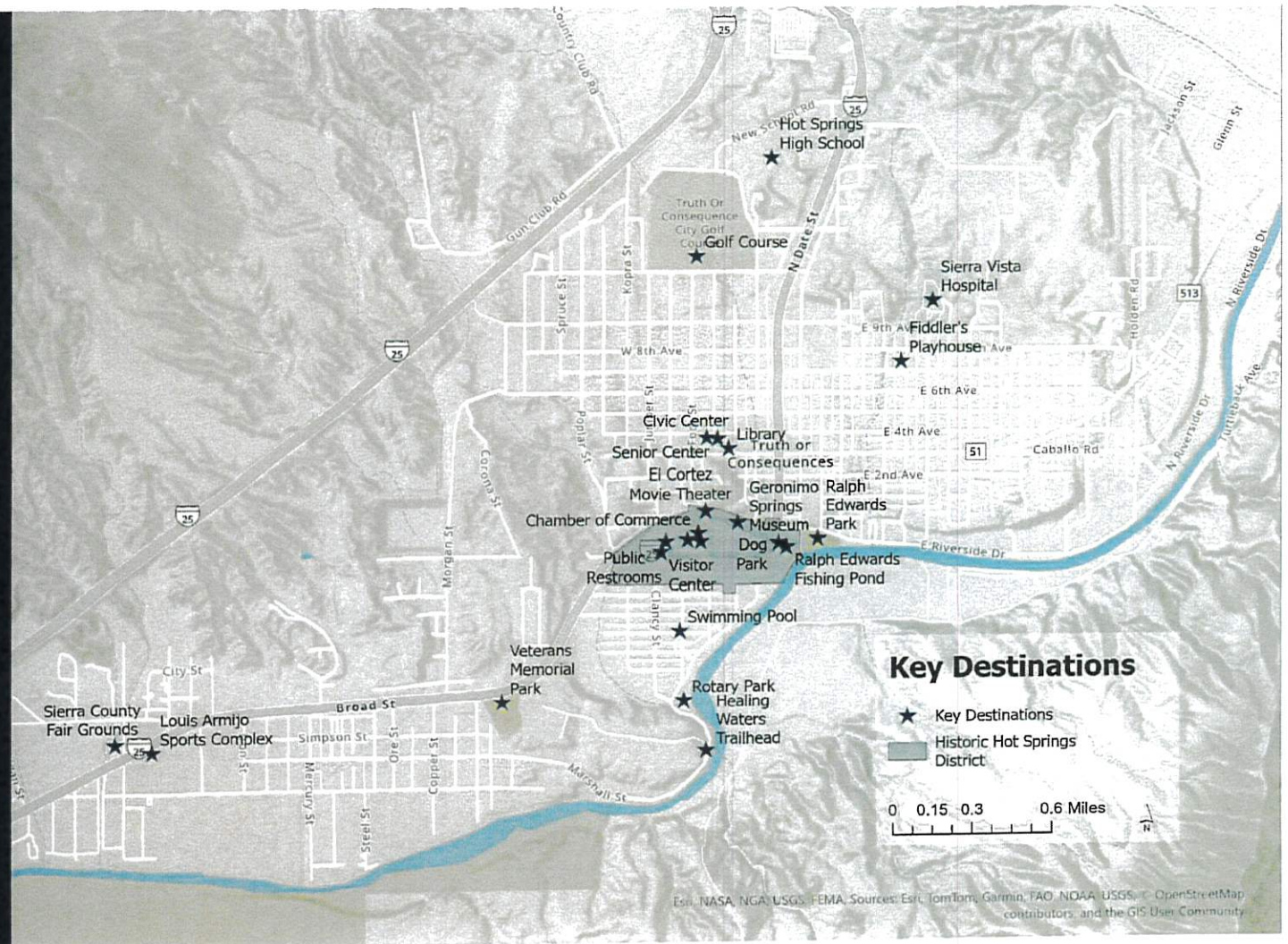
Wayfinding helps facilitate multi-modal transportation.

Wayfinding helps provide a sense of place.

Wayfinding helps creates unifying branding.

Wayfinding improves CONNECTIVITY.

KEY DESTINATIONS



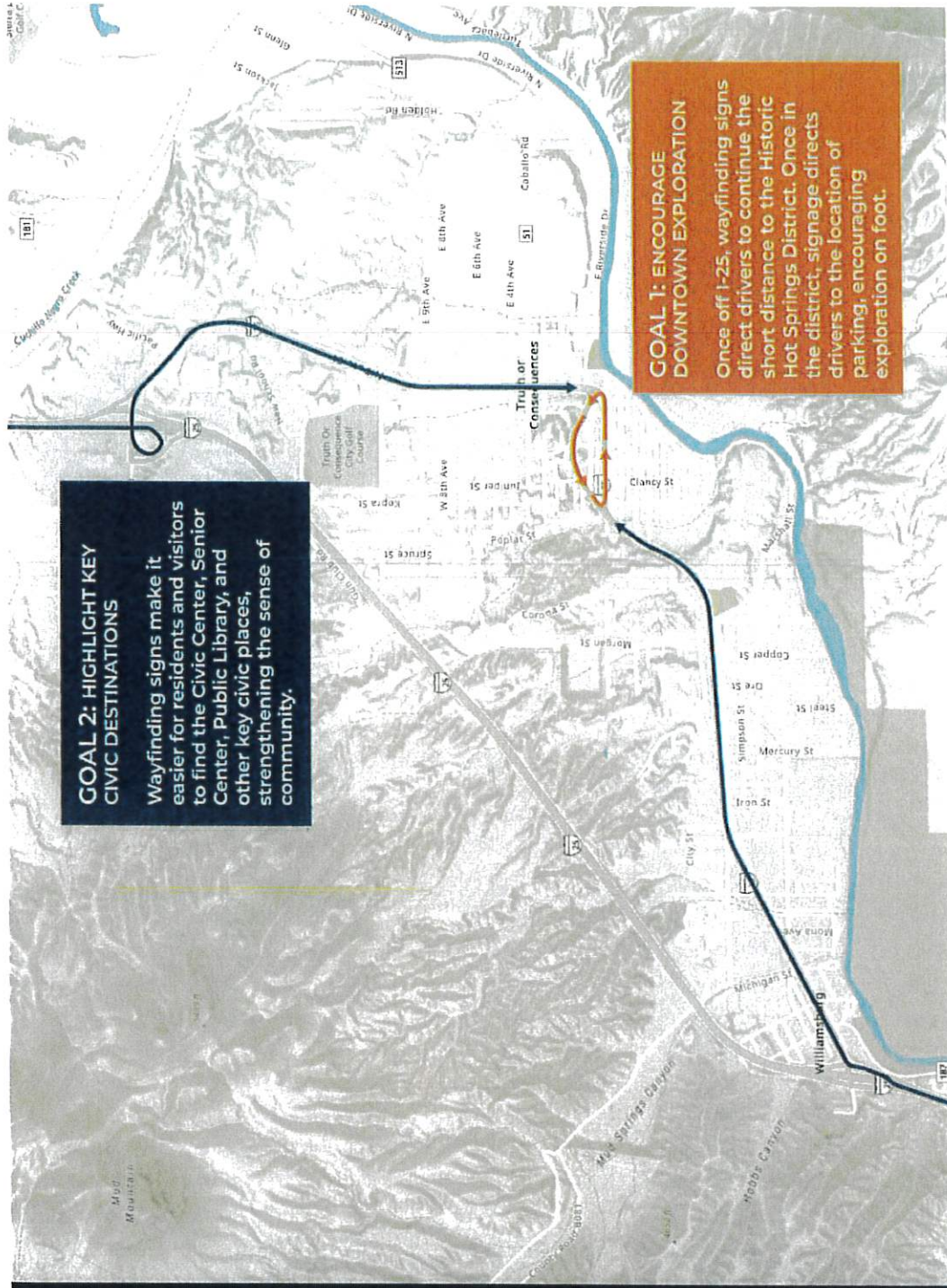
WAYFINDING ROUTE GOALS

GOAL 2: HIGHLIGHT KEY CIVIC DESTINATIONS

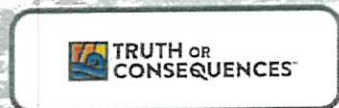
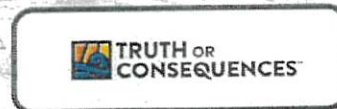
Wayfinding signs make it easier for residents and visitors to find the Civic Center, Senior Center, Public Library, and other key civic places, strengthening the sense of community.

GOAL 1: ENCOURAGE DOWNTOWN EXPLORATION

Once off I-25, wayfinding signs direct drivers to continue the short distance to the Historic Hot Springs District. Once in the district, signage directs drivers to the location of parking, encouraging exploration on foot.



SIGN
DESIGNS
VEHICULAR

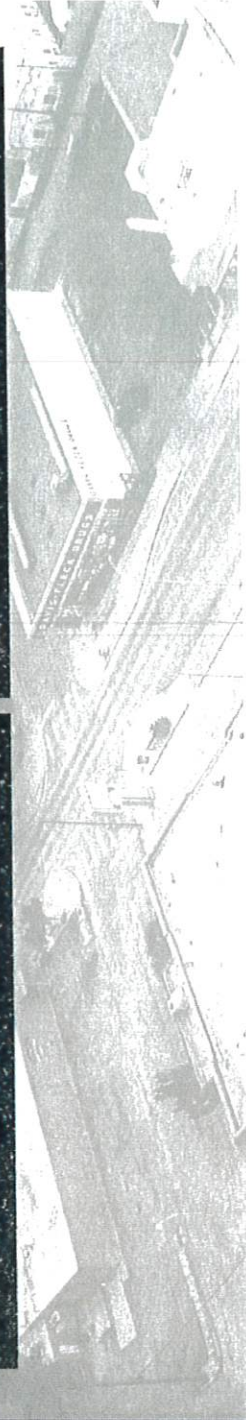


SIGN
DESIGNS
MONUMENT

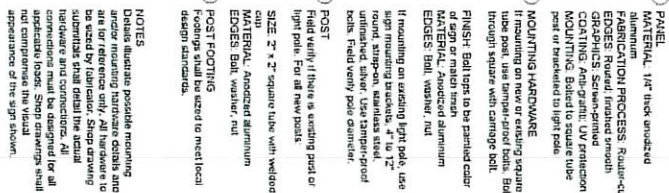


TRUTH OR
CONSEQUENCES
NEW MEXICO

WAYFINDING
SYSTEM
EXPLORATORY



Design Intent Drawings

[illegible]

Sign Scheduling + Content Mapping

[illegible]

37 SIGNS

- 5 City Decision Signs
- 4 City Decision Signs with No Top Rider
- 3 City Arrival Signs
- 4 City Turn Signs
- 7 District Loop Sign A – Signs
- 3 District Loop Sign B – Signs
- 3 District Decision Signs
- 2 District Arrival Signs
- 2 District Turn Signs
- 2 Monuments

COMPLETED STEPS

- ☒ Sign Inventory
- ☒ Surveys
- ☒ Steering Committee Meetings
- ☒ Initial Community Meetings
- ☒ Sign Design
- ☒ Ongoing Public Engagement & Transparency
- ☒ Finalize Routes
- ☒ Design Intent Drawings
- ☒ Signage Placement Plan

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ☐ Wayfinding Plan Adoption
- ☐ Fabrication & Installation
- ☐ Ongoing Public Engagement & Transparency



Wayfinding Story Map

bit.ly/TorCStoryMap

Thank You!

