(For Immediate Release) The City of Santa Fe’s nine-member Public Bank Task Force, appointed by Mayor Gonzales and the Santa Fe City Council, will hold a Public Forum, Monday, November 20 from 5:30 to 8:00pm in City Council Chambers. The forum is open to the general public and being held at City Hall to provide the best amplification and broadcast capabilities.

The Public Bank Task Force, which began its deliberations in September, was charged with researching the steps required to create a Public Bank for Santa Fe and existing regulatory barriers. The Task Force, midway in its six-month assignment, will present an interim report on its findings to the City Council’s Finance Committee on December 4th that will include public input gathered at this forum.

Following an introduction and progress update by Chair David Buchholtz, each of the Task Force’s four subcommittees will provide the public with an overview of what they have learned through their extensive, ongoing research on legal issues, banking regulations, public bank capitalization and governance. These reports will explain both the potential challenges revealed and the new opportunities discovered during their work to date. The Task Force will seek public response to the work of the subcommittees.

The majority of the forum will be devoted to questions and an open discussion with members of the public about what they would like a Public Bank to achieve for our community. Key questions that the Task Force would like forum attendees to consider include:

- What community needs do you believe a public bank could uniquely address?
- What might change or transform in Santa Fe as a result of establishing a public bank here?
- How could a public bank enhance or enable existing entities (community banks, credit unions, city staff, etc.), to be more effective in the pursuit of a thriving local economy that benefits all of our residents?
- What do you believe would be the compelling value added of this financial institution?
Following the submission of its interim report to the City Council’s Finance Committee, the Task Force will continue its scope of work, culminating with a final report due in early 2018.

Members of the Public Bank Task Force include: Santa Fe Finance Department Director Adam Johnson or his representative; three finance and banking professionals, J. Wayne Miller, Randolph M. Hibben and Darla Brewer; two attorneys experienced in finance and banking, Kelly C. Huddleston and David P. Buchholtz; one professional in state and federal banking regulation, Judy A. Cormier; and two citizens at large, Robert A. Mang, president of Regenesis, LLC and Elaine Sullivan of Banking on New Mexico.

More detailed information on a Public Bank for Santa Fe, including recordings of Public Bank Task Force meetings and national news on the movement to establish public banks in other states and cities, can be found at the Banking on New Mexico’s web site, http://bankingonnemexico.org/

**Banking on New Mexico** was organized in 2012 by the Santa Fe grassroots organization *WeArePeopleHere!* under the leadership of the late political commentator, public interest lawyer, peace negotiator, and journalist, Craig Barnes. Banking on New Mexico works to extend the foundational democratic values of *WeArePeopleHere!* — and to promote economic justice at the local level by supporting concepts that will put the people’s money to work here at home, where it can be an engine for reducing debt and growing revenue for our community.

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