

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

NEW MEXICO PATRIOTS  
ADVOCACY COALITION,  
PRO-GUN WOMEN,  
DEBRA WEST,

Plaintiffs,

D-202-CV-2020-01048

v.

TIM KELLER, Mayor,  
City of Albuquerque, SARITA NAIR,  
Chief Administrative Officer,  
City of Albuquerque,

Defendant.

**SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND  
VERIFIED PETITION FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF;**

**COME NOW**, Plaintiffs New Mexico Patriots Advocacy Coalition, Debra West, and Pro-Gun Women, by and through their undersigned counsel, pursuant to NMSA §44-6-1 *et. seq.*, and N.M. Const. Art. II, § 6; bring this action to challenge the actions of Mayor Tim Keller through executive order a.k.a. administrative instruction to restrict the ability of Albuquerque citizens to keep and bear arms for lawful purpose in contravention of the protections against such infringement in the New Mexico Constitution. EXHIBIT 1 and EXHIBIT 4.

**Parties and Venue**

1. Plaintiff New Mexico Patriot Advocacy Coalition (“NM Patriots”), is New Mexico political advocacy group, duly registered and operating in the State of New Mexico, whose members are Albuquerque and New Mexico citizens that wish to exercise their constitutional right to keep and bear arms free from infringement by their government. Members of Plaintiff, which included Plaintiff Debra West have modified their behavior and refrained from their exercise of

their rights to purchase, keep and bear arms as a direct result of the laws passed by the New Mexico Legislature at issue in this lawsuit. Members of Plaintiff are now fearful of going unarmed and unable to lawfully defend themselves from the lawless at the City's Community and Health Centers such that they are no longer able to attend those facilities because they are fearful of being charged with a fourth-degree felony if they visit the facilities while armed in order to protect themselves and their loved ones from the violent rampant crime in Albuquerque. *See* EXHIBIT 2 attached hereto.

2. Plaintiff Debra West is a resident of the City of Albuquerque. *See* EXHIBIT 2 attached hereto.

3. Plaintiff Pro-Gun Women is a citizen advocacy non-profit organization that supports the Second Amendment rights of women to arm and defend themselves. Members of Plaintiff, which included Debra West, have modified their behavior and refrained from their exercise of their rights to purchase, keep and bear arms as a direct result of the laws passed by the New Mexico Legislature at issue in this lawsuit. Members of Plaintiff are now fearful of going unarmed and unable to lawfully defend themselves from the lawless at the City's Community and Health Centers such that they are no longer able to attend those facilities because they are fearful of being charged with a fourth-degree felony if they visit the facilities while armed in order to protect themselves and their loved ones from the violent rampant crime in Albuquerque. *See* EXHIBIT 2 attached hereto.

4. Defendant Tim Keller is the elected mayor of the City of Albuquerque.

5. Defendant Sarita Nair is Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Albuquerque that is appointed and serves at the direction of Mayor Keller.

6. The Second Judicial District Court is the proper venue.

**Allegations Supporting Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief**

7. Mayor Keller, acting under the color of his executive authority, directed his Chief Administrative Officer, Sarita Nair, to take action to regulate and prohibit the bearing of firearms in certain city facilities by enacting Administrative Instruction No: 5-19, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, in contravention of N.M. Const. art. II, § 6 which unequivocally provides that municipalities are prohibited from taking such an action, stating:

No law shall abridge the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes, but nothing herein shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons. No municipality or county shall regulate, in any way, an incident of the right to keep and bear arms.

N.M. Const. art. II, § 6.

