

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 03

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING POLICIES FOR RECOGNIZING HISTORICAL
AND CULTURAL EVENTS AT MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS; REQUIRING A MEETING TO CELEBRATE FIESTA DE SANTA
FE**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANTA FE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS:**

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Ordinance shall be cited as “the Historical and Cultural Events Ordinance.”

SECTION 2. PURPOSE.

The Historical and Cultural Events Ordinance sets forth rules for the Board of County Commissioners’ recognition of historical and cultural events at its meetings.

SECTION 3. FINDINGS.

The Board of County Commissioners finds:

- A. Santa Fe County is home to a rich and complex cultural landscape that includes centuries-old Hispano villages, Native communities, immigrant families, and diverse faith and identity groups who contribute to the vibrant traditions of our community.
- B. Public celebrations and traditions have great cultural, civic, and educational value to the County. These celebrations include, but are not limited to, the Santa Fe Fiestas, Indigenous Peoples’ Day, El Grito (Mexican Independence Day), Juneteenth, Jewish High Holy Days, and Santa Fe Pride. These celebrations are essential opportunities for unity, learning, and mutual respect.
- C. Public celebrations and traditions are extremely important to the community, and the Board of County Commissioners desires to have occasions during its meetings for the Board to recognize these events.

SECTION 4. AUTHORITY.

NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1975).

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/14/2025

SECTION 5. DEFINITIONS.

- A. **Board.** The Board of County Commissioners.
- B. **Board Chair.** The Chair of the Board or the Chair’s designee.
- C. **Event.** Any public celebration or tradition identified by a member of the Board as worthy of recognition at a meeting of the Board, whether by presentation, proclamation, resolution, or other Board action.
- D. **Meeting.** A duly noticed regular or special meeting of a quorum of the Board.

SECTION 6. SCOPE; CONFLICT WITH OTHER ORDINANCES.

The Historical and Cultural Events Ordinance applies to the Board’s decision to recognize an Event at a Meeting. It does not apply, and does not modify or supersede, any resolutions or ordinances governing use of county facilities.

SECTION 7. RECOGNITION OF EVENTS BY THE BOARD.

The Board may recognize an Event as follows:

- A. When adopting the resolution required by Section 10-15-1(D) NMSA 1978 (2013), as amended, the Board may recognize an Event and schedule a regular meeting where the Event will be recognized by the Board;
- B. A member of the Board may seek to recognize an Event at a meeting of the Board by proposing a proclamation, resolution, or other Board action setting forth the Board’s recognition or approval of the Event; or
- C. A member of the Board may request that the Board Chair recognize an Event during the “Opening Business”, “Presentations”, or other appropriate portion of a Meeting. The request must be made sufficiently far in advance of a Meeting as to allow the Chair sufficient time to place recognition of the Event on the Meeting agenda at which the Event will be recognized.

When recognizing an Event, the Board may establish time or other limitations.

The Historical and Cultural Events Ordinance is not intended to create a public forum or limited public forum for expressive activities by members of the public at any County property or facility. To the contrary, this Ordinance authorizes recognition of an Event and associated expressive activity only as part of Meeting as provided herein.

SECTION 8. MEETING TO RECOGNIZE FIESTAS DE SANTA FE

Unless another date is established by the Board in the resolution required by Section 10-15-1(D) NMSA 1978 (2013), the Board shall annually hold a meeting on the Tuesday of the Fiestas de Santa Fe to celebrate Fiesta de Santa Fe. The Fiesta Court shall be allowed to celebrate during the Meeting, and, subject to work requirements, County employees choosing to attend the Meeting shall be allowed to utilize their lunch hour, any administrative leave granted for fall celebrations, or other leave to do so.

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SECTION 9. NO REGULAR MEETINGS ON PUEBLO FEAST DAYS.

The Board shall not schedule regular meetings on Feast Days of Pueblos with sovereign lands within the exterior boundaries of the County. To the extent feasible given the need for the special or emergency meeting, the Board shall likewise endeavor to avoid scheduling special or emergency meetings on Feast Days of Pueblos with sovereign lands within the exterior boundaries of the County.

SECTION 10. ENFORCEMENT.

The Historical and Cultural Events Ordinance may be enforced only by a majority of a quorum of the Board. The Historical and Cultural Events Ordinance is not intended to and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the County, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

SECTION 11. REPEALER CLAUSE.

All bylaws, orders, resolutions and ordinances, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent only of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revive any bylaw, order, resolution or ordinance, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

SECTION 12. SEVERABILITY.

If a provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of the Ordinance are severable.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The effective date of this Ordinance shall be thirty (30) days after this Ordinance is recorded with the County Clerk.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/14/2025

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 10th DAY OF November, 2025.

**SANTA FE COUNTY
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: *Camilla Bustamante*
Camilla Bustamante, Chair

ATTEST:

Katharine E. Clark
Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

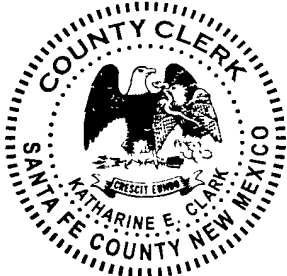
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 14TH Day Of November, 2025 at 03:06:10 PM
and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **2071458**
of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Approved as to Form:

Walker Boyd
Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy *Katharine E. Clark* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



SEC CLERK RECORDED 11/14/2025