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A MEMORIAL

HONORING KEN SANCHEZ AND RECOGNIZING HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
TO ALBUQUERQUE'S WESTSIDE AND TO NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Ken Sanchez, a lifelong resident of  
Albuquerque, spent over forty years on the Westside until his  
death on January 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Ken was a graduate of the West Mesa high school  
class of 1974; and

WHEREAS, Ken operated the Gilbert Sanchez tax accounting  
firm on west Central avenue in Albuquerque and was also the  
president of Ken Sanchez and associates realty; and

WHEREAS, Ken had the honor of serving the public as a  
Bernalillo county commissioner from 1995 to 2002 and as an  
Albuquerque city councilor for district 1 from 2005 until his  
sudden passing; and

WHEREAS, Ken served as Albuquerque city council  
president in 2010, 2014 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, Ken also served the city by working toward a  
balanced and responsible budget as chair of the committee-of-  
the-whole in 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, Ken was also appointed chair of Albuquerque's  
finance and government committee in 2012; and

WHEREAS, in addition to other boards and committees, Ken  
was appointed to the Albuquerque Bernalillo county water

1 utility authority and was elected chair in 2012; and

2 WHEREAS, Ken was committed to improving the lives of  
3 Albuquerque's Westside residents and the city as a whole and  
4 worked tirelessly with city residents and the Albuquerque  
5 police department to address public safety needs; and

6 WHEREAS, among his many efforts, Ken worked with the  
7 community, the city council, mayors, governors, legislators,  
8 other elected officials and local businesses to bring  
9 much-needed economic retail development to the Westside,  
10 offering more jobs and places for people to shop near their  
11 homes; and

12 WHEREAS, Ken worked with the Westside community and  
13 legislators on a number of projects, including fire  
14 station 7, the Patrick J. Baca library, the university of  
15 New Mexico family health clinic, the Central and Unser  
16 transit center, the nuevo Atrisco development and the Unser  
17 crossing project; and

18 WHEREAS, other projects Ken supported include  
19 improvements at the Taylor Ranch library, the Joan Jones  
20 community center at Pat Hurley park, the renovated West Mesa  
21 community center and the Nusenda community stadium; and

22 WHEREAS, Ken worked to bring the Jennifer Riordan spark  
23 kindness sports complex to serve the growing population of  
24 the Westside; and

25 WHEREAS, Ken cared about parks and places for families

1 to spend time and worked on infrastructure needs as well as  
2 recreational needs throughout the city; and

3 WHEREAS, Ken contributed to beautification and driver  
4 and pedestrian safety on the Westside with median landscaping  
5 and traffic calming measures on Unser boulevard, Ladera drive  
6 and a number of residential streets in district 1; and

7 WHEREAS, Ken supported public improvement districts,  
8 including the lower petroglyphs public improvement district,  
9 as well as a medical campus for the underserved areas of the  
10 Westside; and

11 WHEREAS, Ken enjoyed spending time with people over  
12 salsa and chips with a cold iced tea; and

13 WHEREAS, Ken lived to watch his granddaughter play  
14 basketball and enjoyed seeing his grandson starting to master  
15 the game; and

16 WHEREAS, Ken enjoyed spending time with his partner,  
17 Cynthia, in their backyard; and

18 WHEREAS, Ken's love was basketball, although he enjoyed  
19 watching, following and talking about all sports; and

20 WHEREAS, Ken lived life to the fullest and enjoyed every  
21 moment he was given; and

22 WHEREAS, Ken looked at the positive side of life and  
23 welcomed everyone as his friend; and

24 WHEREAS, Ken genuinely cared about others, his city and  
25 his state; and

1           WHEREAS, Ken is survived by his daughter,  
2           Jaclyn Sanchez-Zamora, and her husband, Juaquin; his son,  
3           Christian Arias Sanchez; his brother, Steven Arias; his  
4           partner, Cynthia Martinez, and her daughter, Ashley; and an  
5           extended family; and

6           WHEREAS, Ken touched the lives of many people through  
7           his work as a public servant and the pride with which he  
8           served his community;

9           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
10          STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Ken Sanchez be recognized for his  
11          outstanding service to Albuquerque's Westside and to  
12          New Mexico; and

13          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
14          transmitted to the family of Ken Sanchez. \_\_\_\_\_

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