

# AGENDA

## GALLUP CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020; 11:00 A.M.



Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor

Linda Garcia  
Councilor, District #1

Michael Schaaf  
Councilor, District #2

Yogash Kumar  
Councilor, District #3

Fran Palochak  
Councilor, District #4

Maryann Ustick, City Manager  
Curtis Hayes, City Attorney

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** In accordance with the public health order issued by the New Mexico Department of Health, the meeting will be physically closed to the public; however, it will be accessible to the public via the following technology service:

Facebook Live stream through the City of Gallup's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CityOfGallup/>

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Roll Call**

**C. Discussion/Action Topics**

1. Request for Street Closure on Coal Avenue Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets for a Temporary Street Mural Project to be Held on Friday, June 19, 2020 Beginning at 6:00 P.M. – Kara Smith, Executive Director, Gallup MainStreet/Arts and Cultural District

**D. Motion to Adjourn**

*Pursuant to the "Open Meetings Act", NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 through 10-15-4 of the State of New Mexico, this Agenda was posted at a place freely accessible to the public 72 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.*

## **Discussion/Action Topic 1**

Request for Street Closure on Coal Avenue Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets  
for a Temporary Street Mural Project to be Held on  
Friday, June 19, 2020 Beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Kara Smith, Executive Director, Gallup MainStreet/Arts and Cultural District

June 12, 2020

Dear Mayor Bonaguidi,

Gallup is in pain. In the last three months, we have experienced the challenges of a pandemic that has impacted our area with a higher disease burden and higher rate of death than anywhere else in the nation. Our day-to-day lives have been radically changed - our children have found their school year cut short, we've been bereft of our community as we isolate ourselves, and we have seen our local economy stressed by lock-downs, lock-outs and curfews. We have, in the last two weeks, found our own expression of the pain of racism and police brutality with the largest solidarity protest in this city's recent memory.

We are a group of citizens (including teachers, health care workers, business owners, and artists) that are proud to continue Gallup's history in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are heartened by the support you and the city showed during the recent peaceful Black Lives Matter protests against the murder of innocent lives, and encouraged by your acknowledgment of the negative role systemic racism plays in our cities and society, especially as that pertains to law enforcement. We'd like to continue the work of solidarity and unity by sending a message to our community and beyond through the creation of a large-scale street mural in Downtown Gallup.

**About the mural:** This mural will be designed by prominent local artist, Jerry Brown, with input from community members. It will measure at least 25 ft by 80 ft and will be presented on the street surface, creating a striking visual both at the street level and from above. The primary focus will be the slogan "Disarm Racism", written in several languages, accompanied by a hummingbird. The names of individuals who were victims of police brutality will be incorporated, as well smaller messages related to the main slogan, including "Black Lives Matter" (see figure 1 at the end of this brief proposal).

We propose that the mural be located downtown between 2nd to 3rd Street on Coal Avenue, which we understand will be going under construction this summer, making this a temporary installation. Alternative sites under consideration including between 2nd and 3rd street on Aztec Ave, or the walkway between Aztec and Coal Ave. (see Figures 2 and 3)

Completion of the mural itself is intended to be an act of healing. Community members have been invited to donate time and money towards the project. Mr Brown will be completing the project with these volunteers who will adhere to social distancing protocols and wear masks for the duration. We will organize an accompanying forum for community members to rally and speak about their experiences with systemic racism and to discuss ways that we can begin to address these issues.

**Project Purpose:** We aim to heal and galvanize a way forward with this mural. We would like to create an opportunity for community expression of the pain of racism and to use this event as a platform for a productive discussion of needed reforms. The planned protest of police brutality

and racism last week provoked a response of fear of property damage among businesses last week; the presence of militia frightened the protestors who had hoped to march peacefully. We would like to use this as an opportunity to move beyond that atmosphere of fear and division, replacing the militant image of gunmen standing on the rooftops of downtown Gallup with a supportive presence downtown in our business district so that local residents and visitors to our city understand the community's strong stance against racism.

