

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 110

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO DESIGNATE THE PORTION OF NEW MEXICO STATE
HIGHWAY 41 BETWEEN MILE MARKERS 44 AND 49 AS THE “SURVIVORS’
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY” AND TO INSTALL APPROPRIATE HIGHWAY SIGNS
HONORING THE STRENGTH, RESILIENCE, AND MEMORY OF SURVIVORS OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, AND MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS
WOMEN AND RELATIVES (MMIWR)**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County recognizes the inherent dignity, humanity, and worth of every person and is committed to protecting the safety, rights, and well-being of all individuals; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR) represent profound violations of human rights that have caused immeasurable suffering to individuals, families, Tribal Nations, and communities throughout New Mexico, the United States, and the World; and

WHEREAS, the property commonly known as the Zorro Ranch, located adjacent to New Mexico State Highway 41 in Santa Fe County, became the site of internationally recognized crimes involving the exploitation and abuse of women and young girls, forever marking this corridor as a place that reminds us of the devastating consequences of violence, coercion, and the abuse of power; and

WHEREAS, while this location bears historical significance because of those crimes, this memorial highway is not intended to commemorate the perpetrator or the acts committed there, but rather to honor the extraordinary courage, resilience, healing, and perseverance of survivors everywhere and to remember those whose lives were taken or whose disappearances remain unresolved; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the disproportionate impact of violence upon Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit people, and relatives, and stands in solidarity with Tribal Nations, Pueblo communities, survivors, and families seeking justice, accountability, healing, and remembrance; and

WHEREAS, public memorials provide opportunities for education, reflection, and awareness by acknowledging painful chapters in our shared history while affirming our collective responsibility to prevent exploitation, violence, trafficking, and abuse in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, designating this portion of New Mexico State Highway 41 as the “Survivors’ Memorial Highway” transforms a location associated with exploitation into one dedicated to remembrance, healing, resilience, hope, justice, and the enduring strength of all survivors.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/28/2026

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners hereby:

1. Respectfully requests that the New Mexico Department of Transportation designate the portion of New Mexico State Highway 41 extending from Mile Marker 44 to Mile Marker 49 as the "Survivors' Memorial Highway."
2. Requests that the New Mexico Department of Transportation install official highway signs at each end of the designated corridor identifying the roadway as the "Survivors Memorial Highway."
3. Declares that this designation shall honor:
 - Survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation;
 - Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse;
 - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR);
 - Families who continue to seek truth, justice, and healing; and
 - All individuals whose courage inspires communities to confront violence and protect future generations.
4. The Board reaffirms Santa Fe County's commitment to collaborating with Tribal governments, Pueblo communities, law enforcement agencies, victim advocacy organizations, healthcare providers, educators, and community partners to strengthen prevention efforts, support survivors, improve public awareness, and advance justice for victims of violence and exploitation.
5. The County Manager is directed to transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the New Mexico Department of Transportation, the Governor of New Mexico, the New Mexico Attorney General, members of the New Mexico Legislature representing Santa Fe County, the New Mexico Human Trafficking Task Force, the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, and interested Tribal governments and Pueblo Nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board intends the "Survivors' Memorial Highway" to stand as a lasting symbol of resilience, healing, remembrance, and hope – recognizing not only those whose stories have become known, but also those whose voices were silenced, whose disappearances remain unresolved, and whose families continue to seek justice. May this designation remind all who travel this corridor of our collective responsibility to protect the vulnerable, uphold human dignity, and ensure that such violations are never forgotten and never repeated.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 25th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____

Justin S. Greene, Chair

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/28/2026

ATTEST:



Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 08/28/2026

Michael Nunez for
Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

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

