

# Meeting Minutes District 4 Coalition September 17th, 2025

**In attendance:** Academy North, Bear Canyon, Heritage East, North Domingo Baca, Quail Springs, Vista Del Norte

**Friends of D4C:** Irene Minke, Lucy Murillo

**Guests:**

**Guest Speakers:** Kathleen Cates

Meeting called to order by Lorna Howerton 6:35pm

Introduction of the Co-presidents of the coalition. board members, members at large.

**Approval of Minutes from August 20th, 2025:** No Quorum, could not be voted on and will be tabled till next month.

**Approval of Consent agenda for September 17th, 2025** No Quorum, could not be voted on and will be tabled till next month.

## **Councilor Report**

Confirmed the nature play area playground for North Domingo Baca Park, working on bathroom construction now. Arroyo Del Oso golf course monument signs are being installed at each hole. Councilor Bassan passed out her press release and response to Councilor Lewis. The copies of the responses will be attached to the minutes (last two pages). The entire committees job is to investigate Fraud, waste, and abuse.

Q: Who sits on the committee?

A: At large member, attorney, CPA, - each gets appointed and are staggered. Leah Armstrong, Steve Aguilar, Robert Aragon, Matthew Mathiason- appointed by the Mayor. Victor Guriego, Karla Martinez City's assistant CAO, represents the Mayor's administration. Additional alternate.

## **Guest Speakers - Kathleen Cates - From district 44 New Mexico State Legislature Process**

The slides of the presentation attached to the minutes.

5 precincts, 2 in Albuquerque and 3 unincorporated areas of Alameda. Put together a non-partisan presentation on how a bill gets passed through the legislation.

30 day session - It has to be asking for money or it can be on the governors call list.

60 day session- can be everything.

Ideas come from constitutes- Liens on properties - the person was not required to notify the property owner that they were going to put a lien on their property. The bill became that the person needed to notify the property owner prior to putting the lien on the property. That was an idea that they worked to become a bill.

Bill drafter is the only person that is allowed to draft the bills.

The house speaker is going to assign the bill to committees- assigned two committees in each chamber.

**\*\*House Committees, Senate Committees, and Interim Committees are listed on the slides, please defer there for the entire list.**

Interim Committees - The idea of the interim committee is to learn about your state.

Serve on two standing committees. Interim committees you can be on many or as few as you want. Some are voting and some are not.

How many people are on each committee- some interim committees are constitutionally directed. The constitution will direct the number of the voting members but not the number of members that can be on the committee.

Present in front of the committee with expert witnesses, they do get time and they can speak to the committee.

Now you have to convince the speaker to read it on the floor. Bills are allowed to be debated for up to 3 hours each.

If you get it done on The House side and then you have to do the entire thing on the Senate side.

It does not start in one spot and go to the other; it can start in the House and go to the Senate or vice versa.

Governor has 3 days to sign or Veto. If it passes in the last 5 days on the session she can sit on it for 20 days and sign, Veto or pocket veto ( where the Governor can veto and not tell you why).

Removing pocket veto from Governor on the ballot in November.

Bill start dates- Mid June, July, or a certain picked date.

[www.SOS.NM.GOV](http://www.SOS.NM.GOV) - register to vote and you can see who is donating to a candidate.

[WWW.NMlegis.com](http://WWW.NMlegis.com) - a list of the legislature, their pictures, their districts, and the bills they have worked on.

How does a committee chair decide what are going to be heard? - It is not necessarily transparent. Some can be petty or some can make a pick based on the bill.

**The slides of the presentation attached to the minutes.**

## **Officer's Report**

Co-Presidents -Lorna Howerton, Lucy Murillo - Lucy has moved to a different neighborhood and the new neighborhood is not part of the coalition yet. She is working on that. October 6th we are planning on a board meeting to talk about a reassignment of duties.

Vice President -Kathy Economy - Not in attendance

Treasurer -Judie Pellegrino - Not in attendance- \$340.46 as reported by Lorna.

Secretary – Aubrey Gladwell - 107 pounds of food were picked up and donated to Road Runner Food bank. I sent out the West Side Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (WSCONA) invitation to D4C for their Mayoral Candidate Forum on **Saturday, Sept. 13** at the **Don Newton Community Center** from **9:30 to 11:30 a.m**

## **Committee Reports**

Hospitality - Sent a get well card to Peter Nichols

Planning and Zoning- 5 applications - 3 for signs, 1 for fence, 1 for Pulte House on Harper.

## **Neighborhood Roundtable**

North Domingo Baca Semi annual meeting coming up in September.

Cherry Hills - Nothing to report.