Mr. Bonaguidi, in order to help us to execute this vision, we ask that you:

- Provide official city support for this project.
- Mobilize appropriate resources to close this block downtown for the project to be safely carried out on June 19, 2020, starting at 6 PM so as to minimize disruption and avoid the daytime heat.
- Be present at the unveiling and appropriately socially-distant town forum that will take place tentatively on June 20, 2020.

Regards,

Concerned Citizens of Gallup NM

Figure 1: Mockup of Proposed Mural



Figure 2: Proposed Site, Coal St

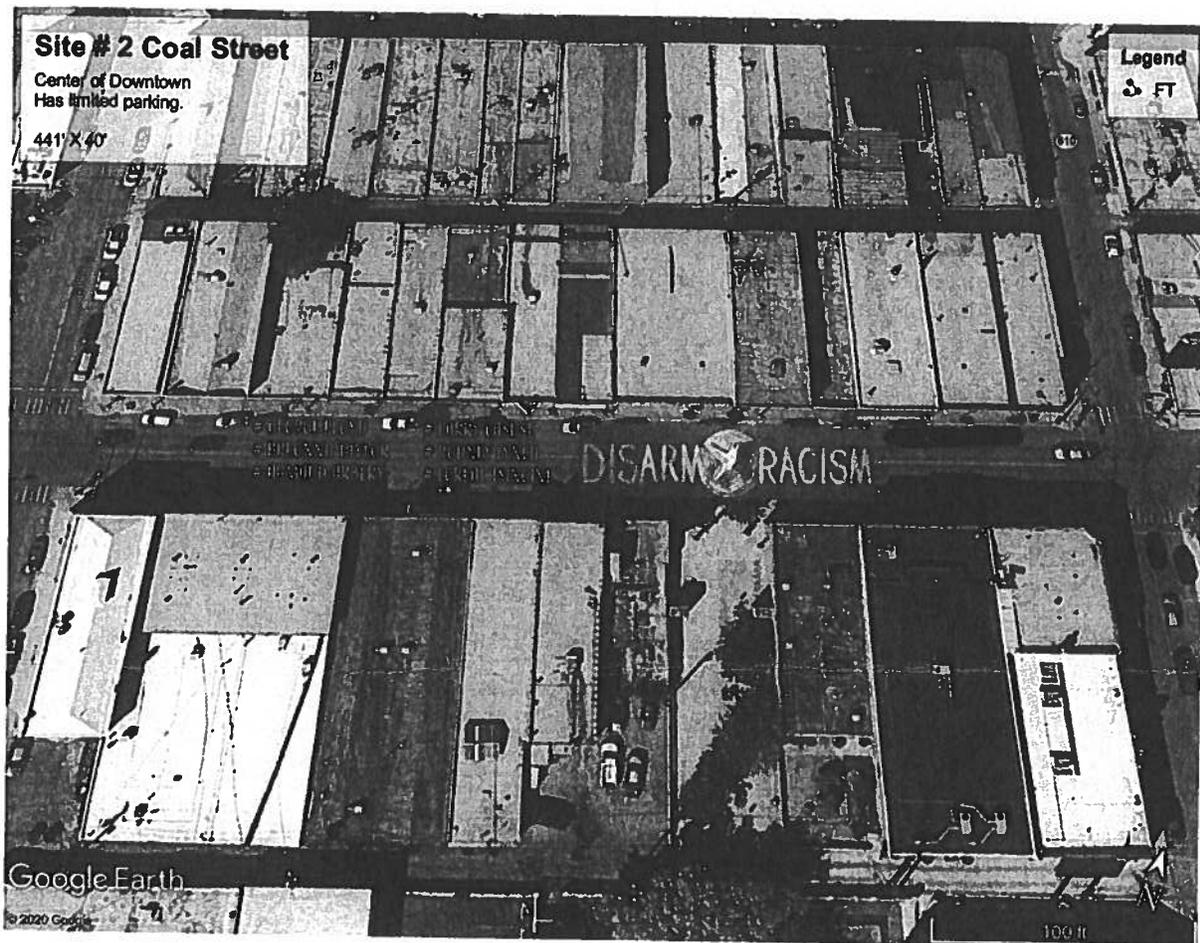


Figure 3: Proposed Site, Aztec St by Courthouse Plaza