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TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES WAYFINDING PLAN

PUBLISHED 2026

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES WAYFINDING PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The planning process was guided by a Steering Committee made up of elected officials, City staff, local partners, landscape architects, planners, and graphic designers. The Steering Committee included:

Elected Official: Destiny Mitchell, *City Commissioner*

City of Truth or Consequences: Buster Smith, *Streets Manager*; O.J. Hechler, *Community Services Director*

MainStreet Truth or Consequences: Becca Eza, *Executive Director*;
Linda DeMarino, *Board President*

Sierra County Arts Council: Rebecca Speakes

New Mexico MainStreet Revitalization Specialists: Amy Bell, Maren Neldam, and Daniel Lim, *Anthropopolus Design + Planning*; Cam and Julia Wilde, *Leighton Moon*

**Thank you to the Truth or Consequences community
for participating in public surveys, open houses, and
City Commission meetings to help guide the wayfinding
system development.**



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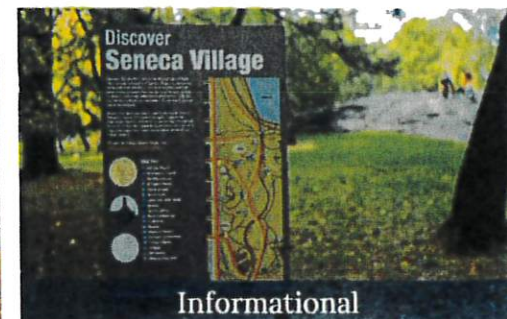
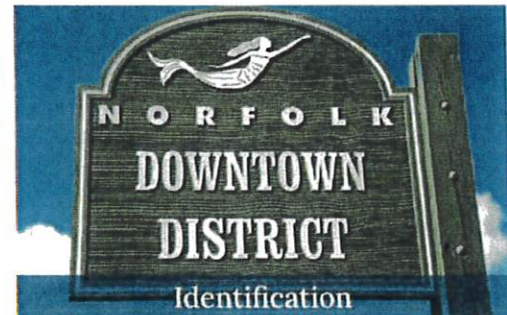
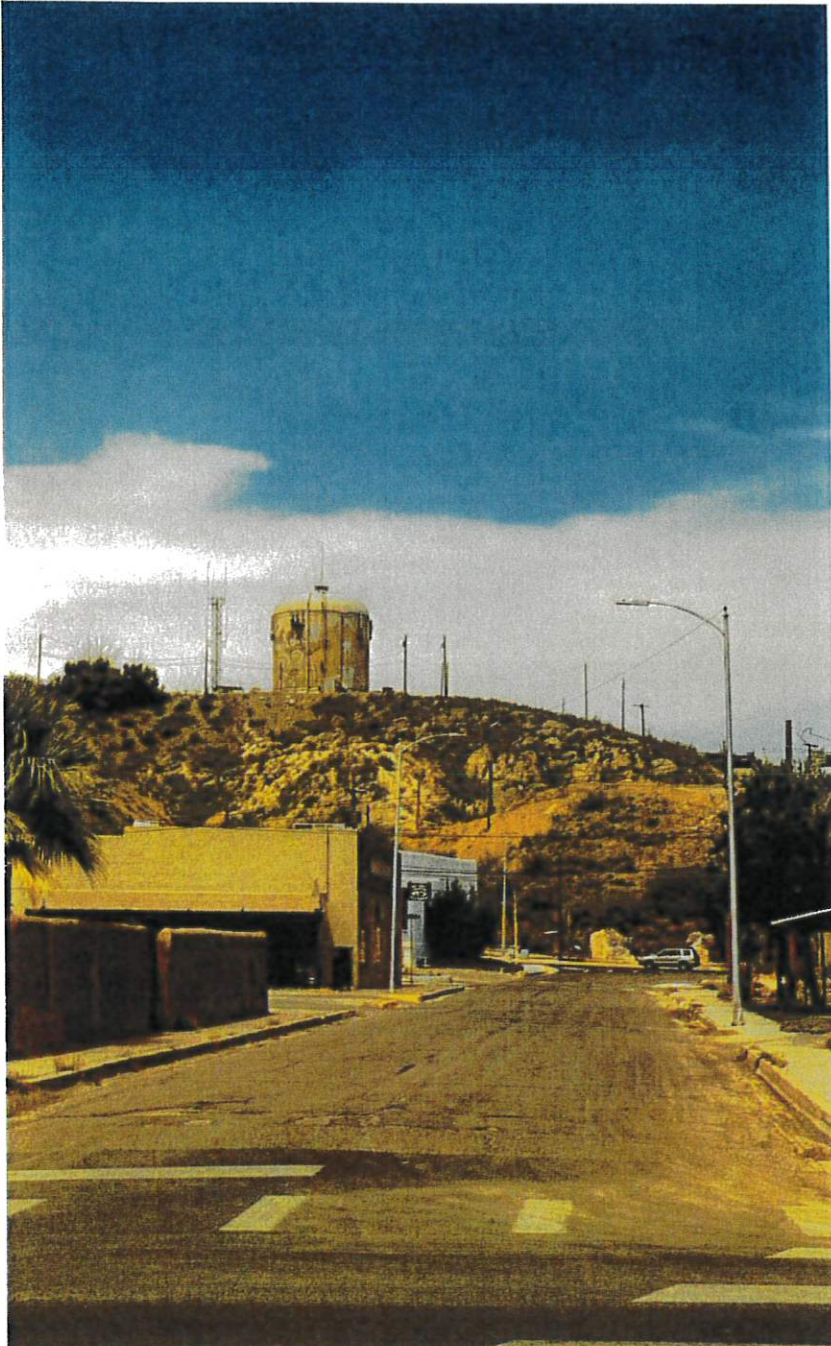
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1. INTRODUCTION



About Wayfinding

Wayfinding helps people to navigate from one place to another by providing information through a system of signs, symbols, color-coding, and other environmental cues. A wayfinding system can be customized for a community to reflect its unique local identity and create a cohesive sense of place. A successful wayfinding system makes connections between key destinations, encourages walking and biking, and is simple, predictable, and inclusive.

Wayfinding Sign Types

There are four main types of wayfinding signage:

Directional — supports navigation, guiding people to different destinations, and often features arrows to show the correct path. (*Example: Library to the left, Park to the right*)

Identification — confirms a person is heading in the right direction or has arrived at their intended destination. (*Example: sign with destination distances, landmark/destination sign*)

Informational — provides general information on navigation, locations, public amenities, and essential facilities (*Example: Downtown map, Public Restrooms*)

Regulatory — dictates the rules and safety standards (*Example: One Way, Pedestrians Only, No Parking*)

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

History & Context

This plan provides a vision and strategy for creating cohesive vehicular and pedestrian signage across the City of Truth or Consequences (TorC) to guide residents and travelers to key public destinations. A wayfinding plan was initially recommended in the Truth or Consequences Downtown Master Plan in 2014. The City of TorC has also already undertaken significant effort in rebranding; this project is key to making the most out of that previous investment. Funding for this plan comes from technical assistance through New Mexico MainStreet.

TorC has many unique and engaging resources and destinations, and this plan will better connect residents and visitors to everything the City has to offer. The Wayfinding Plan will establish universal and cohesive design standards for wayfinding while celebrating the City's rich history and identity.

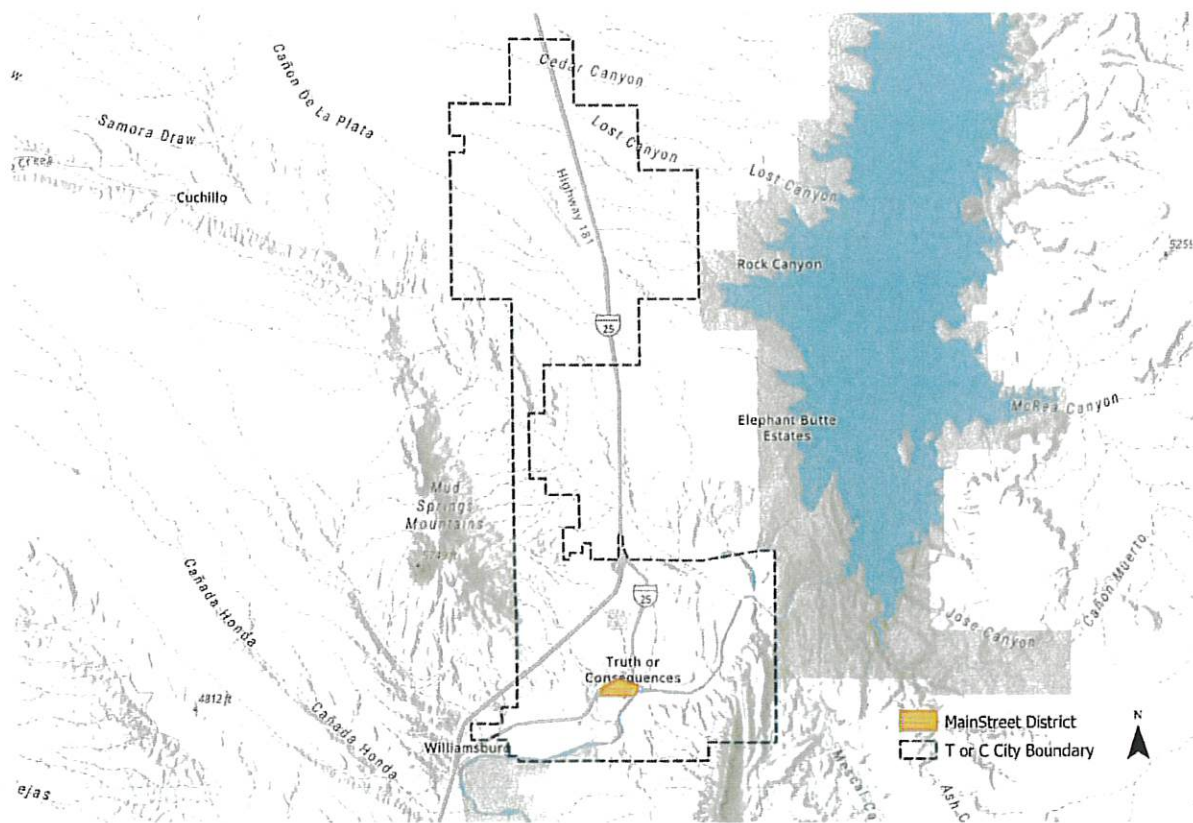
Project Sequence

The project began in the fall of 2024 after MainStreet Truth or Consequences requested technical assistance through New Mexico MainStreet (NMMS). Revitalization Specialists Anthropopolus and Leighton Moon were contracted through NMMS to assist with planning and graphic design for a citywide wayfinding system. The project team met regularly on Zoom and during in-person site visits to conduct an existing conditions study, facilitate Steering Committee meetings, present at City Commission meetings, and engage with the public.

The existing conditions study and preliminary outreach helped to identify the goals for the wayfinding system, identify key destinations and priority routes, and document an inventory of existing signage. From there, the project team identified proposed sign locations and developed three sign design options which were presented to the public and City Commission. Feedback was integrated into the final sign designs and supported the development of a phased implementation plan, prioritizing signs in the most important locations first. This plan documents this process and a plan for implementation.

Plan Area

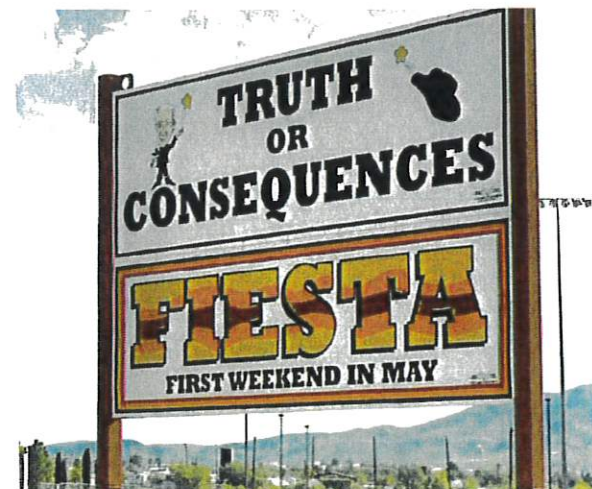
This wayfinding plan provides guidance for a wayfinding system for the entire City of TorC and provides two “sign families”, one for the TorC Historic Hot Springs district, and one for the rest of the City.



