Proclamation

WHEREAS, Belen was founded in 1740 as Nuestra Senora de Belen, or Our Lady of Bethlehem, by a group of Spanish colonists led by Captain Don Diego Torres and Antonio Salazar; and

WHEREAS, The original Belen Land Grant consisted of approximately 200,000 acres, and by the 1790s, grew from a precinct to a district with a population of 1,695, developing the area into a mercantile center; and

WHEREAS, In 1880, the first railroad tracks arrived in Belen, bringing in a depot, and with it, the bright future of a rail yard and a major economic boom; and

WHEREAS, the United States General Land Office established the unincorporated Town of Belen in 1884, and by the turn of the century, local merchant John Becker had designed a commercial and residential plan for the town; and

WHEREAS, Belen was officially incorporated as a municipality in 1918, originally called the "Village of Belen," later called the "Town of Belen" by 1940, and finally called the "City of Belen" by 1966; and

WHEREAS, Belen will be celebrating its 275th birthday on December 9, 2015 - the date of our first official settlement - and will be dedicating the year of 2016 as a year of celebration to honor our past, embrace the present, and look boldly to the future;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jerah R. Cordova, Mayor of the City of Belen, do hereby proclaim 2016 as a year of celebrating the City of Belen's 275th Anniversary in Belen, New Mexico, and encourage all citizens to take part in this observance.

Done this 7th day of December 2015.

Jerah R. Cordova, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leona Vigil, City Clerk

CITY OF BELEN
INCORPORATED
SEAL
1918
VALENCIA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO