

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 59

Introduced by:
Commissioner Ed Moreno and Commissioner Anna Hansen

A RESOLUTION ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND
RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

WHEREAS, the recent incidents of violence against Black Americans highlight the underlying colonial ideologies and institutional racism that still exist in our society; and

WHEREAS, recent events in our country, including the indictment of law enforcement officers in the deaths of several people of color, national protests against racism and excessive force by police, and the COVID-19 pandemic have enabled and empowered us to examine and implement social justice reform in our educational systems, courts, law enforcement agencies, and our medical, economic, and social systems; and

WHEREAS, these events have also enabled and empowered us to create community engagement practices that bring elected and appointed officials and constituents to the table, ensuring that the voices and leadership of people of color are at the forefront of the reforms we seek to make; and

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico and Santa Fe County ("County") have a unique racial and ethnic makeup, cultural history, and diverse populations; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe are located in the traditional lands of many Indigenous American people and the sovereign nations of the Pueblos of Cochiti, Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, and Tesuque, and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County encompasses Spanish Land Grants and fifty-five (55) acequias, and includes numerous cultural heritage sites; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners ("the Board"), as political and social leaders, recognize that institutions nationally have historically and systemically oppressed indigenous, black, minority, and migrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that our indigenous, black, minority, female, and LBGTQ populations have historically been denied their constitutional and voting rights and have been limited in their ability to participate in the social/community dialogues that have impacted them and their communities; and

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/26/2020

WHEREAS, we, the Board, recognize that factors such as poverty, sexism, and behavioral health contribute to the victimization and marginalization of people of color in the state of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2020-50, which recognized the County's efforts, specifically those of the Community Services Department and Health Policy and Planning Commission, to reduce disparities in health care and public safety and acknowledged that overarching factors affect all aspects of health in the County, including income, immigration status, and race and ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, social, racial, environmental, and climate injustice reside in our national institutions of education, housing, finance, and politics, and the public at large also often unknowingly embodies racism that prevents equality for all; and

WHEREAS, we, the Board, are aware of the magnitude of violence in our country, and seek to successfully mitigate racial incidents, vandalism against community members, and sexual violence against women; and

WHEREAS, we, as a Board, recognize that our community's and Nation's future require that we come together as a county, cities, and state to study our institutions, affirm our determination to eliminate racism, sexism, and the violence they produce in all locations in the County and the state of New Mexico, and stand poised and ready to address violence based upon the color of our skin, our heritage, our ethnicity/race, or our gender identity or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office, currently led by Sheriff Adan Mendoza, has publicly acknowledged that it supports equal justice and equal treatment for all, both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, the Board commends the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office for its acknowledgement of these national concerns and commitment to reviewing and, as necessary, revising its law enforcement policies and procedures to address use of force, ban the use of neck and chokehold maneuvers except in cases where deadly force is necessary, body camera operations, officer misconduct, and racial profiling, as well as instituting cultural and behavioral health training and other measures to support improvements within our law enforcement department; and

WHEREAS, the Board encourages the federal government to institute a number of changes to current national law enforcement policies, procedures, and oversight measures, including, but not limited to:

1. Limit the sale of military weapons of war to the general public in anticipation of reducing the need for local law enforcement departments within municipalities and counties;
2. Reactivate the U.S. Department of Justice's subpoena power to conduct "pattern and practice" investigations of potential misconduct and help states conduct independent investigations;

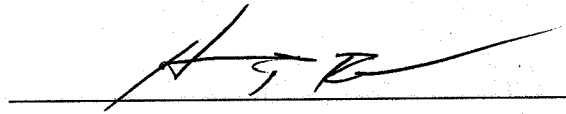
3. Ban racial profiling and change behavioral patterns;
4. Boost requirements for sheriff's deputy/police body cameras;
5. Create a "National Police Misconduct Registry," a database to prevent officers from transferring from one department to another with past misconduct undetected; and
6. Institute a federal anti-lynching bill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby:

1. Condemns violent and racist activities in our communities;
2. Stands in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, denounces gender violence and racism in all forms, and recommends that racial hate groups be identified as terrorists;
3. Supports peaceful protests, legislative actions, and regional, community forums to bring voice to our constituents and the need for institutional change;
4. Supports, respects and is committed to maintaining cooperative relationships with the sovereign tribal governments within Santa Fe County, which include Pueblos of Cochiti, Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, and Tesuque;
5. Supports programs that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within our constituency;
6. Commends the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office for reviewing and, as necessary, revising its law enforcement policies and procedures to address use of force, ban the use of neck and chokehold maneuvers except in cases where deadly force is necessary, body camera operations, officer misconduct, and racial profiling, as well as instituting cultural and behavioral health training and other measures to support improvements within our law enforcement department, and supports its efforts in these regards;
7. Urges the establishment and application of a comprehensive and coordinated restorative justice approach in the criminal justice system for all ages;
8. Pledges to work with local stakeholders to explore and expand pre-arrest and pre-adjudication diversion programs and alternatives to incarceration;
9. Recommends that the Community Services Department and the Mobile Health Crisis Team provide ongoing training, utilizing currently budgeted funds, for Santa Fe County Sheriff's deputies on crisis situations involving behavioral health;
10. Recommends all Santa Fe County Sheriff's deputies be provided yearly cultural competence training;
11. Encourages participation in regional, community dialogue within our county's cities, tribes, and towns;
12. Adopts this resolution as a path toward a more equitable community with determination and pride; and
13. In order to emphasize the importance of this matter and encourage a collaborative, coordinated, regional, statewide, and national effort, directs the County Manager to forward this Resolution to New Mexico's Senators and Representatives in Congress, the New Mexico Governor, Pueblo Governors in Santa Fe County, State Senators and Representatives in the New Mexico Legislature representing Santa Fe County, other elected officials representing political subdivisions wholly or partially within the boundaries of Santa Fe County, including the cities of Santa Fe and Española and Town of Edgewood, and the New Mexico Counties' Executive Board of Directors.

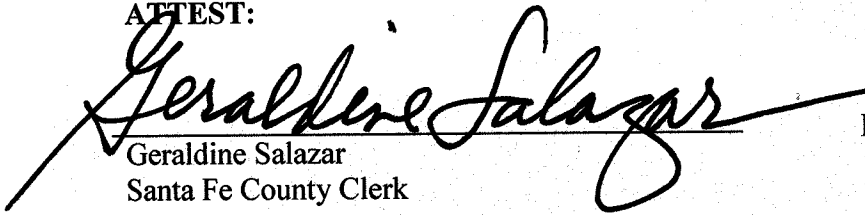
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 25th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY


Henry P. Roybal, Chair




ATTEST:


Geraldine Salazar
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: August 26, 2020

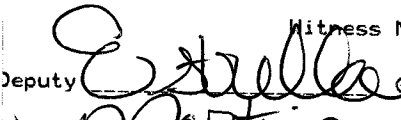
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

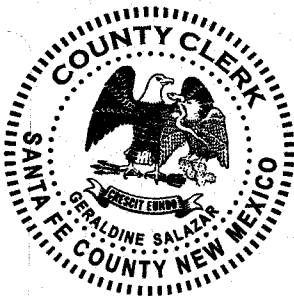

Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 26TH Day Of August, 2020 at 02:33:15 PM
and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1926159
of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/26/2020