3. PLANNING APPROACH

Existing Sign Inventory

The existing sign inventory was conducted using online mapping and verification in the field. The type of signs inventoried included directional, identification, informational, and gateway signs. Regulatory signs and privately-owned signs were not inventoried. The majority of existing signs were installed by the NM Department of Transportation or by the City of TorC. The sign inventory used the mobile GIS Field Maps app to record the location of each existing sign and document additional details such as sign content, signpost type, and sign condition. The project team traveled between various key destinations and evaluated the effectiveness of the existing signs in directing vehicles and pedestrians around the City.





Existing Sign Challenges & Issues

The current sign and wayfinding landscape within Truth or Consequences presents several challenges and potential confusion for visitors and community members.

Overall Navigation and Connectivity Issues

Existing wayfinding signs direct drivers to specific destinations such as the hospital, but don't operate as a cohesive wayfinding system. The signs don't provide an overall sense of the types of destinations available in TorC and are insufficient to guide traffic from the freeway to the downtown Historic Hot Springs district, limiting visitor exploration.

Lack of Consistency

There are multiple different/conflicting styles of wayfinding signage throughout the City, including many different sign formats, sign sizes, color palettes, and signposts. The lack of consistency limits familiarity and predictability, requiring visitors to constantly re-evaluate the signage clues. This creates confusion and limits a cohesive sense of place.

Lack of Distinctive Placemaking

Existing signage lacks cohesive branding and doesn't reflect the design elements unique to the City of TorC. Many of the current identification and monument signs feature jumbled iconography, colors, styles, and don't use the established TorC logo which represents very important pillars of the community and the lifestyle of its residents. The current state of signage and the lack of a placemaking-minded system misses out on the opportunity to symbolically represent TorC and the Historic Hot Springs District.

Legibility Problems

Many existing signs are showing age and overall wear including significant sun damage that is impeding legibility. Several of the existing wayfinding signs include long lists of destinations, small font size, and lack optimal legibility for vehicular traffic.

Public Engagement

Truth or Consequences residents were engaged through two online surveys, three public meetings, and two City Commission presentations. Information was also shared with the public on the TorC Wayfinding website (bit.ly/TorCStoryMap) which was updated regularly.

Community and Commission Meetings:

November 19th, 2024: Community Meeting #1

December 18th, 2024: City Commission Presentation #1

April 14th, 2024: Community Meeting #2

August 12th, 2025: Community Meeting #3

August 13th, 2025: City Commission Presentation #2

December 9th, 2025: Community Meeting #4

Public Survey:

There were two public surveys conducted for the TorC Wayfinding plan. The survey links were shared on the project website, on the TorC MainStreet website and social media accounts, and through various email lists.

Public Survey #1: October 1–November 31, 2024

The survey contained 8 questions to help guide the key destinations and sign design. A total of 72 responses were received.

Public Survey #2: March 20–April 30, 2025

The survey contained 7 questions to help identify which of the design options best represents the TorC brand and is most effective at rapidly communicating information. A total of 71 responses were received.

Community Input Summary:

Survey input as well as input from the first open house meeting helped to identify key destinations, goals for community wayfinding, and how the Wayfinding project will fit into the TorC of today. Based on community input and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) requirements for wayfinding design, three design options were

developed and presented in the 2nd Community Survey and 2nd Open House. Community input from the 2nd survey and open house helped to refine the wayfinding sign design.

The following graphics summarize the community input that informed this plan:



Describe the feeling you would like T or C to promote.

Relaxing • Serene
Historic
Quirky • Eclectic
Artsy • Creative
Inviting • Welcoming

Name the top community destinations that are the most difficult to find in T or C.

Rotary Park
Trail Head
Ralph Edwards Park
Healing Waters Trail
Visitor's Center

What elements of the T or C experience do you think wayfinding should most contribute to?

Recreational Access
Family Fun
History & Culture

Who should you try to reach with an improved wayfinding system?

Out of town visitors
Recreational Users (bikers, joggers, walkers, etc.)
Families with kids

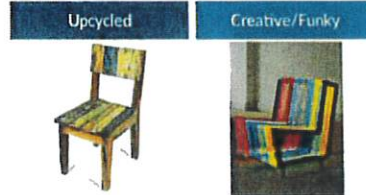
What style of art best represents your vision for T or C?



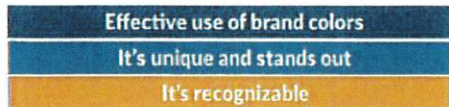
What is T or C made of? What materials are beloved and meaningful to the community?



If the wayfinding system was a chair, what kind of chair would it be?



What about the design option you selected best represents the brand?



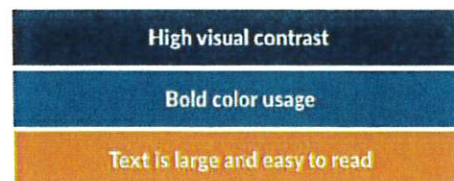
Successful wayfinding signage should be simple, clear, and effective at rapidly communicating information.

Which of the following design options would be easiest to read while driving through T or C in a car?

OPTION B - 80%



What about this design option is effective at clearly and rapidly communicating information?



Additional Survey Input:

- appreciation/thanks
- combination designs
- keep it simple! adding art may distract from effectiveness and purpose of signage, we have murals for art
- hot springs district call out vs. symbolism
- addressing one-way streets
- prominently featuring art

Which of the following sign design options best represents the Truth or Consequences brand?

OPTION B - 58%
OPTION A - 38%



OPTION B - 58%



OPTION A - 38%



Important Destinations

Initial destinations in the City of TorC were identified by the Steering Committee and based on findings from the existing signage inventory. Priority destinations and routes were refined based on results from the public survey and input from community meetings. Over 20 key destinations were identified in the City of TorC.

Destinations:

Museums and Visitor Centers

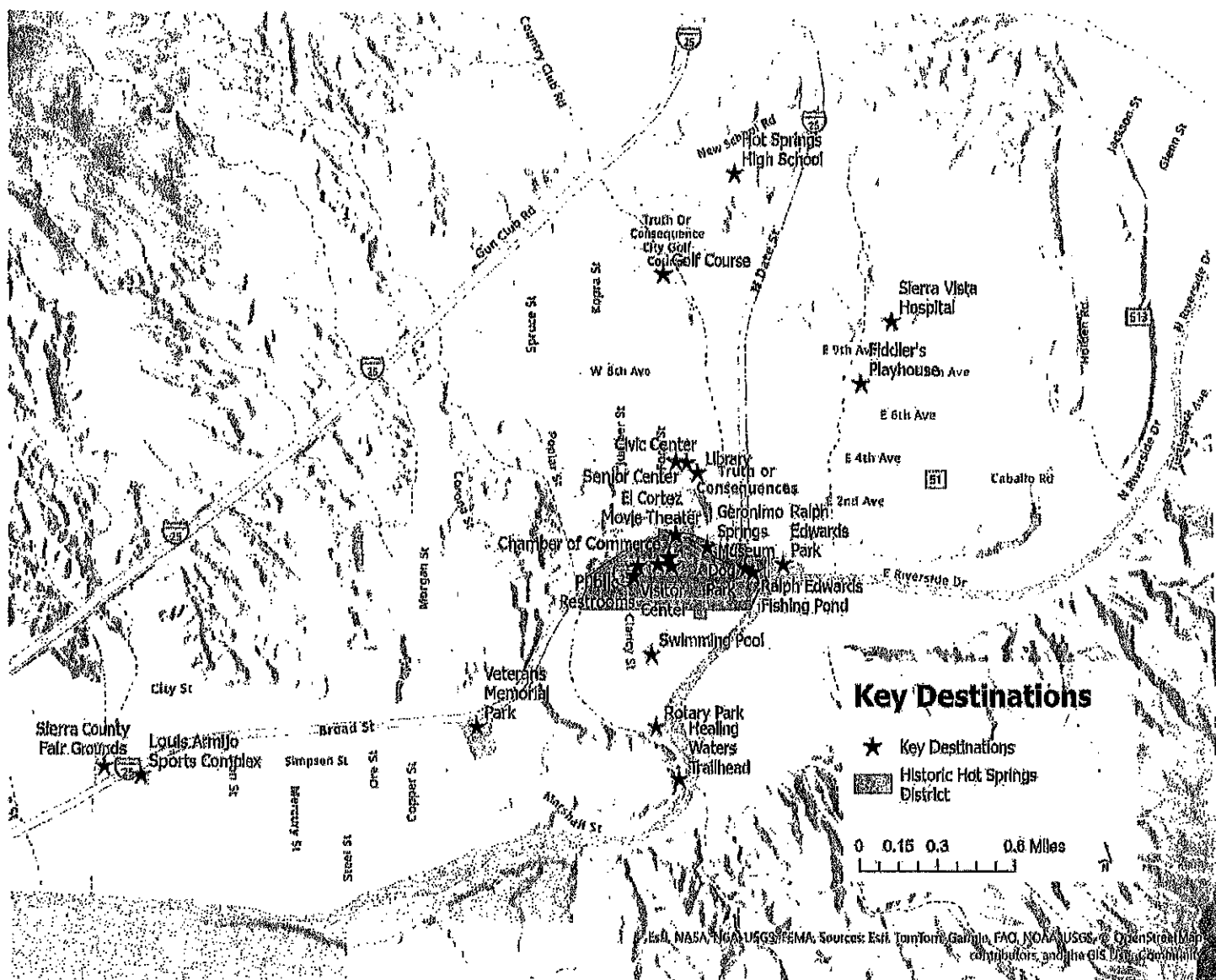
- Geronimo Springs Museum
- Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway Visitor Center

Recreation and Entertainment

- Historic Hot Springs District
- Healing Waters Plaza
- Ralph Edwards Park
- Ralph Edwards Fishing Pond
- Dog Park
- Swimming Pool
- Rotary Park
- Municipal Golf Course
- Louis Armijo Sports Complex
- Healing Waters Trailhead
- Sierra County Fair Grounds

Civic/Institutional

- Truth or Consequences Civic Center
- Senior Center
- Public Library
- Chamber of Commerce
- Truth or Consequences Elementary School
- Sierra Vista Hospital
- City Pool
- Veteran's Memorial Park



Truth or Consequences Wayfinding Key Destinations Map

4. IMPROVED WAYFINDING SYSTEM

“ ... well-designed signage and environmental graphic programs not only fulfill their communication function of informing, directing, and identifying but also serve to enhance the aesthetic and psychological qualities of an environment.”

— Chris Calori, *Signage and Wayfinding Design*

Wayfinding Priorities

The new wayfinding system aims to connect people to places through the use of signage and other environmental cues that are cohesive, intuitive, and that celebrate local identity. Together, the signs work to orient, educate, and inspire—anchoring people in the landscape and identity of Truth or Consequences while making navigation simple and welcoming.

Cohesive and Predictable

Recognizable and easily understood signage is created through consistent design, which should extend to all aspects of the wayfinding system (sign materials, dimensions, colors, etc.) The TorC wayfinding system will use consistent and predictable sign design to boost users' confidence when navigating through the community.

Celebrate Local Identity

Branded wayfinding celebrates a location's unique identity through the use of color, materials, and local art. The TorC wayfinding system focuses on supporting placemaking, using the TorC brand to provide additional opportunities to symbolically represent the Truth or Consequences community and the MainStreet District.

Intuitive and Easy to Navigate

An intuitive wayfinding system should be clear, simple, legible, and located in the right place. TorC wayfinding signage will include the use of large fonts and bold text styles, color contrast and visual hierarchy, and symbols or icons. The signs will be placed along important vehicular and pedestrian corridors, at important intersections, and at destinations to support navigation, decision-making, and confirmation of arrival.