8. Administrative Order No. 5-19 purports to reinterpret state criminal law, specifically NMSA 1978 § 30-7-2.1, to define community centers, multigenerational centers and senior centers as “school premises” **as a way** to regulate the bearing of arms at these facilities by criminalizing the carrying of firearms at these city facilities that have not traditionally met the definition of “school premises”, nor do they actually meet the definition in the statute. EX 1

9. Administrative Order No. 5-19 purports to reinterpret state criminal law, specifically NMSA 1978 § 30-7-2.4, to define health and social service centers as “university premises” **as a way** to regulate the bearing of arms at these facilities by criminalizing the carrying of firearms at these city facilities that have not traditionally met the definition of “university premises”, nor do they actually meet the definition in the statute. EX 1

10. Administrative Instruction No: 5-20, as issued August 31, 2020 continues these reinterpretations of NMSA 1978 § 30-7-2 to further define “public school premises” and “university premises” to include city neighborhood parks, city sports fields, city golf courses, city

pools and their surrounding parking lots, Balloon Fiesta Park, The Albuquerque Convention Center and Civic Plaza in downtown Albuquerque **as a way** to regulate the bearing of arms at these facilities by criminalizing the carrying of firearms at these city facilities that have not traditionally met the definition of “public school premises” or “university premises”, nor do they actually meet the definition in the statute. EXHIBIT 3.

### **COUNT 1**

#### **VIOLATION OF N.M. CONST. ART. II, § 6**

11. Plaintiffs herein incorporate all of the foregoing paragraphs.

12. Pursuant to N.M. Const. art. II, § 6 the Mayor of the City of Albuquerque is prohibited from all actions that **in any way** regulate any incident of the right to keep and bear arms.

13. Both the United States Constitution and the New Mexico Constitution protect the pre-existing fundamental liberty of the individual to keep and bear arms directing that the government shall not infringe upon that right.

14. It is understood that the right to keep and bear arms is not absolute but may only be limited by regulation in the state of New Mexico by state government.

15. Administrative Instruction No 5-19 violates the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article II Section 6 of the New Mexico Bill of Rights in the New Mexico Constitution.

16. Administrative Instruction No 5-20, in addition to infringing on the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article II Section 6 of the New Mexico Bill of Rights in the New Mexico Constitution, also no infringes upon the Free Expression of Speech in a traditional forum on the basis of the content of the speech by restricting the carrying of firearms

in a traditional forum such as Civic Plaza, in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article II Section 16 of the New Mexico Bill of Rights in the New Mexico Constitution

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that:

A. The Court enter an order declaring that Administrative Instruction No. 5-19 is unconstitutional and is therefore, void;

B. The Court enter an order declaring that Administrative Instruction No. 5-20 is unconstitutional and is therefore, void; and,

C. The Court enter a preliminary injunction prohibiting the enforcement of Administrative Instruction Nos. 5-19 and 5-20 during the pendency of this litigation and a permanent injunction against the enforcement of Administrative Instruction Nos. 5-19 and 5-20.

Respectfully Submitted,

WESTERN AGRICULTURE, RESOURCE  
AND BUSINESS ADVOCATES, LLP

/s/ A. Blair Dunn

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 28, 2021 I filed the foregoing via the New Mexico E-filing System causing all parties of record to be served via electronic means.

/s/ A. Blair Dunn

A. Blair Dunn, Esq.



## EXHIBIT 1

### ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO: 5-19

**TITLE:** Noting the applicability of State laws prohibiting firearms in City of Albuquerque Child Development Centers, Community Centers, Health and Social Service Centers, Multigenerational Centers, and Senior Centers, subject to certain exceptions

**PRIMARY DEPARTMENTS:** Department of Family and Community Services and Department of Senior Affairs

**SECONDARY DEPARTMENTS:** Department of Municipal Development, Albuquerque Police Department, Legal Department, Albuquerque Fire Rescue

As set forth in Administrative Instruction No. 8-5, it is the policy of the City of Albuquerque to ensure that safe and healthful working conditions exist for its employees, contractors and the general public whose work involves the conducting of business in city-owned buildings, on city-owned properties or in the course of normal business. In addition, the City may have liability under the Tort Claims Act for negligence in the operation of its facilities. Accordingly, it is the policy of the City to determine what federal, state and local laws apply to City facilities and to ensure such laws are observed and enforced.

