CITY of ALBUQUERQUE TWENTY THIRD COUNCIL

CO	OUNCI	L BILL NO. F/S 0-19-66 ENACTMENT NO. D-ZDIT-UIT							
SP	ONSC	RED BY: Trudy Jones							
	1	ORDINANCE							
	2	AMENDING CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 2, PART 7 OF THE TRAFFIC CODE,							
	3	RELATING TO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN MEDIANS AND CERTAIN ROADSID							
	4	AREAS AND PEDESTRIAN-VEHICLE INTERACTIONS; AND AMENDING							
	5	ASSOCIATED DEFINITIONS WITHIN THE TRAFFIC CODE – CHAPTER 8,							
	6	ARTICLE 2, PART 1.							
	7	WHEREAS, in 2017 the City enacted O-17-51 (Enactment O-2017-028) which							
	8	was aimed at promoting pedestrian safety as it relates to persons standing in							
	9	or occupying unsafe locations within roadways and to unsafe							
	10	pedestrian/vehicle interactions (the "Pedestrian Safety Ordinance"); and							
	11	WHEREAS, since its enactment New Mexico continues to have one of the							
	12	highest rates of pedestrian fatalities in the U.S. and on December 30, 2018, the							
	13	Albuquerque Journal reported that more than 400 pedestrians had been struck							
≥ .5	14	by vehicles in the City that year; and							
- New Jeletior	14 15 16	WHEREAS, Cities across the Country, including in New Mexico, continue to							
_ <u>_</u> _	16	report pedestrian injuries and deaths resulting from people standing in							
eriai ial-T	17	dangerous parts of the roadway like medians and highway ramps, for							
Mat.	18	example:							
ored Material ah Material-1	17 18 19	 The Santa Fe Reporter reported three instances from January 2018 							
9005	20	through January 2019 of pedestrians being struck while standing within street							
der:	21	medians in Santa Fe							
	22	(https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/witness-truck-hit-							
+ Bracketed/Undersco	23	panhandler-took-off/article_b5871710-c85c-5f47-a3fb-d3d2af8ae396.html,							
	24	https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/police-driver-on-meth-							
	25	seriously-injured-panhandler-in-crash/article 2a32a7da-48ef-58e2-bb13-							
	26	46b81cd90631.html,							
	27	https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/police-man-driving-							

1	under-the-influence-hit-man/article_f81311e6-b1d9-5354-93a2-				
2	bc8ab84bcfc5.html);				
3	 On May 17, 2013, NBC News 4, Washington D.C., reported that a 				
4	pedestrian was struck and killed by a van in Wheaton, Maryland while				
5	standing in a median (https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Woman-Hit-				
6	By-Truck-207724131.html)				
7	 On May 16, 2017 KSPR News 33, Springfield, Missouri, reported that 				
8	a panhandler was struck by vehicle and injured while standing in a median				
9	(https://www.kspr.com/content/news/Panhandler-struck-by-car-returns-to-				
10	Springfield-intersection-422567784.html);				
11	 On June 20, 2017, NBC News 4, Washington D.C., reported that a 				
12	pedestrian was struck and killed by an SUV in Germantown Maryland while				
13	standing in a median (https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Man-				
14	Fatally-Struck-by-Car-in-Germantown-429681653.html);				
15	 On August 11, 2017, the Charlotte Observer, Charlotte, North 				
16	Carolina, reported that a panhandler was struck and killed by a vehicle near a				
17	median (https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article166646317.html);				
18	 On September 2, 2018, WTOP News, Prince George County, 				
19	Maryland, reported that a pedestrian was killed after being struck by a vehicle				
20	while walking along the shoulder of a roadway access ramp				
21	(https://wtop.com/prince-georges-county/2018/09/pedestrian-struck-killed-on-				
22	greenbelt-md-ramp/);				
23	 On October 18, 2018, the Trussville "Patch" publication, Trussville, 				
24	Alabama, reported that a landscape worker was struck and killed by a vehicle				
25	while working in the median (https://patch.com/alabama/trussville/fatal-				
26	accident-center-point-parkway-investigation-ongoing);				
27	 On November 15, 2018, CP24 News, Toronto, Canada, reported that a 				
28	19-year-old student was struck and killed by a vehicle while in a median				
29	(https://www.cp24.com/news/police-19-year-old-student-struck-and-killed-by-				
30	<u>vehicle-in-oshawa-1.4178190</u>);				