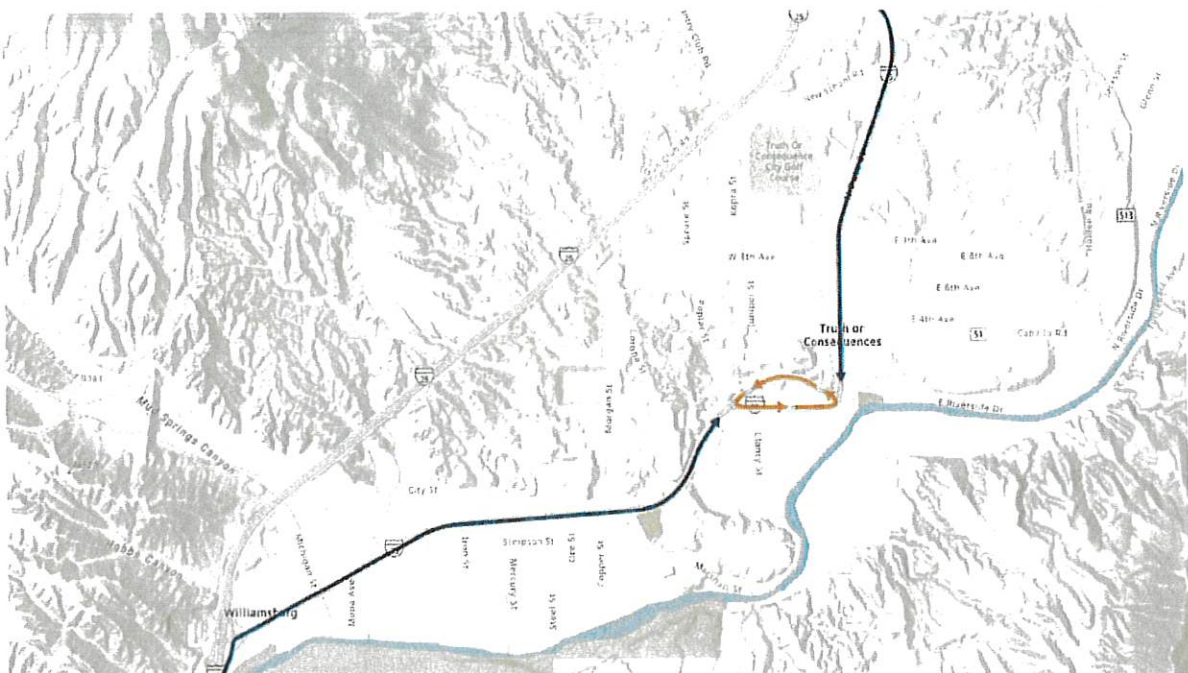
Wayfinding Goals

Encourage Downtown Exploration

The TorC Wayfinding system is designed to encourage exploration. Once cars get off the highway, directional signage directs drivers to continue the short distance to the Historic Hot Springs District. Once in the District, signage directs drivers to the location of parking, encouraging exploration on foot.

Highlight Key Civic Destinations

The TorC Wayfinding system will highlight key civic destinations such as the Civic Center and Public Library making it easier for residents and visitors to access government services and public facilities, strengthening a sense of community.



Wayfinding Audience

The wayfinding system is designed to support navigation to key destinations around Truth or Consequences by out-of-town visitors, recreational users (bikers, joggers, walkers, etc.), and families with kids. While many wayfinding systems are intended to support first-time visitors who need guidance to navigate the city and discover its attractions, in TorC, the community stressed the importance of also providing support to new and unfamiliar residents to reach key civic destinations such as the senior center or the public pool. The wayfinding system was designed to balance these different wayfinding priorities.

Wayfinding System Summary

The TorC Wayfinding System includes gateway, directional, identification, and informational signage designed to encourage travel from both I-25 offramps into and around the heart of TorC.

Directional:

- **Decision** – Signs located at an intersection or other location where route options need to be clarified
- **Turn** – Signs that indicate the route to a particular destination changes direction, typically placed just before the intersection where the route turns to the left or the right.

Identification:

- **Gateway** – Gateway signs mark the entrance to a community or district
- **Confirmation** – A sign that confirms a person is heading in the right direction, often indicated by a destination name and a straight arrow.
- **Arrival** – A sign that indicates that a person has arrived at their intended destination.

Informational:

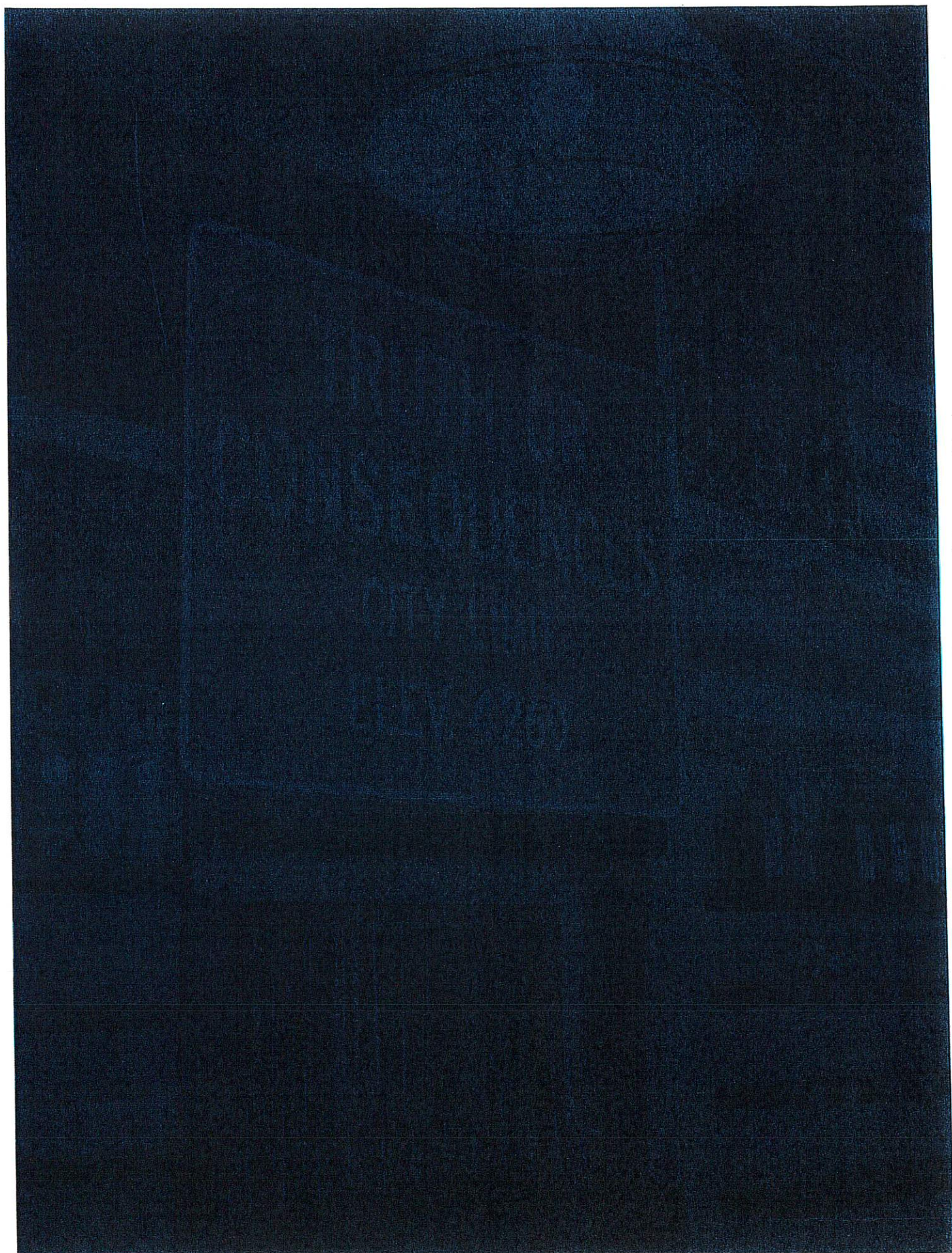
- **Maps** – Maps located in key areas help provide a visual overview of an area that enables pedestrians to plan a route to their chosen destination. (Example: Healing Waters Trail Maps)
- **Facility & Amenity Signs** – These signs provide an overview of the types of facilities and amenities available in an area. (Example: Public restrooms)
- **Interpretive Signage** – Interpretive signs tell a story, providing information about the unique history, culture, and ecology of a place. (Example: Hot Springs Historic District interpretive signage)

Exploratory:

- **Pavement markings** – paint or stamps on sidewalk that indicate a specific area
- **Murals** – murals can help serve as landmarks, creating a unique visual cue that a person has arrived



Examples of potential pavement markings for exploratory wayfinding



Visual Brand/Style Design

In 2020–2021, an extensive Truth or Consequences visual branding project took place which resulted in the current City of Truth or Consequences visual branding.

The Process:

Once information from city stakeholders and the New Mexico MainStreet Revitalization Specialist in Promotion were gathered, the Leighton Moon team (Lm.) met with the appointed community and professional team to learn more about the residents, amenities, and future goals of Truth or Consequences and what they felt was important to market to travelers. From there, Lm. developed a digital moodboard based on previous discussions to spark conversation (and provide visual insight) on what looks and feels like Truth or Consequences.

What It Means:

The Truth or Consequences brand identity draws inspiration from the town's rich blend of cultures, natural elements, and unique rhythm of life. The primary graphic element—featuring overlapping, abstracted forms—represents the fusion of rancher grit and artist spirit, a community grounded in both hard work and creative energy. This duality is essential to the character of TorC, where tradition meets transformation.

The movement within the logo reflects the natural forces that have shaped this place: the flow of wind across the desert, the ripple of water from the iconic hot

springs, and the sense of rejuvenation that defines the town's healing heritage. These waves and curves are not just decorative, they symbolize the journey of wellness that draws visitors to TorC year after year.

Color plays a central role in expressing this story. The warm color palette—Desert Rose, Oasis Orange, and Fresh Brew—evokes the golden-hour glow of the New Mexico landscape and the warmth of community. In contrast, the cool palette—Spa Blue, Medicinal Blue, and Space Blue—represents the serene, soothing experience of the town's natural springs and the quiet magic of its desert nights. The grounding neutrals—Espresso, Charcoal, and TorC Black—provide visual balance while nodding to the earthy tones of the surrounding terrain.

Together, these elements highlight the contrast and coexistence that make TorC special: rural yet vibrant, historic yet progressive, tranquil yet surprising. The identity system supports a wayfinding experience that helps visitors feel not only oriented but also connected—anchored in a place where nature, wellness, and creativity converge.



TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

NEW MEXICO

Desert Rose

Oasis Orange

Fresh Brew

Spa Blue

Medicinal Blue

Space Blue

Espresso

Charcoal

TorC Black

LATO

LORA

Brand Essence Statement:

Truth or Consequences is an eclectic hot springs town. A hidden gem—a cultural melting pot—where we blend the serene pace and community-forward values of small town life with big city vibes. Located directly off of a major interstate, Truth or Consequences is surrounded by indescribable natural beauty. Tucked against the backdrop of Turtleback Mountain, hugged by the winding Rio Grande, and nestled between two of New Mexico's largest lakes, Truth or Consequences sits atop a hot springs aquifer rooted in historic healing.

Our world-class, odorless hot springs offer a ph-balanced blend of mineral rich healing waters. Accessible with spas and lodging to fit a wide range of styles, personalities, and budgets for residents and visitors alike, our historic hot springs district continues to be a place where people come to rejuvenate. Medicinal waters are not the only thing bubbling in this frontier of wellness and culture. Experience everything from ancient artifacts to the cutting edge technology of Spaceport America - all in one day. Discover backcountry adventures and then relax in incomparable spas. Truth or Consequences is an arts-forward locale bursting with creativity from both emerging and well-known resident artists and musicians. Fusing together the pastoral and innovational, Truth or Consequences is a place where ranchers/cowboys and artists come together to enjoy a meal at one of the many distinctive restaurants or a pint at our award-winning brewery.

Slow down and soak in all that Truth or Consequences has to offer. Experience a place that encourages you to be yourself. You may end up discovering why so many visitors never leave.



Sign Design

The wayfinding signage system is intentionally designed in the established visual brand language of the City of Truth or Consequences. By aligning with the city's broader identity system, the signs reinforce brand recognition, civic trust, and a unified sense of place throughout the visitor journey.

Each sign integrates subtle background graphics directly utilizing the Truth or Consequences logomark. This choice gives subtle visual texture while remaining understated to maintain optimal legibility and keep navigation clear and intuitive.

Arrival signs are designed to do more than direct—they help tell the story of Truth or Consequences. A dedicated area of the signs provide space for short local facts or stories, tapping into the rich well of community oral history. These can be sourced from local historians, writers, or long-time residents, offering a personal connection to place.

In addition, there's room within the system for artistic expression. Local artists may contribute custom decorative enhancements to designated signs—either through surface treatments, sculptural toppers, or color accents—bringing localized flavor without compromising the wayfinding system's core functionality.

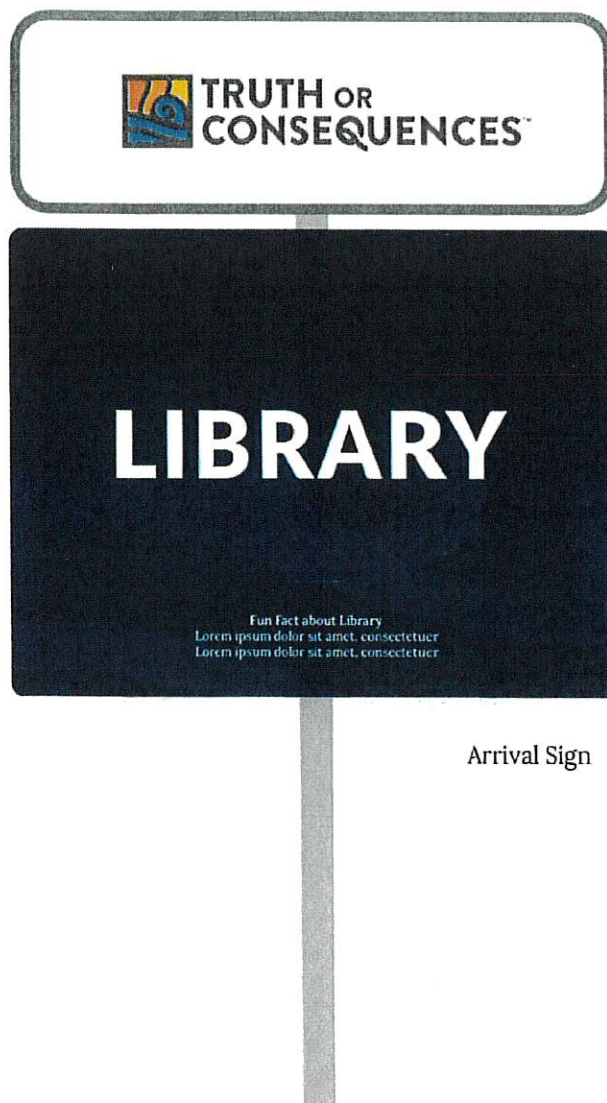
Sign Families

The system is designed as flexible families of signs, with thoughtful variations that respond to context. There are two sign families, one for the broader TorC community, and another for the Historic Hot Springs District. Within the Historic Hot Springs district, for example, signage color shifts to a distinctive palette to subtly communicate that visitors have entered a unique and concentrated zone—a “place within a place.” This design choice supports orientation while also expressing the layered identity of TorC as both a tranquil small town and a vibrant creative hub.

TorC City Signage

The primary TorC sign family is designed to orient visitors who have just exited the highway as well as unfamiliar residents to find civic destinations such as the public library. These signs are primarily designed to orient drivers and will be located primarily along N. Date St. and S. Broadway St. and at key destinations throughout the community.

Consistently using Space Blue, Medicinal Blue, and Spa Blue from the color palette for these signs is representative of the open skies and healing waters. The Oasis orange riders signal the short distance to the downtown district where local businesses and galleries can be found.



Arrival Sign



Turn Sign



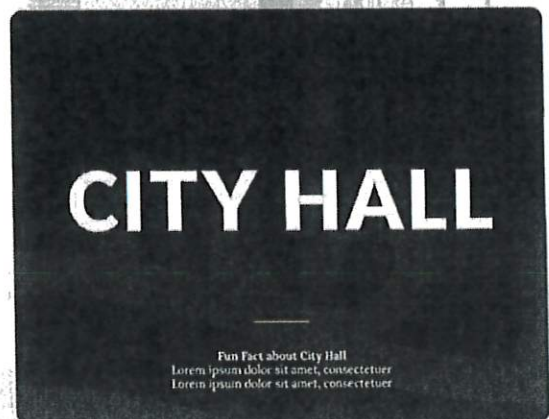
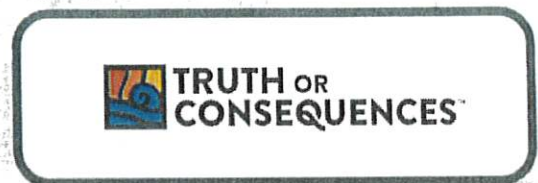
Decision Sign
with Downtown Driving Time Rider



Loop Sign



Decision Sign



Arrival Sign
with Artistic
Add-On Rider (no
artwork)

Historic Hot Springs District Signage

Within the downtown, signs change to highlight MainStreet Truth or Consequences as a vibrant destination within Truth or Consequences. The signs also communicate that this area is the historic Hot Springs district. The design emphasizes the local loop—a one-way

route lined with shops, dining, and art galleries—helping visitors understand that there's more to discover just around the corner. Directional cues and iconography guide foot traffic while reinforcing the area's identity as both a historic and creative core of the city.



Turn Sign



Loop Sign



Monument Sign

Artistic Add-Ons

Artistic Add-Ons allow local artists to enhance wayfinding signs with creative elements like riders, printed back panels, or sculptural toppers. These additions bring community character and artistic expression into the public realm.

Strongly supported in the community survey, this program celebrates the voices of TorC's creative community while keeping signage functional and on-brand. Potentially managed

by MainStreet Truth or Consequences with technical support from New Mexico MainStreet, the program would include artist guidelines, specs, and a selection process to ensure quality and cohesion.



Rider (when no artwork is on display)



Sign Back Print w. example artwork



Rider w. example artwork



Sculptural Slip w. example artwork

5. IMPLEMENTATION

After the approval of the Truth or Consequences Wayfinding Plan by City Commission, signs to be fabricated will be detailed with Design Intent Drawings. These will go to the sign manufacturer who create shop drawings, which are approved by designers before fabrication. Once signs are approved and fabricated, they will be delivered to and installed by a City-approved contractor at designated locations, according to the Sign Removal & Replacement Plan.

Sign Location Plans

5 City Decision Signs

4 City Decision Signs with No Top Rider

3 City Arrival Signs

4 City Turn Signs

7 District Loop Sign A – Signs

3 District Loop Sign B – Signs

3 District Decision Signs

2 District Arrival Signs

2 District Turn Signs

2 Monuments

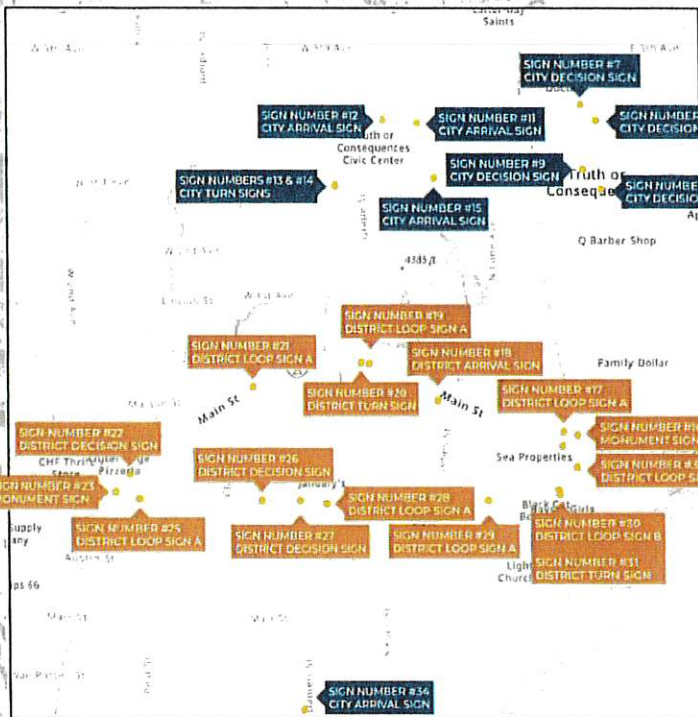
37 Total Proposed Signs

Phasing/Prioritization

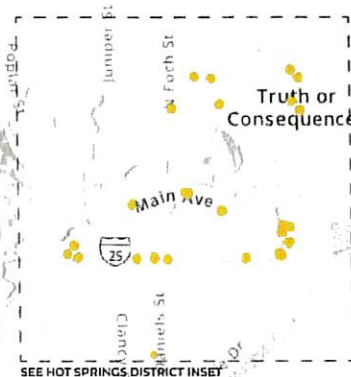
Priority 1 – Directional & Confirmation Signage: Signage that directs vehicles from the freeway to the Historic Hot Springs District and other key destinations