This Administrative Instruction confirms that the City's Community Centers, Multigenerational Centers, and Senior Centers (collectively, the "Centers") all fall within the definition set forth in New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, Sections 30-7-2.1 of "school premises." In addition, Health and Social Service Centers fall within the definition set forth in NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.4, of "university premises." Pursuant to Sections 30-7-2.1 and 30-7-2.4, it is unlawful to carry firearms at any of these facilities, subject to the exceptions set forth in, and coextensive with, those statutes.

#### 1. The prohibition on deadly weapons and firearms in schools and universities

NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.1(A) (1994) makes it unlawful to carry a deadly weapon on "school premises," except by "(1) a peace officer; (2) school security personnel; (3) a student, instructor or other school-authorized personnel engaged in army, navy, marine corps or air force reserve officer training corps programs or state-authorized hunter safety training instruction; (4) a person conducting or participating in a school-approved program, class or other activity involving the carrying of a deadly weapon; or (5) a person older than nineteen years of age on school premises in a private automobile or other private means of conveyance, for lawful protection of the person's or another's person or property." Those who commit unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon on school premises may be charged with a fourth degree felony under NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.1(C).

NMSA 1978, § 30-1-12 (1963) defines "deadly weapon" as "any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; or any weapon which is capable of producing death or great bodily harm, including but not restricted to any types of daggers, brass knuckles, switchblade knives, bowie knives, poniards, butcher knives, dirk knives and all such weapons with which dangerous cuts can be given, or with which dangerous thrusts can be inflicted, including swordcanes, and any kind of sharp pointed canes, also slingshots, slung shots, bludgeons; or any other weapons with which dangerous wounds can be inflicted."

NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.4(A) (2003) makes it unlawful to carry a firearm on "university premises" except by: "(1) a peace officer; (2) university security personnel; (3) a student, instructor or other university-authorized personnel who are engaged in army, navy, marine corps or air force reserve officer training corps programs or a state-authorized hunter safety training program; (4) a person conducting or participating in a university-approved program, class or other activity involving the carrying of a firearm; or (5) a person older than nineteen years of age on university premises in a private automobile or other private means of conveyance, for lawful protection of the person's or another's person or property." Those who commit unlawful carrying of a firearm on university premises may be charged with a petty misdemeanor under NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.4(D).

## 2. Policy Rationale for State laws prohibiting firearms in public schools and universities

The US Supreme Court has long upheld laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools. See *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 626-27 (2008). The need for such a law in New Mexico has only become clearer since the 1994 and 2003 enactments of the State laws prohibiting the carrying of firearms on public school and university premises.

Between the Columbine massacre, which occurred on April 20, 1999, and the date of this Administrative Instruction, the United States has seen 68 mass K-12 "school shootings." Thirty-one of those 68 shootings occurred after December 14, 2012, when a mass shooter murdered 20 six- and seven-year-old school children at Sandy Hook Elementary, as well as six staff members who tried to protect them. Since 2013, American schools, including post-secondary, have seen 181 deaths and 358 injuries attributable to gunfire.

Three school shootings have occurred in New Mexico: (1) Roswell Berrendo Middle School with two injured on January 14, 2014; (2) Aztec High School with three fatalities, including the shooter, on December 7, 2017; and (3) Cleveland High School in Rio Rancho on February 14, 2019 with no physical injuries. These are in addition to the mass shooting that occurred at the Clovis public library on August 28, 2017, when a 16-year-old Clovis High School student killed two and injured four.

Strong policy considerations continue to underlie the State laws cited above. Like schools, mass shooters have targeted municipal centers such as community centers across the country. In 1999, a mass shooter killed one community member

and injured five people at the Los Angeles Jewish Community Center. In 2014, a mass shooter killed two people in a shooting at the Overland Park Jewish Community Center in Kansas. Most recently, a mass shooter killed 12 people and injured four more at a Virginia Beach municipal center.