• On November 30, 2018, the Denver Post reported that a pedestrian was hospitalized after being struck by vehicle while standing in a median

1	(https://www.denverpost.com/2018/11/30/federal-traffic-westminster-					
2	pedestrian-auto-crash/);					
3	 On December 10, 2018, NBC 10 News, Rhode Island, reported that a 					
4	5-year-old girl was killed, and her mother and 2-month-old sister were					
5	hospitalized after being struck by a vehicle while in a median					
6	(https://turnto10.com/news/local/car-strikes-pedestrians-killing-5-year-old-					
7	girl);					
8	 On December 29, 2018, CBS 5 News, Phoenix, Arizona, reported a 					
9	pedestrian fatality resulting when a woman was struck by a vehicle while					
10	standing within a street median in Phoenix					
11	(https://www.azfamily.com/news/woman-struck-killed-in-hit-and-run-crash-in-					
12	phoenix/article_14c06ac0-0b73-11e9-a982-c73abfed6eb4.html);					
13	 On December 29, 2018, WPRI 12 News, Providence, Rhode Island, 					
14	reported that a pedestrian was seriously injured after being struck by a vehicle					
15	while standing in a median (https://www.wpri.com/news/local-					
16	news/providence/homeless-woman-recovering-in-hospital-after-being-struck-					
17	<u>in-providence/1679372246</u>);					
18	 On January 25, 2019, the Times of San Diego reported that a 					
19	pedestrian was struck by a vehicle and killed along a free-way onramp					
20	(https://timesofsandiego.com/crime/2019/01/25/pedestrian-struck-killed-on-i-					
21	805-ramp-during-evening-commute/);					
22	 On May 29, 2019, the "Journal & Topics" newspaper, Des Plaines, 					
23	Illinois, reported that a pedestrian was injured while standing in the median					
24	when a vehicle struck a traffic signal causing it to fall into the median					
25	(https://www.journal-topics.com/articles/accident-in-des-plaines-sends-					
26	pedestrian-to-hospital/); and					
27	WHEREAS, except for pedestrian refuge islands that are designed to					
28	facilitate safe road crossings, no median is likely to be completely safe for					
29	occupancy by pedestrians and occupancy of any median by any pedestrian,					
30	other than for official maintenance, construction, or utility purposes, is					
31	strongly discouraged; and					
32	WHEREAS, notwithstanding that occupancy of any median by pedestrians					

is discouraged, the Pedestrian Safety Ordinance attempts to identify and

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1	prohibit the use by pedestrians of only those medians that pose risks to
2	pedestrian safety due to their narrowness, to their presence in high-speed,
3	high-intensity roadways, or to their surface characteristics that may present
4	trip hazards or visual obstructions; and
5	WHEREAS, although the Pedestrian Safety Ordinance is presently under a
6	stay of enforcement pending the outcome of a lawsuit challenging certain
7	aspects of the law, the amendments proposed herein will make certain non-
8	substantive clarifications within the Ordinance in anticipation of its potential
9	enforcement at some point in the future.
10	BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
11	ALBUQUERQUE:
12	SECTION 1: Amending Chapter 8, Article 2, Part 1, Section 2 – the
13	"Definitions" section of the Traffic Code to add the following definitions in
14	alphabetical order, and otherwise leaving existing definitions unchanged:

"Landscaped Area – the area located within a public way where natural ground covers such as decorative gravel, wood chips or boulders, and living vegetative materials such as trees, grasses, vines, shrubs or flowers have been installed. Landscaped Area does not include concrete, brick or other equivalent hard surface.

Median- the area of raised land that separates opposing lanes of traffic on divided roadways.

Travel Lane – the portion of the roadway dedicated to the movement of motor vehicles traveling from one destination to another where a motor vehicle may not remain stationary indefinitely without eventually obstructing the free flow of traffic, and not including shoulders, bicycle lanes, or on-street parking."

SECTION 2: Amending Chapter 8, Article 2, Part 7, Section 2 of the Traffic Code as follows:

"§ 8-2-7-2 OCCUPYING ROADWAYS, CERTAIN MEDIANS AND ROADSIDE AREAS PROHIBITED: CERTAIN PEDESTRIAN INTERACTIONS WITH VEHICLES PROHIBITED.