Priority 2 – Arrival Signage

Priority 3 – Gateway & Monument Signage



HOT SPRINGS DISTRICT

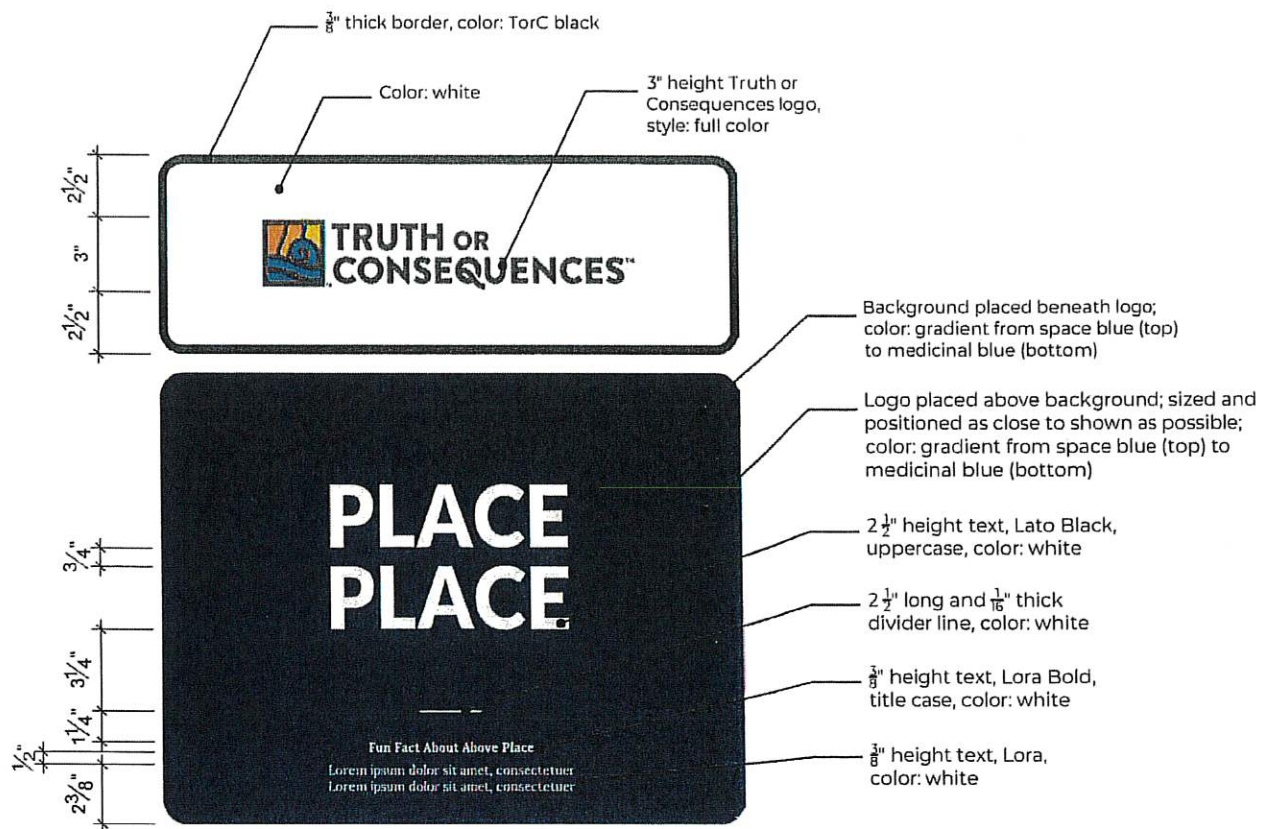


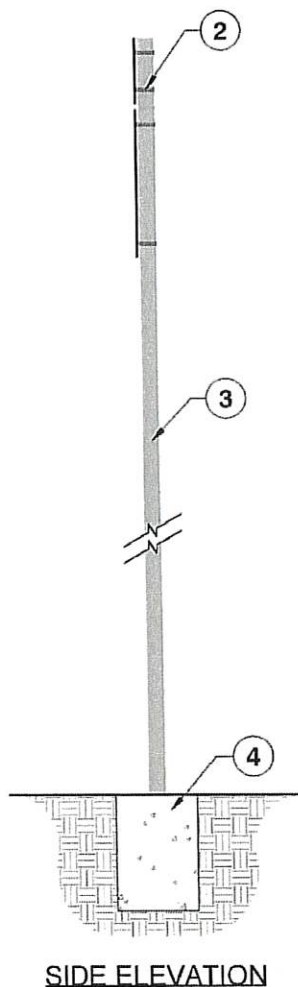
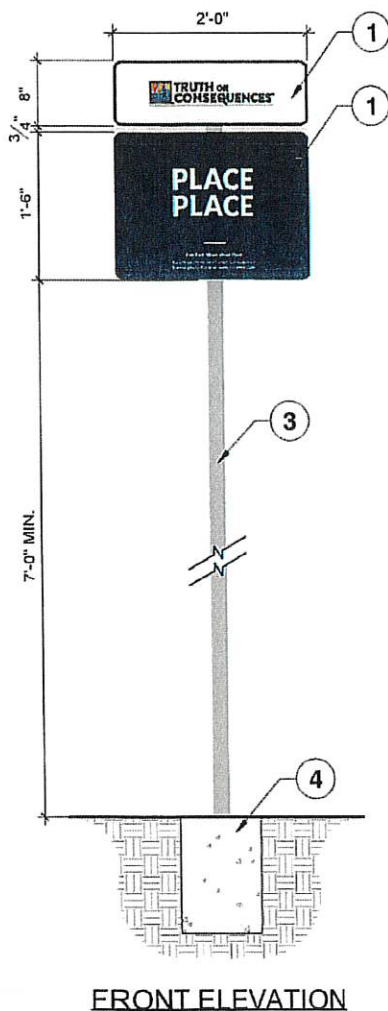
SEE HOT SPRINGS DISTRICT INSET



6. APPENDIX

Design Intent Drawings





- ① **PANEL**
 MATERIAL: 1/4" thick anodized aluminum
 FABRICATION PROCESS: Router-cut
 EDGES: Routed; finished smooth
 GRAPHICS: Screen-printed
 COATING: Anti-graffiti; UV protection
 MOUNTING: Bolted to square tube post or bracketed to light pole

- ② **MOUNTING HARDWARE**
 If mounting on new or existing square tube post, use tamper-proof bolts. Bolt through square with carriage bolt.

FINISH: Bolt tops to be painted color of sign or match finish
 MATERIAL: Anodized aluminum
 EDGES: Bolt, washer, nut

If mounting on existing light pole, use sign mounting brackets, 4" to 12" round, strap-on, stainless steel, unfinished, silver. Use tamper-proof bolts. Field verify pole diameter.

- ③ **POST**
 Field verify if there is existing post or light pole. For all new posts:

SIZE: 2" x 2" square tube with welded cap
 MATERIAL: Anodized aluminum
 EDGES: Bolt, washer, nut

- ④ **POST FOOTING**
 Footings shall be sized to meet local design standards.

NOTES

Details illustrate possible mounting and/or mounting hardware details and are for reference only. All hardware to be sized by fabricator. Shop drawing submittals shall detail the actual hardware and connections. All connections must be designed for all applicable loads. Shop drawings shall not compromise the visual appearance of the sign shown.

Sign Schedule

Sign Number	Location Description	Sign Type	Post/Mount	Content	OBJECTID	Latitude	Longitude
1	West side of I-25 South about 50 feet before Exit 79	City Decision Sign	Install on new post	Rider: 7 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (right arrow), Line 2: Shopping (right arrow), Line 3: Dining (right arrow)	36	-107.253601	33.15878608
2	Exit 79 off-ramp before overpass above I-25	City Decision Sign	Install on existing light post	Rider: 6 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (up arrow), Line 2: Shopping (right arrow), Line 3: Dining (up arrow)	37	-107.2542018	33.15694571
3	I-25 near Holiday Inn Express	City Decision Sign	Install on existing light post	Rider: 5 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (up arrow), Line 2: Shopping (up arrow), Line 3: Dining (up arrow)	6	-107.2503474	33.15608879
4	I-25 near Walmart	City Decision Sign	Install on existing light post	Rider: 4 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (up arrow), Line 2: Shopping (up arrow), Line 3: Dining (up arrow)	7	-107.2473573	33.15386617
5	Median on New School Rd north of Shell gas station	City Turn Sign with Right Arrow	Replace existing sign on post in median	Schools	33	-107.2464769	33.14981255
6	Date St and Marie St, NW corner	City Turn Sign with Right Arrow	Remove existing sign and install new sign on nearby light post	Municipal Golf Course	9	-107.2499095	33.14192516
7	Date St and 4th Ave, NW corner	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Replace existing signs on light post	Line 1: Senior Center (right arrow), Line 2: Civic Center (right arrow), Line 3: NM Public Health (left arrow)	10	-107.2506226	33.13429172
8	Date St and 4th Ave, SE corner	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Replace existing signs on light post	Line 1: Senior Center (left arrow), Line 2: Civic Center (left arrow), Line 3: NM Public Health (right arrow)	12	-107.2503478	33.13406319
9	Date St and 3rd Ave, NW corner	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Install new sign on existing light post	Line 1: Library (right arrow), Line 2: Commission Chambers (right arrow)	11	-107.2505896	33.13334955
10	Date St and 3rd Ave, SE corner	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Install new sign on existing light post	Line 1: Library (left arrow), Line 2: Commission Chambers (left arrow)	34	-107.2502783	33.13304859
11	4th Ave and Grape St	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post on lawn on east side of senior center entrance perpendicular to road	Kenneth W. James Senior Center	13	-107.2535752	33.13402546
12	4th Ave and Grape St	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post on lawn on east side of civic center entrance perpendicular to road	Civic Center	14	-107.2542015	33.13406765
13	Foch St and 3rd Ave, SE corner	City Turn Sign with Left Arrow	Replace existing north-facing sign on post	Library	15	-107.2550947	33.13311888
14	Foch St and 3rd Ave, SE corner	City Turn Sign with Right Arrow	Replace existing south-facing sign on post	Library	38	-107.2550949	33.13309683
15	3rd Ave and Library Lane, NE corner	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post	Library	16	-107.2532847	33.13321662
16	Date St median facing north	Monument	Install on gabion structure	As shown in design intent drawings	17	-107.2507285	33.12943944
17	Date St near Serenity Clothing Store	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	18	-107.2509751	33.12949228
18	Main St at Post Office	District Arrival Sign	Install on new post in gravel mulch area west of post office entrance	Post Office	19	-107.2532454	33.12994593
19	Main St and Foch St, NE corner	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post above pedestrian crossing signs	As shown on design intent drawings	20	-107.2544888	33.13048634
20	Main St and Foch St, NW corner	District Turn Sign with Right Arrow	Replace existing sign on square post	Library	21	-107.2546339	33.13050088
21	Main St and Garst St, NE corner	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	22	-107.2566388	33.13014427
22	Main St across the road from Outer Edge Pizza	District Decision Sign	Install on existing light pole before turn	Line 1: More Shops (left arrow), Line 2: Veterans Memorial Park (up arrow), Line 3: County Fairgrounds (up arrow)	24	-107.258876	33.12886326

Sign Number	Location Description	Sign Type	Post/Mount	Content	OBJECTID	Latitude	Longitude
23	Median between Main St and Broadway St facing southwest	Monument	Install on gabion structure	As shown on design intent drawings	23	-107.2591346	33.12660436
24	Widest part of S Broadway St median between El Val Verde Ave and Hyde Ave	City Decision Sign	Install on new post	Rider 5 mile / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (up arrow), Line 2: Shopping (up arrow), Line 3: Dining (up arrow)	39	-107.2864026	33.11911976
25	Broadway St and Post St, SW corner	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post above pedestrian crossing signs	As shown on design intent drawings	25	-107.256716	33.12850146
26	South side of Broadway St between Clancy St and Daniels St	District Decision Sign	Install on new post	Line 1: Free Parking (left arrow), Line 2: Restaurants (left arrow)	26	-107.2864905	33.12647016
27	Broadway St and Daniels St, SW corner	District Decision Sign	Install on existing light post above pedestrian crossing signs	Line 1: Healing Waters Plaza (left arrow), Line 2: Pool (right arrow), Line 3: Rotary Park (right arrow), Line 4: (Hiking Icon) Healing Waters (right arrow)	27	-107.2857895	33.12047406
28	Broadway St outside of Ingo's Art Cafe	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	28	-107.2859049	33.12848977
29	Broadway St outside of First Baptist Church	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	29	-107.2823466	33.12047619
30	Median between N Broadway St and S Broadway St, behind and to the left of existing I-25 sign	District Loop Sign B	Install on new post	As shown on design intent drawings	30	-107.2510733	33.12062937
31	Median between N Broadway St and S Broadway St, behind and to the right of existing I-25 sign	District Turn Sign With Right Arrow	Install on new post	Ralph Edwards Park	31	-107.2510408	33.12056243
32	Date St and Main St, SW corner	District Loop Sign B	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	31	-107.2507423	33.12059593
33	Main St at southern end of Date St median	District Loop Sign A	Install on new post	As shown on design intent drawings	32	-107.2509940	33.12927742
34	Daniels St about 2 feet to the left of one-way alley	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post	Public Pool	40	-107.2556066	33.12540499
35	Entrance to parking area for Healing Waters trailhead	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post	Healing Waters Trailhead	41	-107.2542063	33.11946336
36	North side of Country Club Rd. across from Exit 79 offramp	City Decision Sign	Install on new post	Rider 5 mile / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (right arrow), Line 2: Shopping (right arrow), Line 3: Dining (right arrow)	42	-107.2862779	33.15721787
37	About 5 feet before left turn into Rotary Park	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Install on new post	Line 1: Rotary Park (left arrow), Line 2: (Hiking Icon) Healing Waters (up arrow)	43	-107.2552494	33.12306208

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES WAYFINDING PLAN

PUBLISHED 2025



2025 Crime Trends

- A comprehensive analysis of crime statistics and law enforcement activity across violent crime, property crime, and police operations for the year 2025.