Between August 1, 2015, and July 31, 2019, 27 gun offenses have been reported to the Albuquerque Police Department ("APD") at City community, health and social service, and senior centers (see attached map). On May 31, 2013, an eight-year-old girl was shot and killed at the City's own Alamosa Community Center. Most recently, on April 4, 2019, a shooting occurred at the Alamosa Community Center. Over that same time period, 510 gun offenses have been reported to APD within a two-block radius of the City's community centers, health and social service centers, multigenerational centers, and senior centers.

### 3. Applicability of Sections 30-7-2.1 and 30-7-2.4 to City facilities

In addition to the buildings and grounds that house public schools, NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.1(B)(2) defines "public school premises" as "any other public buildings or grounds, including playing fields and parking areas that are not public school property, in or on which public school-related and sanctioned activities are being performed." Under this definition, all Centers fall under the definition of public school premises.

The City's Community Centers, Multigenerational Centers, and Senior Centers are all inextricably linked to schools, provide school-related and school sanctioned activities, and even themselves serve as schools by providing various education classes. The City is party to several contracts and agreements with Albuquerque Public Schools ("APS"), reflecting joint use of the Centers. In addition, the City works with public schools in a broad array of programs and services, including, but not limited to:

- APS Access/CTAP/APS Transitional Services to provide high school age students with disabilities that need transition into areas of employment, post-secondary education/training, independent living and community connections
- APS-sanctioned or APS-related before- and after-school programming
- APS-sanctioned or APS-related school meal programs
- Performances by APS and public charter schools
- School-sanctioned transport to and from APS public schools
- Direct use of Center facilities by charter schools
- 25 playground recreation sites with APS
- Therapeutic recreation programs with APS
- Job mentorship programs
- Child and family development programs

In Fiscal Year 2019, 200,000 City youth and nearly 325,000 City adults visited City community centers. The City Playground Recreation Program served almost 270,000 children, and the City Therapeutic Recreation Program served almost



48,000 youth and 12,000 adults. The City Job Mentorship Program had an enrollment of over 1,500.

In addition to the buildings and grounds of a university, NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.4(C)(2)(b) (2003) defines "university premises" as "any other public buildings or grounds, including playing fields and parking areas that are not university property, in or on which university-related and sanctioned activities are performed." Under this definition, all four Health and Social Service Centers fall under the definition of "university premises" because they are used for the UNM Maternity & Family Planning clinic. In addition, San Pablo Young Children's Health Center leases space to UNM. City Health and Social Service Centers serve approximately 144,000 clients annually.

As the Attorney General recently noted, local governments do not have the right to pick and choose what state laws to enforce. The state laws cited above are clear and unambiguous. The State legislature could have narrowly defined "public school premises" and "university premises" to mean only those properties owned or leased by public schools or universities. Instead, the Legislature chose expressly to include buildings and areas "that are not public school property" and "that are not university property."

#### 4. Training and posting

The Department of Family & Community Services, Department of Senior Affairs, Department of Municipal Development Security Division, Legal Department, Albuquerque Police Department and the community risk reduction initiative of Albuquerque Fire Rescue are instructed to develop and implement training to ensure that affected employees are aware of the provisions of state law discussed above, and to make any required postings or public notices related to NMSA 1978, §§ 30-7-2.1 and 30-7-2.4.

Until such training is developed, City personnel who see a violation of the State laws cited in this Administrative Instruction should call 9-1-1 and take no further action.



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**Sarita Nair**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**

**August 16, 2019**  
**Effective Date**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**

**NEW MEXICO PATRIOTS  
ADVOCACY COALITION,  
LISA BRENNER,**

**Plaintiffs,**

**Case No. D-202-CV-2019-07344**

**v.**

**TIM KELLER, Mayor,  
City of Albuquerque,**

**EXHIBIT 2**

**Defendant.**

**AMENDED DECLARATION OF DEBRA WEST**

I, Debra West, declare the following:

