

SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-2

A RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATURE TO STRENGTHEN NEW MEXICO DRIVER'S LICENSE LAWS TO DETER FRAUD AND OTHERWISE MAINTAIN EXISTING NEW MEXICO DRIVER'S LICENSE LAWS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2010, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County adopted Resolution No. 2010-20 reaffirming Santa Fe County's commitment to civil rights and equal access to County services including public safety protection regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County adopted Resolution No. 2011-13 urging the New Mexico Legislature to maintain the existing New Mexico Drivers' License Laws as they relate to the issuance of drivers' licenses, irrespective of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Legislature amended NMSA 1978, Section 66-5-9(B) in order to allow an applicant to use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) in lieu of a social security number when applying for a New Mexico driver's license; and to authorize the Secretary of the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department to establish by regulation other documents that may be accepted as a substitute for a social security number or an ITIN; and

WHEREAS, in January 2008, the National Immigration Law Center ("NILC") issued a fact sheet entitled "Why Denying Driver's Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants Harms Public Safety and Makes Our Communities Less Secure"; and

WHEREAS, recent facts reported by the media stated that four of the states that provide licenses to undocumented immigrants fall below the national average for uninsured motorists, including New Mexico, whose uninsured rate dropped from 33% in 2003 to 9% in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety describes unlicensed drivers as "among the worst drivers on the road" and found that unlicensed drivers are almost five times more likely to be in a fatal crash than are validly licensed drivers; and

WHEREAS, issuance of driver's licenses to undocumented persons allows local law enforcement personnel to quickly identify immigrants and check their record without having to examine documents in foreign languages during stops or investigations; and

WHEREAS, issuance of driver's licenses to undocumented persons allows local law enforcement personnel to access Motor Vehicle Division records to obtain photos, information and last known addresses; and

WHEREAS, when undocumented persons do not have social security numbers but have the ability to obtain drivers' licenses, local law enforcement can easily track these individuals who have outstanding warrants or citations, who are repeat offenders, and who are delinquent in their child support payments; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary concerns of Santa Fe County is that the 2012 Legislature may amend existing state laws relating to the application and issuance of drivers' licenses to immigrants so that undocumented persons may no longer be able to obtain a New Mexico driver's license; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public safety, the Board hereby expresses its support for maintaining existing state laws relating to the issuance of driver's licenses during the 2012 Legislative Session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby urges the New Mexico State Legislature to strengthen New Mexico driver's license laws to deter fraud and otherwise maintain existing New Mexico driver's license laws regardless of immigration status.
2. The Board of County Commissioners directs the County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New Mexico, and the County of Santa Fe's legislative delegation.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 10th day of January 2012.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY



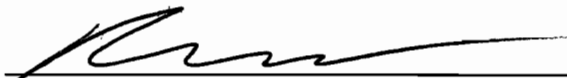
 Liz Stefanics, Chair



 Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:



 Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/11/2012

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
 STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
 PAGES: 2

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 11TH Day Of January, 2012 at 03:49:46 PM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1657123 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

