



To: Mayor Alan Webber
Santa Fe City Councilors
CC: Kyle Land, *Albuquerque Journal*; Daniel Chacón, *Santa Fe New Mexican*
From: League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
Date: October 9, 2020
Re: Health and Safety Task Force – Open Meetings

Mayor Webber and Councilors:

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County always recommends that local governments go beyond statutory open meetings requirements in their efforts toward open, accessible governance. We believe that local governments should provide timely and complete information to constituents on current topics, encourage input and listen to their constituents. The issues that will be considered by the city's new Health and Safety Task Force are of local, regional and national concern. As it proceeds, affected residents, all of us, should know what this task force addresses and how it operates.

The League opposes any proposed resolution that would give the committee an option to close its meetings to the public. Lack of openness in public safety is part of the problem; as such it can hardly be part of the solution. Any task force members who are unable to conduct this business in public have the option of withdrawing from the work.

The League also supports the position of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government which has stated that these meetings should be public because public funds are at stake.

The League urges members of the governing body to oppose a resolution that would allow the Health and Safety Task Force to close its meetings to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Furlanetto".

Christine Furlanetto, Chair
LWVSFC Action & Advocacy Committee