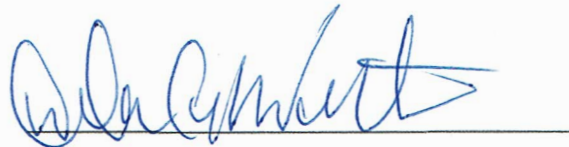
1. I am a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico.
2. I am a member of the Pro-Gun Women.
3. I am a member of the New Mexico Patriots Advocacy Coalition.
4. I became aware of the Mayor's Administrative Instruction 5-19 when he made the announcement that he had signed the same at press conference on August 17, 2019, from a KRQE article that reported. "At a rally demanding action for stricter gun laws, Mayor Tim Keller signed an administrative instruction banning firearms from all of the city's community centers, multi-generational centers, and senior centers, which serve over 200,000 kids."
5. I have attended demonstrations on Civic Plaza And city parks where I have carried my firearm openly as an expression of my support of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.
6. As a result of this action by the Mayor, and as I later learned his CAO, Sarita Nair, I now

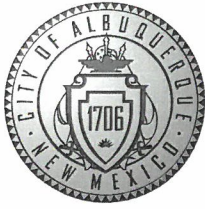
no longer feel safe attending Albuquerque's community centers, parks, Civic Plaza, and in the Bosque because I cannot bring my firearm which I lawfully possess to exercise my right to self-defense without facing the threat of prosecution for a 4<sup>th</sup> degree felony, nor do I feel safe knowing that other law-abiding citizens that will likely face the threat of a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Felony if they carry their firearms will now no longer visit these facilities either. I can now longer exercise my right to carry my firearm for self-defense at community center in Albuquerque.

7. I frequently exercise in the Bosque and feel uncomfortable not being able to carry my firearm with me during such outings.
8. If it was not for the threat of prosecution of a 4<sup>th</sup> degree felony or the fear of being defenseless, I would continue to attend meetings and community events. (I also do not feel safe having my children attend events at a community center as result of the mayor's new Instruction.)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this

26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. J. G. Smith", is written over a horizontal line.



# **EXHIBIT 3**

## **City of Albuquerque** MAYOR/CAO OFFICE

**Timothy M. Keller, Mayor**

August 31, 2020

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**ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO:** 5-20

**TITLE:** *Noting the Applicability of State Law to Conditions to Entry to City of Albuquerque Parks and Other Facilities*

**PRIMARY DEPARTMENT:** *Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Family and Community Services, Department of Senior Affairs*

**SECONDARY DEPARTMENTS:** *Albuquerque Police Department, Department of Municipal Development, Legal Department, Albuquerque Fire Rescue*

As set forth in Administrative Instruction No. 8-5 ("AI 8-5"), it is the policy of the City of Albuquerque to ensure that safe and healthful working conditions exist for its employees, contractors, and the general public whose work involves the conducting of business in city-owned buildings, on city-owned properties or in the course of normal business. Administrative Instruction No. 5-19 ("AI 5-19") provided guidance on the policy set forth under AI 8-5 to City community centers, health and social service centers, multigenerational centers, and senior centers under applicable State laws. In addition, both AI 8-5 and 5-19 indicated that the City may have liability under the Tort Claims Act for negligence in the operation of its facilities and provides the need to ensure laws are observed and enforced.

This Administrative Instruction shall:

- (1) Ensure enforcement of the State's prohibition of carrying deadly weapons, including firearms, at City property or facilities that are used for school or college related and sanctioned activities pursuant to NMSA 1978 § 30-7-2.1 and § 30-7-2.4. This includes enforcement at certain City property or facilities used for such activities but not encompassed in AI 5-19; and
  - (2) Ensure that conditions of entry to City parks and recreations centers, established by the City herein, are enforced under New Mexico's criminal trespass law, NMSA 1978 § 30-14-1(C) NMSA 1978, including a prohibition of carrying deadly weapons at certain City property or facilities.
- 1. Prohibition of carrying deadly weapons, including firearms, at city property and facilities used for school or college related and sanctioned activities**



