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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Dedication Ceremony of Baby Box in Hobbs

The City of Hobbs Commission and Staff are proud to announce the dedication ceremony of the Hobbs “baby box” to be held on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at Fire Station 1, establishing this fire station as a “safe haven site.” A safe haven site shall accept an infant without the individual or parent being subject to criminal prosecution. This installation is a safe place for those with newborn children and those up to 90 days old to surrender their children without worry of repercussions. This Safe Haven Baby Box is about the safety and future of the child. The responsibility of a parent is waived without judgment or punishment in order to preserve the child’s health and wellbeing.

The baby box at Fire Station 1 is an environmentally controlled incubator device designed to keep an infant in a secure and safe environment with sufficient oxygen, a comfortable temperature and equipped with a transparent door and safety alarm to immediately notify the operator(s) of the that an infant has been placed in the device. Once Staff are in contact with the child, the appropriate authorities will be contacted in order for the child to receive medical treatment and be deemed eligible to be enrolled in benefits and services.

This is the second baby box to be installed in the state of New Mexico. After a year of research, raising funds and planning, the City of Hobbs Commission and Staff feel confident this device will create a safer environment for future babies and families. Fire Station 1 was chosen as the location for a baby box as it is considered a medical services provider with Staff available seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day and with regular monitoring. Funding came from several contributors:

- State of New Mexico (grant) - \$10,000
- #PainFreeBirth (fundraiser/donation) - \$10,700
- MECA Therapies, LLC - \$1,300

City Manager Manny Gomez stated, “It has been over a year of anticipating the completion of this project. Many members of both the public and our own staff have shown interest in its progress, and we are grateful for that support and encouragement. This installation is not about the adults but about the child. We hope it provides a trusted, safe, secure Safe Have Baby Box. I would like to share a sincere thank you to our Safe Haven Committee for their diligence, creativity and communication to establish Hobbs’ first Safe Haven Baby Box.”

For anyone wishing to be involved with intent to share family or child care information or services, please contact the City of Hobbs Communications Department at [communications@hobbsnm.org](mailto:communications@hobbsnm.org) or (575)391-4169.

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