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## Press Release from the Board of County Commissioners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 16, 2021

### **Commissioners Vote on Tibetan Freedom Day Proclamation**

SANTA FE, NM – At the March 9, 2021, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting, Commissioner Anna Hansen (D-2) introduced a proclamation recognizing the rich cultural history and heritage of Tibet and the Tibetan people, and the depth and richness that the local Tibetan Community of Santa Fe adds to the County by proclaiming March 10, 2021 as Tibetan Freedom Day.

The proclamation notes that March 10, 2021, marks the anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising when the Country of Tibet was occupied by the People's Republic of China, resulting in more than half a half-century of occupation and exile, and the exodus of about 80,000 Tibetans across the Himalayas.

Santa Fe County supports the conclusion of the United States Congress that under the established principle of international law, Tibet is an occupied country whose true representative is the exiled Tibetan government based in India, headed by Sikyong Lobsand Sangay.

During the presentation of the proclamation Commissioner Hansen said, "As I present this proclamation, it is actually already March 10 in Lhasa, Tibet. I am so pleased that we are able to make space for this proclamation while Tibetan Uprising Day is happening in Tibet at the same time.

"I have a strong place in my heart for the Tibetan community and consider them a strong part of my spiritual life and dedication," Commissioner Hansen continued. "I am always grateful and honored to be able to recognize them and all the benefits they have brought to New Mexico. In the 1990s, Santa Fe County supported the relocation of many Tibetan refugees into our area and many employers including Wild Oats and Jackalope, created jobs for these refugees. This is the kind of community that Santa Fe is and I applaud our dedication to immigrants and inclusion."

Penpa (Pemsi) Tsering, President of the Tibetan Association, spoke in support of the proclamation, "On behalf of all the Tibetan people in Santa Fe, we want to extend our gratitude to the Commissioners for this opportunity and for proclaiming March 10, 2021 as Tibetan Freedom Day." He said that in the last 62 years since China invaded and occupied Tibet a lot has changed. And now, with climate change and COVID-19, he stated, "It's not just about Tibetan freedom [anymore], it's about one global freedom. We have to walk together and respect all human beings; we are all the same."

The vote on the [proclamation](#) was passed unanimously.

Please contact Commissioner Anna Hansen at 505-920-0957 or [ahansen@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:ahansen@santafecountynm.gov) for more information.

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For additional information, please contact Commissioner Anna Hansen at [ahansen@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:ahansen@santafecountynm.gov) or 505-920-0957.