



## MAYOR'S MEDIA ROUNDTABLE REPORT

### Affordable Housing and Growth Planning and Go Hand in Hand

**INVESTMENTS IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** During the preparation of the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget, the need for more affordable housing naturally surfaced as a priority issue. The City responded by adding \$1.8 million to bring the Affordable Housing Trust Fund balance up to \$3 million this year, and proposes to add another \$3 million to the fund in FY22. Mayor Webber told a panel of journalists yesterday at his biweekly Media Roundtable, "There's no one-size-fits-all solution to housing. ... We're trying to think a step ahead of these problems before they become crises." He added that "housing is a social determinant of health--and we want people to have a healthy life." Affordable Housing Director Alexandra Ladd says, "Three million dollars is game-changing in the affordable housing world. It's amazing for the City, and for the folks in the community who need affordable housing, need to stabilize their housing situations, or get rehoused if they've lost housing."

**HELP FOR RENTERS:** The Life Link is one of the City's partners that provides services to low-income renters. The organization's Housing Program Manager, Lara Yoder, expressed a high degree of concern about what's going to happen to her clientele when the pandemic-era moratorium on evictions is lifted. Funding for rental assistance will be a "huge" help, she said. There is also money in the proposed budget for a new hotline that will provide information to both landlords and tenants, referrals to financial resources such as rental assistance, as well as mediation services to avoid the potential for hundreds of evictions in Santa Fe.

**HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS:** Rob Morlino is the Marketing Director of another City partner, Homewise, which facilitates home ownership and repairs. "Pre-pandemic needs have been amplified," he said, because of a lack of affordable housing inventory and rising prices. Homewise helps buyers with down payment funding and owners with emergency mortgage payment assistance. Increased funding may help Homewise increase the amount of down payment assistance it can provide, which will help buyers keep up with rising house prices and reduce their mortgage payments.

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING:** In addition to affordable housing, the City anticipates growth in the market-value housing sector, and related needs in water management, traffic planning, economic diversification, education, and quality of life in general. The proposed budget includes \$200,000 for a Growth Management Plan that will take a holistic approach to planning and focus on equitable access to opportunity for current and future residents. "Families want their kids to be able to find work and housing without losing our unique quality of life," said Mayor Webber. "What do we want Santa Fe to look like in 20 years? If there are going to be tradeoffs, we don't want them imposed on us. The essence of the Growth Management Plan is about how we keep the elements of Santa Fe that we cherish, while recognizing that there will be change."

**PLANNING THE PLANNING:** Rich Brown, Director of Community and Economic Development started that part of the presentation by posing and answering the question, "What is 'growth management planning'?"

- Identifying the proper geographic location of various land uses for future growth
- Determining the proper scale and intensity, or density, of future land use
- Establishing an appropriate rate, pace, or phasing of future growth, based on natural and financial resources required to sustain that growth
- Recognizing that managing growth will enhance quality of life
- Concentrating population at greater density around existing or new urban centers with access to trails, transit, and services to reduce automobile dependence and promote pedestrian movement
- Promoting infill development that provides a range of housing options and addresses community-wide needs around housing affordability

**BUDGET PROCESS UPDATE:** Over the last two weeks, the City Council Finance Committee reviewed and approved the Webber Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

**Review:** [The FY22 Recommended Budget](#); view Special Finance Committee meetings on the budget on [the City of Santa Fe channel on Youtube.com](#).

**Next:** The Governing Body will hold a public hearing as part of its deliberations about "A Resolution Adopting the City of Santa Fe's Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Operating Budget and Organizational Chart."

**When:** The evening session of the Governing Body meeting on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, is scheduled to commence at 6 p.m.

**Watch and Listen:** Instructions for viewing and listening to the meeting are listed on the April 28 Agenda, available at the following link: <https://santafe.primegov.com/public/portal>