



## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Jason Simpson, City Manager

**Prepared by:** Gina Gonzalez, Director of Economic Development and Legislative Affairs

**Date:** February 24, 2026

**Subject:** **Business in Action Monthly Spotlight – La Unica Barrio Cocina y Tequila**

### **Recommendation**

Recognize La Unica Barrio Cocina y Tequila as the City of Lake Elsinore's Business in Action Monthly Spotlight for February 2026.

### **Background**

The City of Lake Elsinore's Business in Action Monthly Spotlight highlights outstanding local businesses that contribute to the community's economic vitality, deliver exceptional customer experiences, and demonstrate meaningful community involvement.

For this month, the City is proud to recognize La Unica Barrio Cocina y Tequila, a vibrant and beloved Main Street destination that has quickly become a cornerstone of Downtown Lake Elsinore.

La Unica is more than a restaurant it is an experience. Blending authentic flavors, modern flair, and a welcoming atmosphere, La Unica has created a dynamic gathering space that celebrates culture, cuisine, and community. Their presence has energized Downtown Main Street, attracting residents and visitors alike and contributing to the continued revitalization of the downtown corridor.

### **Discussion**

La Unica Barrio Cocina y Tequila has established itself as a staple of Lake Elsinore's Downtown Main Street by offering a unique culinary concept rooted in authentic Mexican cuisine with a

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contemporary twist. Their thoughtfully curated menu, craft cocktails, and vibrant ambiance provide a one-of-a-kind dining experience that enhances the character and identity of Downtown Lake Elsinore, expanding over the years from a bakery to the resounding placemaking unique experience it is today, restaurant, bar, and speak-easy.

Beyond its exceptional food and atmosphere, La Unica exemplifies what it means to be a community-driven business.

They actively give back by:

- Supporting local schools and youth programs
- Partnering with community organizations for fundraising events
- Providing a welcoming space for community gatherings and celebrations, nightlife and entertainment

La Unica has helped transform Downtown Main Street into a lively destination where families gather, friends connect, and visitors discover the charm of Lake Elsinore, offering an elevated experience. Their dining presence, evening vibrancy, and entertainment offerings contribute to a safe, energized, and walkable downtown environment.

As a locally rooted business, La Unica represents the entrepreneurial spirit that defines Lake Elsinore. Their investment in quality, hospitality, and community partnership reinforces the City's vision of a thriving downtown district rich in culture and economic opportunity.

By recognizing La Unica Barrio Cocina y Tequila as the Business in Action Monthly Spotlight, the City celebrates a business that not only drives economic activity but also strengthens community bonds, enhances the downtown experience and expectation from businesses, and reflects the diverse cultural fabric of Lake Elsinore.

La Unica is truly a signature destination — bold, welcoming, and uniquely Lake Elsinore.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recognition.

### **Attachments**

None.