Select Council District			Select IBRS Category
A8			A8
5	5	5	IBRS Crimes Description
22,646	23,450	16,353	00A Homicide: Murder
	19		00B Homicide: Negligent
27,265	17,363	18,696	00C Homicide: Suicide
			10A Rape
			10B Sodomy
			11C Sexual Assault
			12D Possession
			12D Robbery

1

 OVERVIEW

Crime Statistics at a Glance

11951

Total Calls
Total number of calls for service received in 2025

269

Arrests Made
Total arrests conducted
throughout the year

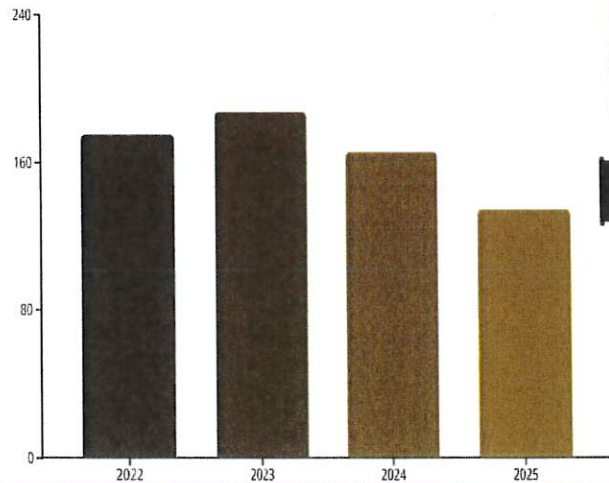
2902

Traffic Stops
Vehicle stops conducted
by officers

2

Domestic Disturbance Patterns

Domestic disturbance calls have shown a significant downward trend, declining from 187 incidents in 2023 to 134 in 2025. This represents a 28% decrease and marks the lowest level in the four-year period analyzed. The reduction may reflect improved community resources and intervention programs.



5

Violent Crime Category Breakdown

Assault

56 incidents in 2025
Up from 49 in 2024

Child Abuse

11 incidents in 2025
Down from 15 in 2024

Domestic

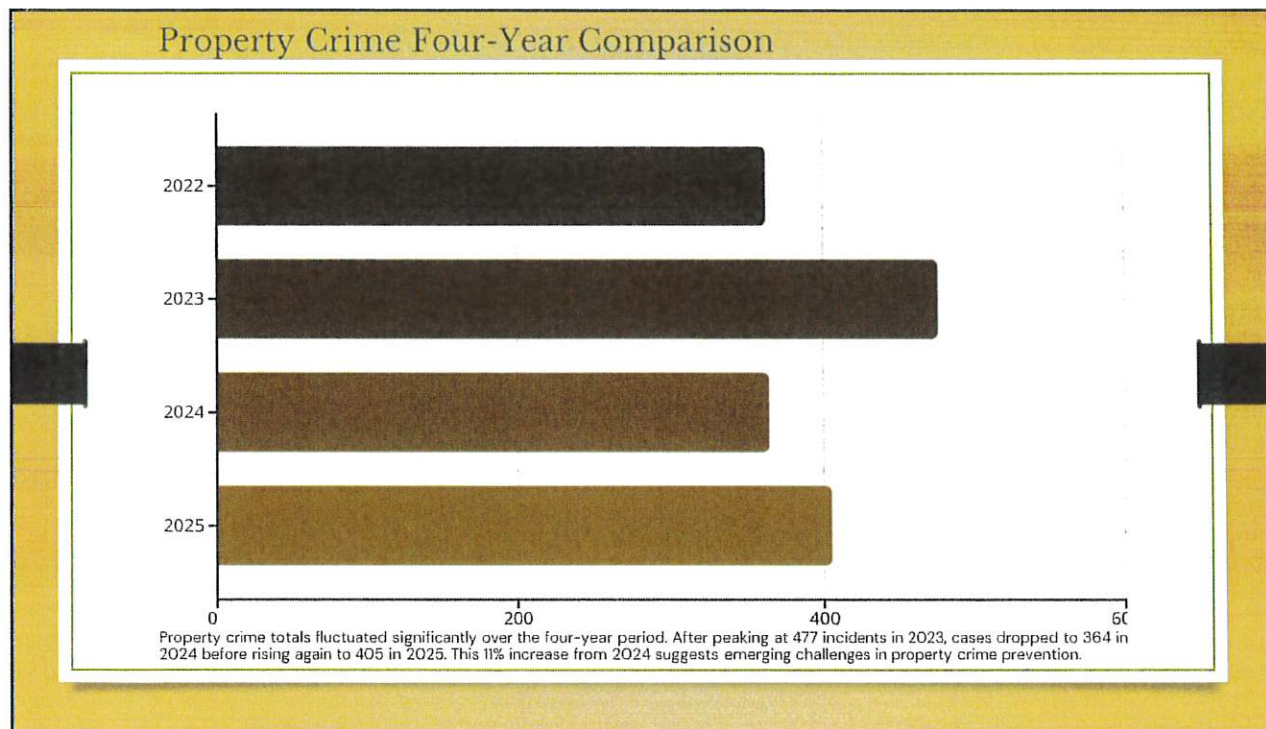
134 incidents in 2025
Down from 165 in 2024

Fight

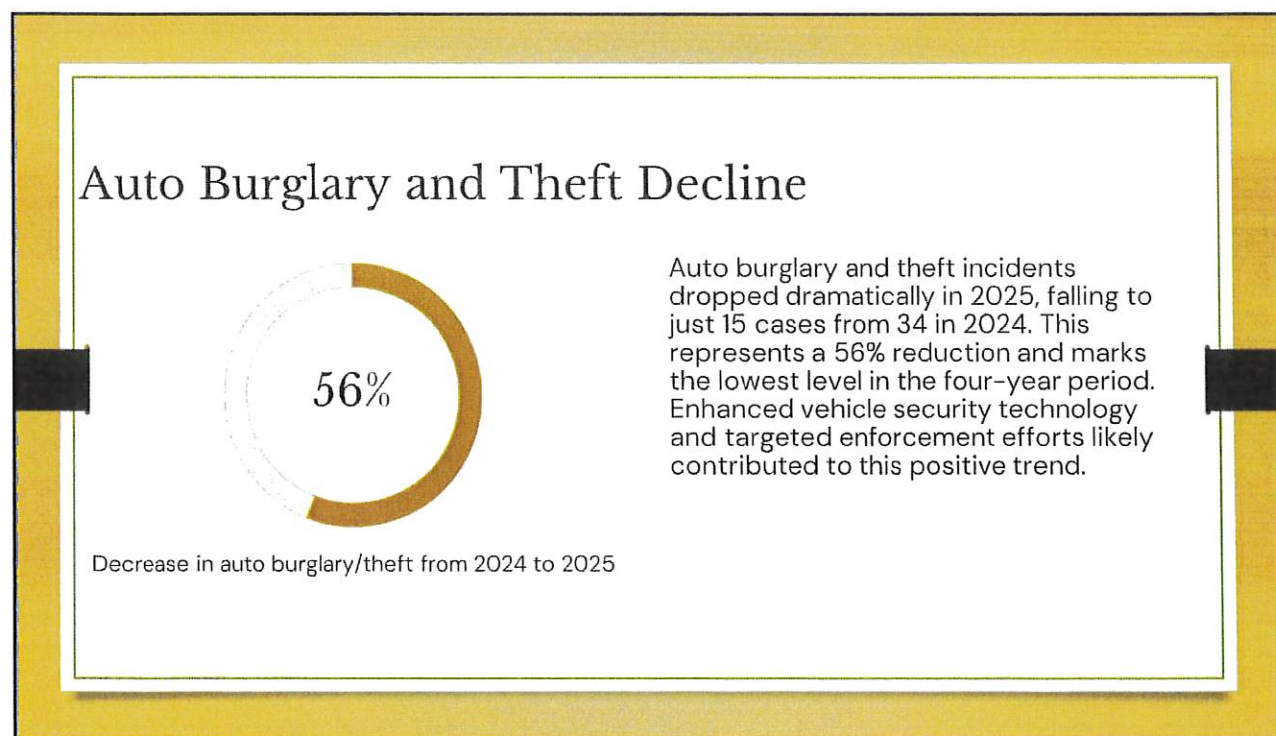
37 incidents in 2025
Down from 40 in 2024



6

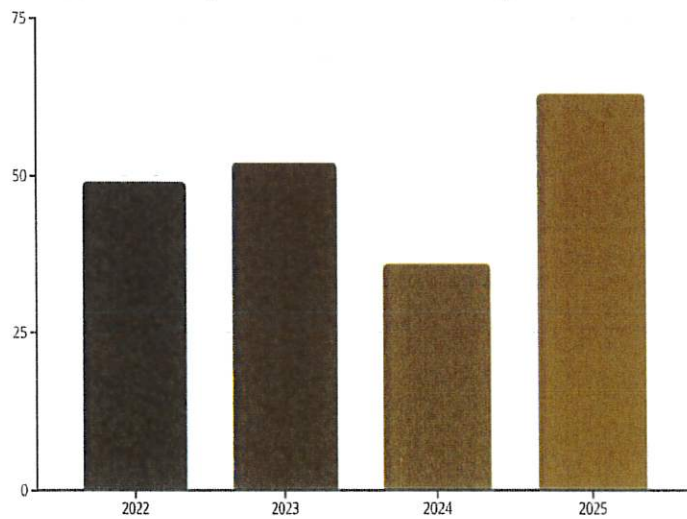


9



10

Shoplifting Increases Significantly



Larceny-shoplifting cases surged to 63 incidents in 2025, up 75% from 36 cases in 2024. This represents the highest level in the four-year period and signals a growing challenge for retail businesses and law enforcement.

The increase may reflect economic pressures, organized retail crime, or gaps in loss prevention strategies.

13



Theft Trends Analysis

General theft incidents remained elevated in 2025 with 203 cases, representing a slight 2% increase from 199 cases in 2024. Theft consistently represents the largest category of property crime, accounting for approximately 50% of all property offenses.

- 1 — 2022
157 theft cases
- 2 — 2023
234 theft cases - peak year
- 3 — 2024
199 theft cases - decline
- 4 — 2025
203 theft cases - stable

14



 ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Activity

Beyond responding to crimes, law enforcement conducted extensive proactive operations in 2025. Traffic enforcement, arrests, and citations represent critical components of maintaining public safety and order.

17

Traffic Enforcement Operations



2,902 Traffic Stops

Officers conducted 2,902 traffic stops throughout 2025, averaging approximately 242 stops per month. These stops serve multiple purposes including enforcement, education, and crime detection.



1,648 Citations Issued

A total of 1,648 citations were issued in 2025, representing approximately 57% of all traffic stops. Citations address violations ranging from speeding to equipment failures.