#### **A. The prohibition on deadly weapons and firearms in schools**

NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.1(A) makes it unlawful to carry a deadly weapon on "school premises," except by "(1) a peace officer; (2) school security personnel; (3) a student, instructor or other school-authorized personnel engaged in army, navy, marine corps or air force reserve officer training corps programs or state-authorized hunter safety training instruction; (4) a person conducting or participating in a school-approved program, class or other activity involving the carrying of a deadly weapon; or (5) a person older than nineteen years of age on school premises in a private automobile or other private means of conveyance, for lawful protection of the person's or another's person or property." Those who commit unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon on school premises may be charged with a fourth degree felony under NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.1(C). NMSA 1978, § 30-1-12 defines "deadly weapon" as "any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; or any weapon which is capable of producing death or great bodily harm, including but not restricted to any types of daggers, brass knuckles, switchblade knives, bowie knives, poniards, butcher knives, dirk knives and all such weapons with which dangerous cuts can be given, or with which dangerous thrusts can be inflicted, including swordcanes, and any kind of sharp pointed canes, also slingshots, slung shots, bludgeons; or any other weapons with which dangerous wounds can be inflicted."

#### **B. Applicability of NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.1 to City property and facilities**

The state laws cited above are clear and unambiguous. The State legislature could have narrowly defined "public school premises" and "university premises" to mean only those properties owned or leased by public schools or universities. Instead, the Legislature chose expressly to include buildings and areas "that are not public school property" and "that are not university property." In addition to the buildings and grounds that house public schools, NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.1(B)(2) defines "public school premises" as "any other public buildings or grounds, including playing fields and parking areas that are not public school property, in or on which public school-related and sanctioned activities are being performed."

Under this definition, the statute's prohibition, including the exception for law enforcement officers, applies to:

- (1) City property or facilities expressly covered by AI 5-19;
- (2) City neighborhood parks, which are used as playing areas for public schools and other public school programming, including those used for the Food Services Program for Children in partnership with Albuquerque Public Schools;
- (3) City sports fields, including the Albuquerque Regional Sports Complex, and City golf courses, which are used for public school and university sports or physical education classes, but not including facilities at Shooting Range Park;
- (4) City pools, including the surrounding parking lots, which are used for school activities;
- (5) Balloon Fiesta Park, which is used for school activities;
- (6) The Albuquerque Convention Center, which is used for public school graduations and other school activities;
- (7) Civic Plaza, which educators and students from Amy Biehl Charter High School regularly use for physical education activities and in which playground equipment is located.

Exceptions: This AI is not applicable to the at Shooting Range Park, the Esperanza Bike Shop, the BMX Complex, Open Space or other Parks and Recreation Department maintenance yards or administrative business offices.

## **2. Criminal trespass and the prohibition of deadly weapons on government property**

### **A. Criminal trespass**

New Mexico's criminal trespass statute regarding government property may be used to disallow the carrying of firearms, according to an Attorney General Advisory Letter dated September 8, 2011. Under NMSA 1978, § 30-14-1(C), "Criminal trespass also consists of knowingly entering or remaining upon lands owned, operated or controlled by the state or any of its political subdivisions knowing that consent to enter or remain is denied or withdrawn by the custodian thereof." As noted by the 2011 Attorney General letter, this statute authorizes a political subdivision to consent to entry by others to its property, establish reasonable conditions to consenting to entry, and enforce such conditions. Such conditions may include banning dangerous weapons, including firearms, if the government "reasonably conclude[s] that adequate and proper security requires imposing such a condition as a requirement for members of the public generally to access the" property.

If members of the public are properly advised of a condition, including the prohibition of carrying deadly weapons, to gain entrance to a public facility, the trespass statute can be used for enforcement purposes. The facility at issue in the Attorney General letter was a district attorney's office, which counties are required to provide. The letter stated the same condition could be imposed by either the district attorney's office or the county, depending on which was the "custodian" of the property for purposes of Section 30-14-1(C). However, this analysis did not turn on whether a state agency or local government established the condition.

Provided this authority, the City of Albuquerque shall enforce this state law by ensuring adequate and proper security, including a prohibition on the carrying of deadly weapons, with the exception of law enforcement officers, property and facilities identified herein.

### **B. Prohibiting possession of deadly weapons at certain City property and facilities**

Pursuant to the City of Albuquerque's authority to impose and enforce conditions to entry to its property under New Mexico's criminal trespass statute as interpreted by the Attorney General letter dated September 8, 2011, possession of deadly weapons at the following City property and facilities is prohibited, with the exception of law enforcement officers, to ensure adequate and proper security for City personnel and members of the public:

- (1) Any City property and facilities utilized for school sanctioned activity;
- (2) City parks or facilities listed in Section 1(B)(1) – (7), .

Notice shall be posted regarding this Administrative Instruction and the enforcement of NMSA 1978, § 30-7-2.1(A) and § 30-14-1(C) at each property or facility in which this Administrative Instruction applies.

Preemption pursuant to Article II, §6 of the Constitution of New Mexico is not applicable because the right to keep and bear arms does not encompass carrying deadly weapons, including firearms, under the circumstances and at the public places set forth herein.



### **3. Prohibition of deadly weapons, including firearms, in sensitive places**

#### **A. Sensitive places**

Albuquerque saw the risk of firearms at parks on June 15, 2020. After armed counter-demonstrators confronted protestors near Tiguex Park in Old Town, tensions escalated leading to physical altercations and an armed counter-demonstrator shot a protestor four times. With the Albuquerque Police Department recovering a large number of firearms and ammunition, that incident had the potential to be much more violent it was. The City of Albuquerque has the police power to protect its inhabitants and preserve peace and order under NMSA 1978, § 3-18-1, and desires to exercise this authority to prevent future incidents like the shooting on June 15, 2020.

In declaring the Second Amendment's individual right to bear arms in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the United States Supreme Court recognized the legitimacy of prohibitions on carrying firearms in "sensitive places." *D.C. v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 626, 128 S. Ct. 2783, 2817, 171 L. Ed. 2d 637 (2008). The Court noted schools and government buildings as obvious such places, but declined to provide an exhaustive list. Courts have since found public parks to be sensitive places. Particularly, some jurisdictions have held there is no logical distinction between schools and parks where children recreate. *Warden v. Nickels*, 697 F. Supp. 2d 1221, 1224 (W.D. Wash. 2010).

In denying a challenge to a statewide ban on firearms in parks, an Illinois' court not only found there was a compelling argument that public parks were "sensitive places" but that the ban also withstood intermediate scrutiny under the Second Amendment. *People v. Bell*, 2018 IL App (1st) 153373. The law was a justified restriction to protect the police and public from dangerous weapons because large numbers of people congregate in parks for recreation.

#### **B. Prohibition of deadly weapons, including firearms, at certain City property or facilities deemed sensitive places**

In accordance with established law, in order to protect citizens exercising their First Amendment rights as well as protecting children who often congregate in public parks, recreational facilities, and plazas under a variety of circumstances, such City owned property and facilities are "sensitive places." Possession of deadly weapons is prohibited at the following "sensitive places," with the exception of law enforcement officers, to ensure adequate and proper security for City personnel and members of the public:

- (1) Any City property utilized for school sanctioned activity;
- (2) City parks and recreation facilities listed in Section 1(B)(1)-(7).

Notice shall be posted regarding this Administrative Instruction and the enforcement of NMSA 1978, § 30-18-1 at each property or facility in which this Administrative Instruction applies.

Preemption pursuant to Article II, §6 of the Constitution of New Mexico is not applicable because state law already addresses carrying deadly weapons, including firearms, under the circumstances and at the public places set forth herein and this Instruction merely clarifies the applicability of those state laws.

#### 4. Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, word, or phrase of this Administrative Instruction is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Administrative Instruction.



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Sarita Nair  
Chief Administrative Officer

8/31/20

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Effective Date