

SANTA FE COUNTY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2012 - 111

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**A Resolution Requesting Legislative Support For Traffic Violation Reform**

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**WHEREAS**, New Mexico law provides criminal penalties for a broad spectrum of traffic violations, such as exceeding the speed limit and failure to stop at a stop sign;

**WHEREAS**, thousands of individuals are incarcerated in county detention facilities each year for failure to pay penalty assessments for traffic infractions or for failing to appear for court dates for their traffic violations, costing counties in excess of \$3.6 million annually;

**WHEREAS**, assessing criminal penalties for minor traffic violations puts a substantial burden not only on county detention facilities but also on law enforcement agencies (in Bernalillo County alone there are approximately 40,000 outstanding warrants relating to traffic offenses) and the court system (the Santa Fe County magistrate court estimates that it takes about 40 hours of judge's time per week to handle these cases); and

**WHEREAS**, several states have successfully changed the way they deal with these infractions by providing civil penalties rather than criminal penalties for these traffic violations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of County Commissioners for Santa Fe County supports legislative reform for minor traffic violations.

**APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of SEPT, 2012.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: *Liz Stefanics*  
Liz Stefanics, Chair

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

*Valerie Espinoza*  
Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk

*Stephen C. Ross*  
Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE            )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO        ) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 13TH Day Of September, 2012 at 10:53:19 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1681307  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Deputy *Marcella Rojas* Valerie Espinoza  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

