

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 032

Introduced by:
Commissioner Hank Hughes

A RESOLUTION

RENAMING THE SANTA FE COUNTY CARLSON PARK "THE NICHOLAS
SANCHEZ PARK" IN HONOR OF THE LATE SANTA FE COUNTY
CORRECTIONAL OFFICER NICHOLAS "NICK" SANCHEZ

WHEREAS, on December 3, 1966, Conrad and Emily Carlson dedicated 0.367 acres of land in the Carlson Subdivision to Santa Fe County (County) for the purpose of developing a recreation park for the enjoyment of its residents; and

WHEREAS, approximately 50 families are served by the park who have many children and grandchildren that need a safe place to play and hold community gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Carlson Subdivision reunited with County staff in May 2021 to partner in the acquisition of state funding for improvements, design, and construction of the park; and

WHEREAS, the County, with the support from the residents of the Carlson Subdivision, successfully lobbied for and secured \$50,000 from the New Mexico State Legislature for renovations to the park and committed \$160,000 in County funds to guarantee the completion of the park; and

WHEREAS, the renovations to the park will consist of an ADA parking slot, fenced areas, half-court basketball pad, playground equipment set, two sheltered pads with picnic tables and a swing set; and

WHEREAS, the development of the park will improve the quality of life for the community and provide the opportunity for healthy activity and exercise for the youth; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Carlson Subdivision sustain outstanding commitment and advocacy to the lives of the young people in their community and aspire to rename the park after an exceptional young man, Nicholas Sanchez; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas "Nick" Sanchez, who grew up in the Carlson Subdivision, was known to be a caring, big-hearted person who would help anyone; and

WHEREAS, at the early age of nine, Nick had a poem published in the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans; and

WHEREAS, Nick wrestled for Turquoise Trail, DeVargas & Santa Fe High competing in Billings, Montana, and in Dayton, Ohio, for the AAU Wrestling Grand Nationals where he

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placed 5th in his weight class. That same year, at the age of 17, he was awarded Sophomore Wrestler of the Year for Santa Fe High; and

WHEREAS, Nick was an avid hunter spending his free time in the Pecos Wilderness and Jemez mountains with his bow, harvesting turkey and grouse; he was known for shooting a golf ball at 200 yards and also for splitting arrows, known as a Robin Hood; and

WHEREAS, as a teenager he worked various jobs as a landscaper, auto body repairman, woodworker, cook, ranch hand and heavy equipment operator; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 19, he was employed by the Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility (ADF) as a Correctional Officer where he developed a passion for public safety, using his wrestling skills for the security of the inmates and other correction officers; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2004, Nick Sanchez tragically passed away one month before his 20th birthday in a 4-wheeling accident. The last gift in life he gave was being an organ donor; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his parents, Johanna and Robert Sanchez; brother, Patrick Sanchez; grandparents, Ernest and Rita Garcia; and Filimon and Celine Sanchez; great-grandparents, Pedro and Tillie Garcia, and great-grandmother, Dolores Sanchez; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Carlson Subdivision desire to work with Santa Fe County to provide a park where all the young people can play and celebrate their noble neighbor, Nicholas "Nick" Sanchez.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County hereby renames the Carlson Park at 14 Emily Rd. in Santa Fe as the "Nicholas Sanchez Park."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager is hereby directed to place appropriate signage at the park reflecting its new name.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 28 DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

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

By: *Anna C. Hansen*
Anna C. Hansen, Chair

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

Date: 3/28/2023



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