(A) It is unlawful for any person to stand in any travel lane of a street, highway, or controlled access roadway or in any travel lane of the exit

or entrance ramps thereto;

- (B) It is unlawful for any person to access, use, occupy, congregate or assemble within six feet of a travel lane of an entrance or exit ramp to Interstate 25, Interstate 40, or to Paseo del Norte at Coors Boulevard NW, Second Street NW, Jefferson Street NW, or Interstate 25, except on a grade separated sidewalk or designated pedestrian way, unless reasonably necessary because of an emergency situation where such area provides the only opportunity for refuge from vehicle traffic or other safety hazard;
- (C) It is unlawful for any person to access, use, occupy, congregate, or assemble within any median not suitable for pedestrian use, unless reasonably necessary during an otherwise lawful street crossing at an intersection or designated pedestrian crossing, or because of an emergency situation where the median provides the only opportunity for refuge from vehicle traffic or other safety hazard. For purposes of this section, a "median not suitable for pedestrian use" is:
- (1) Any portion of a median that is less than six feet in width, and located within a roadway with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or faster or located within 25 feet of an intersection with such a roadway; or
- (2) Is the landscaped area of the median as defined by this Traffic Code; or
- (3) Is otherwise identified by signage as not suitable for pedestrian use by the City Traffic Engineer based on identifiable safety standards, including but not limited to an unsuitable gradient or other objectively unsuitable features.
- (D) It is unlawful for any pedestrian to engage in any physical interaction or exchange with the driver or occupants of any vehicle within a travel lane unless reasonably required because of an emergency situation. For purposes of this section, a "physical interaction or exchange" is conduct by which a pedestrian intentionally makes physical contact with a vehicle in a travel lane or with any of its occupants, either directly or with an object.
- (E) It is unlawful for any occupant of a motor vehicle within any travel lane or intersection to engage in any physical interaction or exchange

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with a pedestrian unless reasonably required because of an emergency situation. For purposes of this section, a "physical interaction or exchange" is conduct by which an occupant of a motor vehicle in a travel lane intentionally makes physical contact with a pedestrian, either directly or with an object.

(F) Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing maintenance or construction activities within medians or roadside areas by public agencies or agents thereof, entering or exiting a bus or other form of public transit at authorized pick up and drop off locations, or as preventing physical interactions or exchanges between pedestrians and occupants of vehicles where the vehicle is lawfully stopped or pulled over outside of a travel lane, or parked at a location where on-street parking is permitted."

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance. The Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

SECTION 4. COMPILATION. The ordinance amendment prescribed by SECTIONS 1, and 2 shall amend, be incorporated in and made part of the Revised ordinances of Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1994.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect five days after publication by title and general summary.

	1	PASSED AND ADOPTED	THIS	17 th	_ DAY OF	<u>June</u>	, 2019
	2	BY A VOTE OF: 8		FOR_	1	A	GAINST.
	3						
	4	Against: Peña					
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	7				1 N		
	8		Klarissa-	J. Peña,	President		
	9		City Cou	ncil			
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	13	APPROVED THIS	DAY O	F			, 2019
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<u>.</u>	17	Bill No. F/S O-19-66					
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F Bra	29	Katy Duhigg, City Clerk	Θ		-		
<u>-</u> 5	30	raty builings, city clerk					
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City of Albuquerque

Office of the City Clerk

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Katy Duhigg, City Clerk

Interoffice Memorandum

July 10, 2019

To: CITY COUNCIL

From: Camille Cordova, City Clerk Executive Assistant

Subject: BILL NO. F/S O-19-66; ENACTMENT NO. O-2019-017

I hereby certify that on July 8, 2019, the Office of the City Clerk received Bill No. F/S O-19-66 as signed by the president of the City Council, Klarissa J. Pena. Enactment No. O-2019-017 was passed at the June 17, 2019 City Council meeting. Mayor Keller did not sign the approved Ordinance within the 10 days allowed for his signature and did not exercise his veto power. Pursuant to the Albuquerque City Charter Article XI, Section 3, this Ordinance is in full effect without Mayor's approval or signature. This memorandum shall be placed in the permanent file for Bill No. F/S O-19-66.

Sincerely,

Katy Duhigg City Clerk