RESOLUTION NO. 2021-1785

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 227 OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 55TH LEGISLATURE AND REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL POLICE REFORM

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington has taken meaningful steps to ensure that the Police Department is a well-trained department; and

WHEREAS, safety and justice can be achieved when working with law enforcement and providing the tools to achieve community safety while implementing policies that establish the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and transparency in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, SB 227 does not achieve the goal of creating necessary change for establishing the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and transparency in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, SB 227 increases the risk to law enforcement officers’ safety by imposing use of force rules that place the safety of criminal safety above the safety of officers; and

WHEREAS, SB 227 will cause unnecessary risk to law enforcement’s safety and will take away law enforcement’s ability to use less lethal means of force by banning those tools; and

WHEREAS, SB 227 fails to address the organizational changes that reform demands by shifting resources away from training, crisis intervention teams, and community policing, leaving the most vulnerable community members at risk; and

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington and Farmington Police Department continue to strive to provide training in de-escalation, community policing, and mental health response; and

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington will continue to implement reform and to address necessary changes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the City of Farmington:

1) City of Farmington opposes SB 227 as the bill will divert valuable resources from programs, services, and tools and will hamper the reforms and progress made by the Farmington Police Department.

2) City of Farmington opposes SB 227 for the risk that the bill creates to the safety of law enforcement within the city and the State of New Mexico.

3) The City of Farmington Police Department has already prohibited the use of choke holds.

4) The City of Farmington Police Department has instituted a Use of Force division to review uses of force for policy and law violations by its officers.

PASSED, SIGNED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of February, 2021.

Nate Duckett, Mayor

Andrea Jones, City Clerk