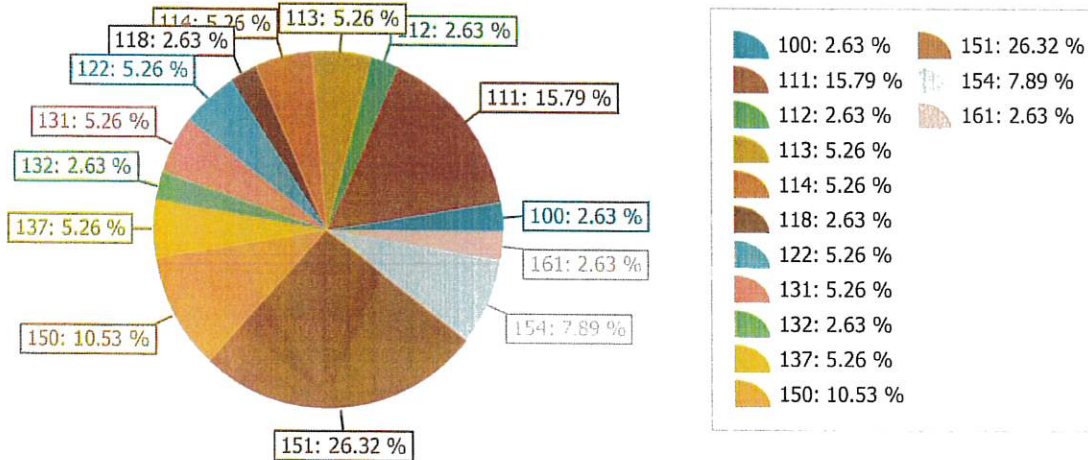


13 DUI Arrests

Officers made 13 DUI arrests in 2025, removing impaired drivers from roadways and potentially preventing serious accidents and injuries.

18

Incident Reports By Incident Type, Summary



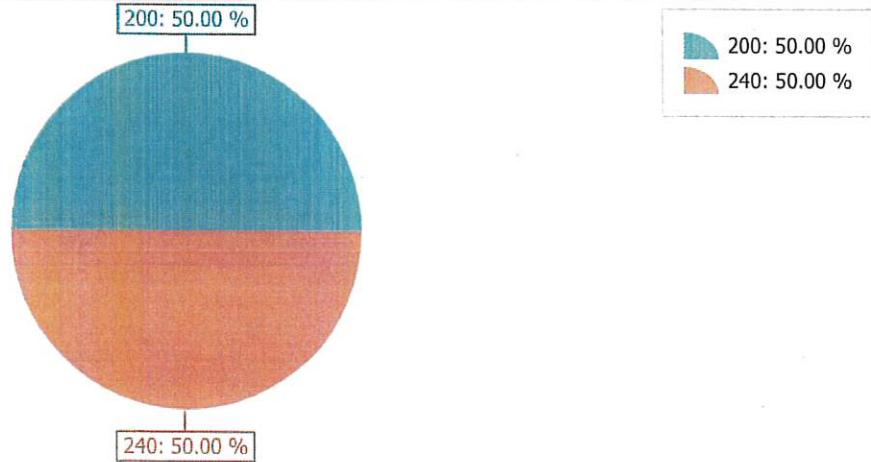
Incident Type

Incident Type	Total Incidents	Percent
100 - Fire, other	1	2.63%
111 - Building fire	6	15.79%
112 - Fires in structure other than in a building	1	2.63%
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	2	5.26%
114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	2	5.26%
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1	2.63%
122 - Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle	2	5.26%
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	2	5.26%
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1	2.63%
137 - Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire	2	5.26%
150 - Outside rubbish fire, other	4	10.53%
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	10	26.32%
154 - Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	3	7.89%
161 - Outside storage fire	1	2.63%

Total Number of Incidents: 38

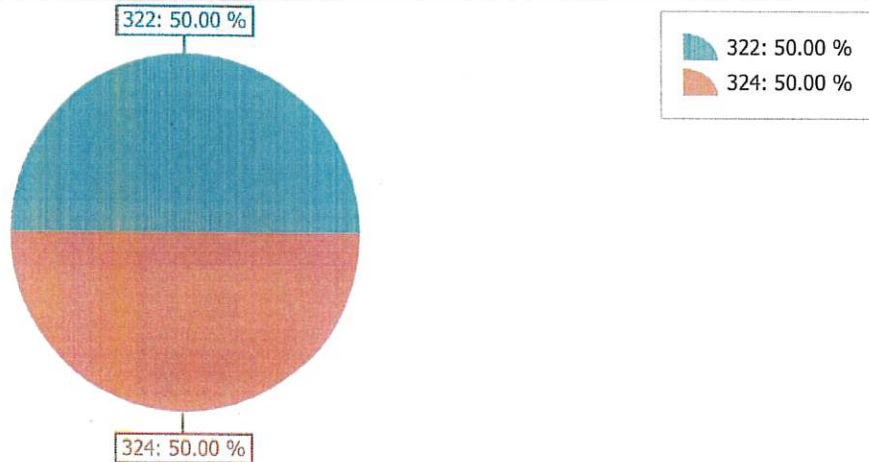
Total Number of Incident Types: 14

Incident Reports By Incident Type, Summary



Incident Type	Total Incidents	Percent
200 - Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat other	1	50.00%
240 - Explosion (no fire), other	1	50.00%
Total Number of Incidents:		2
Total Number of Incident Types:		2

Incident Reports By Incident Type, Summary

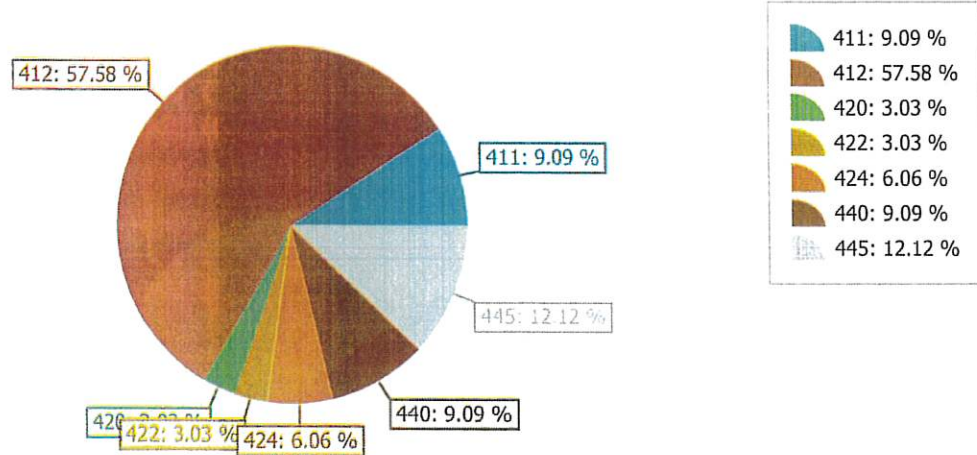


Incident Type	Total Incidents	Percent
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	9	50.00%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	9	50.00%

Total Number of Incidents: 18

Total Number of Incident Types: 2

Incident Reports By Incident Type, Summary

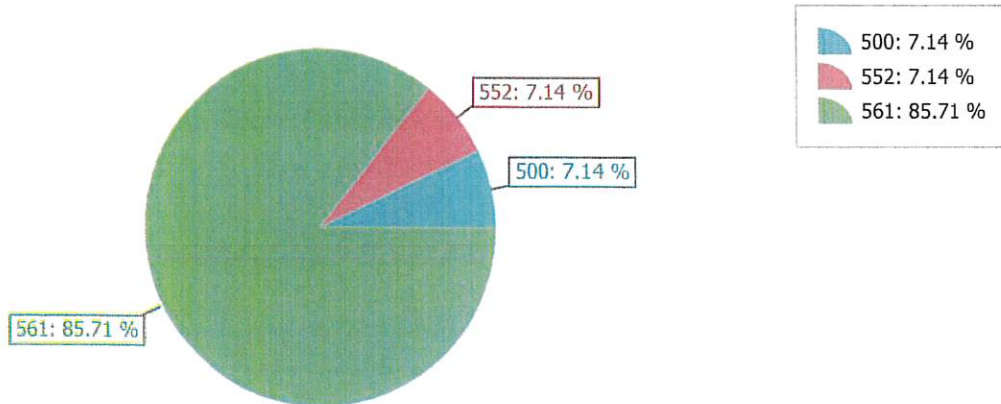


Incident Type	Total Incidents	Percent
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	3	9.09%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	19	57.58%
420 - Toxic condition, other	1	3.03%
422 - Chemical spill or leak	1	3.03%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	2	6.06%
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	3	9.09%
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	4	12.12%

Total Number of Incidents: 33

Total Number of Incident Types: 7

Incident Reports By Incident Type, Summary

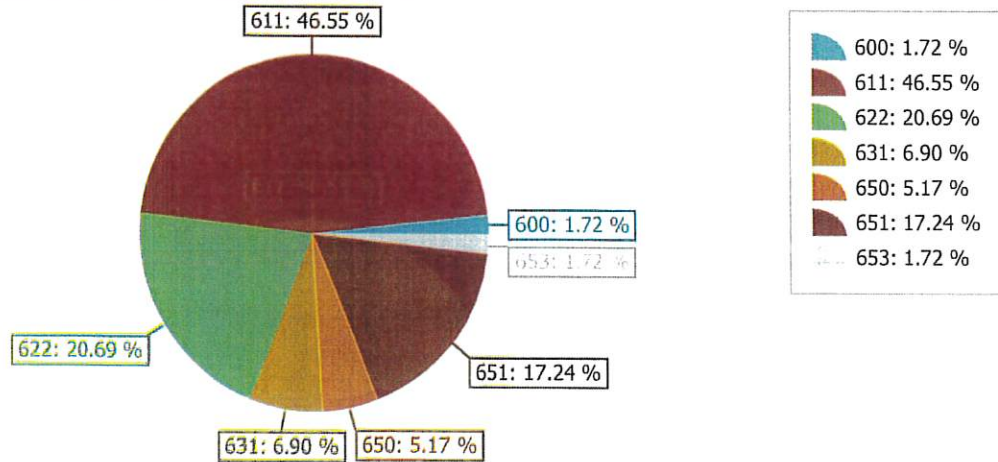


Incident Type	Total Incidents	Percent
500 - Service Call, other	1	7.14%
552 - Police matter	1	7.14%
561 - Unauthorized burning	12	85.71%

Total Number of Incidents: 14

Total Number of Incident Types: 3

Incident Reports By Incident Type, Summary

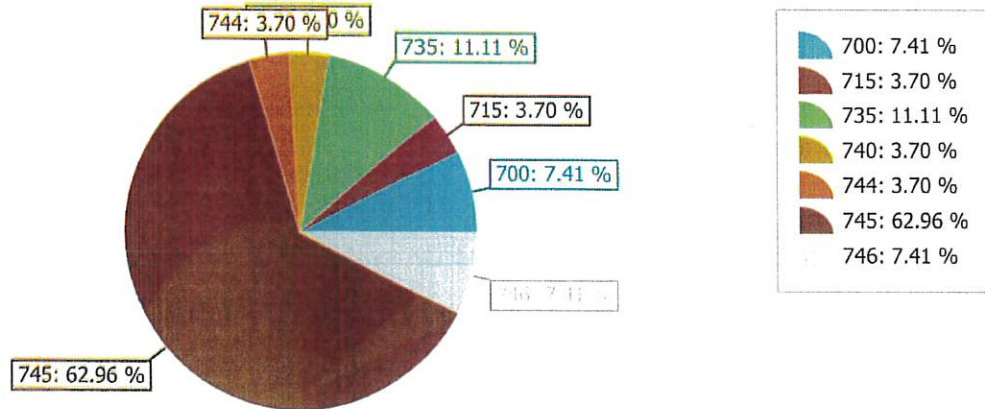


Incident Type	Total Incidents	Percent
600 - Good intent call, other	1	1.72%
611 - Dispatched & canceled en route	27	46.55%
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	12	20.69%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	4	6.90%
650 - Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	3	5.17%
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	10	17.24%
653 - Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	1	1.72%

Total Number of Incidents: 58

Total Number of Incident Types: 7

Incident Reports By Incident Type, Summary



Incident Type

Total Incidents

Percent

700 - False alarm or false call, other	2	7.41%
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1	3.70%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	3	11.11%
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1	3.70%
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1	3.70%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	17	62.96%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	2	7.41%

Total Number of Incidents: 27

Total Number of Incident Types: 7