Quail Springs - Getting ready for our annual meeting in October

Bear Canyon - Annual meeting best turn out, 75 in attendance. October 25th Trunk or Treat. Planning on something in the Spring for a garage sale.

Academy North - Eeze fiber came through and work done, with no issues. September 28th they are having a pizza party “meet your neighbors”. The beautification committee is taking care of trees that they were having issues with.

Academy Acres North - Arroyo Del Oso park done and now the front part of the school has large fences and gates.

## **New Business**

Meeting adjourned by Lorna Howerton seconded by Aubrey Gladwell @ 8:08 pm  
Next Meeting will be October 15th, 2025 @ 6:30pm



***City of Albuquerque***  
***Accountability in Government Oversight Committee***  
**P.O. Box 1293 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103**

September 17, 2025

Dan Lewis  
City Council, District 5  
City of Albuquerque

**RE: Response to September 3, 2025 Letter**

Dear Councilor Lewis,

The Accountability in Government Oversight Committee (AGOC) remains committed to ensuring that every report from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) meets the highest standards of accuracy, independence, and integrity before being released to the public. This commitment is in furtherance of the AGOC's oversight duties and responsibilities of the OIG, as required under the City's Accountability in Government Ordinance.

Contrary to the assertions in your September 3, 2025 letter and the City Council meeting on September 15, 2025, the AGOC has not, and will not, act in violation of the Ordinance or the City Charter.

We respect and acknowledge your concerns; however, the record demonstrates the AGOC's diligence to protect the credibility and reliability of the OIG's reports. The OIG submitted nine (9) reports to the AGOC on March 20, 2025, in preparation for the AGOC meeting scheduled for March 26, 2025. Given the voluminous nature of the submitted reports, and that the AGOC had previously instructed the former OIG to provide the Board with all reports to be presented **at least fourteen (14) days prior** to the scheduled meeting, the AGOC postponed the meeting to April 9, 2025 to ensure all Board members had sufficient time to meaningfully review the reports and supporting material prior to their presentation.

On April 9, 2025, the OIG presented the nine (9) reports to the AGOC for consideration. Upon review and consideration, the AGOC approved three (3) reports and deferred action on six (6) reports. The decision to defer these reports was not made lightly, and was based on serious concerns raised by all committee members regarding the quality and credibility of the reports. This deferral ensured an external Quality Assurance Review (QAR) could be conducted by an

independent third party.

REDW was contracted to conduct the QAR, which was completed on August 15, 2025. Throughout the process, the AGOC stayed in regular communication with REDW to ensure the QAR was proceeding expeditiously. Upon the completion of the QAR, REDW shared its preliminary findings with the AGOC and OIG. After being briefed by REDW on its findings during the QAR, the Interim Inspector General agreed to complete a thorough review of the deferred reports, and advised he expected to complete the reviews at a rate of two (2) reports a month.

The AGOC and the OIG are working together to ensure both transparency and accuracy. All final reports will be presented to the AGOC and published as required by City Ordinance. The AGOC will additionally publish REDW's final QAR and recommendations, as well as the original reports they reviewed as presented to the committee so the public will be able to see not only the full reports, but also the extensive work the AGOC has undertaken to ensure **all** OIG reports are accurate and reliable, and conform to every professional standard required by City Ordinance.

Importantly, the AGOC consists of five citizen volunteer members who graciously and proudly commit their time, expertise, experience, and energies to the purpose of ensuring good, transparent and accountable governance. This service is to the citizens of Albuquerque, who deserve transparent and reliable reporting that enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of their government's services. The AGOC's actions on these reports, while difficult and painstaking, have been necessary and in furtherance of these ideals.

The AGOC will meet or exceed its required meeting schedule of four (4) meetings per year, having already met on April 9, 2025 and July 30, 2025 to consider reports from the OIG and/or City Auditor. The AGOC was scheduled to meet on August 27, 2025, but this meeting was canceled due to the OIG and the City Auditor not having any reports to present to the AGOC. The AGOC's next scheduled meeting to consider reports presented by the OIG and/or City Auditor is October 29, 2025. The AGOC will continue to hold regular and special meetings as needed to fulfill its duties as required by City Ordinance in its continued commitment to the people of Albuquerque. Importantly, the OIG has not presented any reports to the AGOC, whether new reports or the deferred reports, since the April 9, 2025 meeting.

Finally, as mandated by City Ordinance, the OIG cannot make these reports public until fifteen (15) days from the date of the AGOC's last review or consideration. The OIG has not presented the reports back to the AGOC, and the AGOC has not reviewed or considered the reports since deferral. Therefore, the reports cannot be made public at this time.

We respectfully request that future concerns be directed to the AGOC for clarification, to prevent the spread of misinformation and to support an informed public understanding of this critical process.

