

THE OFFICE *of* BUSINESS ADVOCACY

Advancing New Mexico business and enterprise by promoting expansion, retention and growth through resolving bureaucratic, intergovernmental and public policy problems affecting job creators

The Office of Business Advocacy (OBA):

- ▶ Began under the leadership of Governor Susana Martinez and Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Jon Barela in January 2011
- ▶ Has two business advocates, Director Dora Dominguez and Special Projects Manager, Carlos Beserra, dedicated to assisting job creators with breaking through regulatory barriers by working with the identified state or local permitting, licensing or taxation agencies to resolve issues
- ▶ Works with the Small Business Development Center's statewide network, local chambers of commerce and economic development organizations to connect with local businesses

The Office of Business Advocacy has assisted close to 200 businesses, helped in creating over 2,000 jobs and has helped save 187 jobs since its inception.



Among the many businesses assisted by The Office of Business Advocacy are (left to right): The Medical Resort at Fiesta Park, Old Martina's Hall and Border Foods, Inc.



“The Office of Business Advocacy is a great service for job creators who may encounter roadblocks during any step of the business process. This office has led to the opening of businesses, keeping New Mexicans employed and getting people back to work by preventing small businesses from being immersed in a maze of red tape.”

– Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Jon Barela

Office of Business Advocacy Successes:



CRYO ENERGY (left), a geo-thermal power plant project near Lordsburg, was faced with a long permitting process before it could begin construction on its new facility. OBA helped to create legislative reform to streamline the geo-thermal permitting process.

THE MEDICAL RESORT AT FIESTA PARK, an Albuquerque skilled-nursing facility, ran into issues with the timeline to obtain full licensure. OBA worked with the Department of Health to create and implement a detailed timeline for full licensure and with the Regulations and Licensing Department to help the nursing facility meet its deadlines. The facility received full licensure in July 2012 and hired 85 employees.



MURRAY HOTEL (left): The owners of the historic Silver City hotel contacted Cabinet Secretary Jon Barela, who directed OBA staff to work with the Regulations and Licensing Department to resolve permitting issues delaying the hotel's renovation project. The certificate of occupancy permit was acquired and the hotel opened, with 40 employees.

BORDER FOODS, INC., a Deming green chile processor, contacted OBA about the status of the company's minor-use permit application. OBA worked with the New Mexico Environment Department to help the company meet the timeline needed to issue the permit. As a result, 200 jobs were saved and Border Foods now employs both seasonal and full-time employees.

OLD MARTINA'S HALL, a Ranchos De Taos restaurant, ran into an issue when applying for its beer and wine license. After the restaurant had been denied the variance permit four times, OBA stepped in to assist, the variance was granted and the restaurant recently opened, with 35 employees on staff.

For more information about the OBA:
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