



State of New Mexico
Bernalillo County
Metropolitan Court

Robert L. Padilla
Court Executive Officer

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March 3, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

City of Albuquerque
Development Review Board
E-mail: plndrs@cabq.gov

**Re: Submission on Behalf of Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court of Request
for Vacation of Public Right-of-Way**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court ("Metropolitan Court") has today submitted an Application to the City of Albuquerque Development Review Board ("Board") where it has requested the vacation of a public-right-of-way. Specifically, the Metropolitan Court seeks the vacation of Slate Street (60' ROW) between 4th and 5th Streets NW and the 16' Public Alley that is perpendicular thereto.

The State of New Mexico Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court owns the Courthouse and the parking facility that includes the Shops @ Metro Park. Previously, on August 18, 2019, an individual used his vehicle to breach and attack the Metropolitan Court when he intentionally crashed into the entrance to the Court. In the wake of this incident, the Metropolitan Court attempted to bolster its security through a variety of measures one of which was the acquisition on December 12, 2020, of that certain real property commonly known as 804 5th Street NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102 and more particularly described as Lot Eight-A (8-A) in Block lettered "N" of Mandell Business & Residence Addition as the same is shown and designated on the plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Bernalillo County, New Mexico on August 7, 2006 in Map Book 2006C, folio 243 ("Romero Property") from Jeffrey and Evangeline Romero, as Sellers. With the Metropolitan Court's acquisition of the Romero Property, it now holds in fee simple title all of the property surrounding Slate Street between Street (60' ROW) between 4th and 5th Streets NW and the 16' Public Alley that is perpendicular thereto.

The area along Slate Street and the public alley abut the Judges' entrance to the Courthouse, which is a critical entry point into the Courthouse as a ramp from that entrance takes you directly under the Courthouse. This invites a very serious vulnerability for both the Judges and senior Court staff who park in that parking garage. In light of the recent incident on August 18th, the Court has been making every to eliminate all open and obvious vulnerabilities in the security of

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the Courthouse in order to ensure the safety and welfare of the Judges, staff, and public coming to the Courthouse.

In order for the Court to re-design the access and entryways to the Courthouse and its Executive and Employee parking garages as well as to better secure the egress for the Metropolitan Detention Center's ("MDC") buses as they transport defendants from the holding cells underneath the Courthouse and transport them back to MDC, it is critical that Slate Street and the public alley be vacated. In closing Slate Street and the Public Alley, the Court could control access for all parties, including employees, judges, pedestrians, outside agencies, and any other agencies delivering goods and services as well as restrict and control the transport of inmates to and from the Court.

The Metropolitan Court appreciates the opportunity to present its request for the vacation of these two public right-of-ways to the Board for its approval. If you have any questions or concerns requiring this submission, please feel free to contact me at the above number.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Padilla

RLP/dc

cc: Sandra Engel, Chief Judge Metropolitan Court