Sincerely,

**Accountability and Government Oversight Committee  
City of Albuquerque**

Victor Griego, Chairperson  
Esteban A. Aguilar, Jr., Vice-Chair  
Robert J. Aragon, Committee Member  
Lia Armstrong, Committee Member  
Brook Bassan, Albuquerque City Council President, Committee Member  
Carla Martinez, Associate Chief Administrative Officer, Committee Member

cc.

Samantha Sengel, Chief Administrative Officer  
Lauren Keefe, City Attorney  
Klarissa Pena, Albuquerque City Council Vice President, District 3  
Louie Sanchez, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 1  
Joaquin Baca, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 2  
Nichole Rogers, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 6  
Tammy Fiebelkorn, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 7  
Dan Champine, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 8  
Renee Grout, Albuquerque City Council Member, District 9



# CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE City Council

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**President Brook Bassan** District 4

**Vice President Klarissa J. Peña** District 3

**Isaac Padilla**  
Council Director

	District 1	<b>Dan Lewis</b>	District 6	District 7	<b>Renée Grout</b>
<b>Louie Sanchez</b>	<b>Joaquín Baca</b>	District 5	<b>Tammy</b>	<b>Dan Champine</b>	District 9
	District 2	<b>Nichole Rogers</b>	<b>Fiebelkorn</b>	District 8	

## For Immediate Release:

September 5, 2025

Contact:  
DawnMarie Emillio, Policy Analyst  
City Council District 4  
Desk: 505-768-3101 | Email: [dawnmarie@cabq.gov](mailto:dawnmarie@cabq.gov)

## Accountability in Government Oversight Committee Emphasizes Accuracy and Integrity in Release of Inspector General Reports

*AGOC process assures accountability and reliability.*

Albuquerque, NM - The **Accountability in Government Oversight Committee (AGOC)** reaffirmed today its commitment to ensuring that all reports from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) meet the highest standards of accuracy, independence, and integrity before being released to the public.

While concerns have been raised about delays in publishing six deferred reports, the record clearly demonstrates diligence and responsibility. By prioritizing thorough review over speed, the AGOC has sought to protect the credibility and reliability of these important documents.

“The people of Albuquerque deserve accountability, but they also deserve accuracy,” said **City Council President Brook Bassan, District 4**, who serves as a non-voting member of the committee. “Rushing reports to publication without proper review would undermine public trust and would not be good governance. The timeline shows that we are moving forward carefully and responsibly.”

### AGOC Quality Assurance Timeline

**March 20, 2025:** OIG submitted nine reports to be heard at the March 26 meeting.



**March 26, 2025:** Meeting postponed to April 9 to allow more time for review.

**March 31, 2025:** Former Inspector General issued an *“Update to Citizens of Albuquerque”* that was received by the Association of Inspectors General (AIG).

**April 2, 2025:** Letter received from the Association of Inspectors General titled *“Five Month Delay in AGOC Meeting Undermines Transparency and Oversight.”*

**April 3, 2025:** Chair Griego issued a committee-approved response to AIG President Will Fletcher.

**April 4, 2025:** AIG replied, in part:

*“We have carefully reviewed your letter and understand the concerns expressed by AGOC. We are encouraged to learn that the committee will convene on April 9 to review the reports.”*

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**April 9, 2025:** AGOC acted on three reports and deferred six pending external review. **April 30, 2025:** REDW contracted by the Office of Internal Audit to conduct an external Quality Assurance Review (QAR).

**May 1, 2025:** AGOC notified OIG of the external QAR for all nine reports.

**July 29, 2025:** REDW submitted draft QAR of nine OIG reports.

**July 30, 2025:** REDW contract extended to complete the review.

**August 15, 2025:** REDW submitted final QAR.

**September 4, 2025:** Interim Inspector General provided an update with the following

expectations: • Two reports (possibly three) are to be presented at a special meeting in late

September. • Two additional reports to be presented at the October 29, 2025 meeting.

### **Commitment to Transparency**

To preserve accuracy and integrity, any updates or follow-up information from the OIG will be issued as **official addenda** to the original reports. Reports issued by the former Inspector General will remain unchanged.

“It is my opinion, the public’s strong interest in timely access to OIG reports is recognized and shared. However, accuracy and integrity cannot be compromised, even in the face of upcoming elections,” said Bassan. “The Committee’s deliberate actions demonstrate its ongoing, professional commitment to upholding statutory responsibilities, ensuring accountability and transparency, and protecting Albuquerque from fraud, waste, and abuse.”

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[City Council President Brook Bassan](#) represents District 4, Albuquerque's Northeast Heights. She was first elected to the City Council in November 2019 and serves as City Council President.