

Santa Fe County Proclamation

PROCLAIMING APRIL 2022 AS “NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH”

Introduced by: Commissioner Anna Hansen

WHEREAS, the nation’s 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs serving more than 315 million Americans, provide essential services to create and maintain healthy, safe, and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, counties provide public health services, administer justice, keep communities and constituents safe, foster economic opportunities, and so much more; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County takes pride in its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing, and safety of its residents and visitors in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of National Association of Counties (“NACo”) President Larry Johnson, NACo is demonstrating how “Counties THRIVE,” especially in supporting residents and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 NACo has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs, and services; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County has approximately 154,823 residents, and is the fifth-fastest-growing county in the state, with an estimated population growth of 7.4 percent since 2010; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County’s four-pronged mission to provide a safe community, promote a sustainable community, support a healthy community, and be a proficient, transparent, and accessible government is at the heart of its budget and project prioritization, services, and programs; and

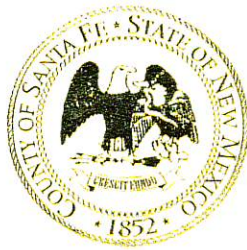
WHEREAS, County leadership came together last month to review and amend the County’s Strategic Plan, acknowledge its many achievements during the COVID-19 pandemic, and collaborate to bring innovative technologies, programs, and services to our constituents; and

WHEREAS, among the noteworthy accomplishments related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa Fe County:

1. Developed, implemented, and managed a COVID Action Plan;
2. Effectively managed \$14,000,000 of CARES Act funding;
3. Distributed \$4,000,000 in small business grants and \$2,000,000 in housing assistance (rental and mortgage assistance);
4. Developed a public awareness campaign to promote COVID safety practices;
5. Developed, implemented, and supported management practices to allow essential workers to continue to serve and for County buildings to remain open during the pandemic;
6. Purchased a hotel and developed housing resources for unhoused and unsheltered constituents in Espanola;
7. Created internet hotspots to support students during remote schooling; and

WHEREAS, among the noteworthy achievements in recent years related to our goal of providing a safe community, Santa Fe County:

1. Adopted the International Fire Code and established a six-person, year-round wildland fire team;



2. Implemented revised operating procedures at the Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC);
3. Completed the SFC Fire Department Five-Year Plan;
4. Proposed and supported New Mexico Counties' legislative efforts to preserve, increase, and recover E911 funding;
5. Adopted an ordinance to govern legalized recreational marijuana; and

WHEREAS, among the noteworthy achievements in recent years related to our goal of promoting a sustainable community, Santa Fe County:

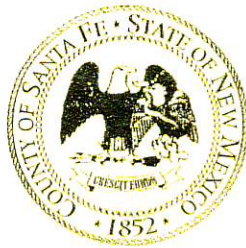
1. Established a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan that will reduce the County's annual utility costs, conserve water, and reduce carbon emissions;
2. Joined the Race to Zero, pledging to reduce 60% of greenhouse gas emissions from County facilities by 2025 through renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades, and to achieve that same goal in all buildings across the community by 2030;
3. Made progress toward our goal to achieve 75% of energy efficiency upgrades and water conservation for 13 County facilities;
4. Updated the Sustainable Land Development Code to include the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code standards, which increases energy efficiency guidelines for all new County buildings and major remodels, and aligns construction requirements with the state, so that, as a result, local buildings will be more efficient and resilient in the face of climate change;
5. Developed a Residential Composting Program offering residents a free composting system, tools, and training;
6. Adopted a fleet management policy that is in alignment with the greenhouse gas reduction policy to increase fuel efficiency and reduce redundancy to include electric vehicles and charging station infrastructure;
7. Is working to support the 30x30 initiative and has conserved 12 acres of land and planted nearly 1,500 trees and shrubs;
8. Compiled official documents and located resources needed to develop backup water supply;
9. Conducted an analysis of solarizing County facilities;
10. Installed 350 kilowatts of solar on County facilities in the last five years; and

WHEREAS, among the noteworthy achievements in recent years related to our goal of being a proficient, transparent, and accessible government, Santa Fe County:

1. Reorganized and launched the Community Development Department to include Housing, Sustainability, Economic Development, and the County/City Film Office;
2. Commenced a compensation study and analyzed positions that are difficult to fill, have high vacancy rates, or high turnover rates to more effectively recruit and retain highly qualified employees;
3. Implemented Docu-sign technology and digitized County Clerk records;
4. Implemented software systems across multiple departments to ensure efficient use of resources and management of projects; and

WHEREAS, among the noteworthy achievements in recent years related to our goal of supporting a healthy community, Santa Fe County:

1. Developed CONNECT, a network of over 200 navigators that integrates an online platform linking our residents to services needed for their health and wellbeing and which has provided services to 6,340 residents;
2. Increased funding for drug and alcohol abuse treatment services, for both residential and outpatient treatment;
3. Opened La Sala Crisis Center, which uses a living room model and offers an array of mental health and crisis intervention services;



4. Created a Youth Services Division to better serve the youth of Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County’s dedicated workforce showed remarkable ability to pivot and come together during the uncertain and unprecedented struggles imposed upon us all during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they did it with resilience; and


WHEREAS, we have the utmost respect and appreciation for Katherine Miller, who has served as our County Manager with dedication and exemplary leadership for the last 12 years. Katherine is the 2022 recipient of the Association of Government Accountants’ Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award for her outstanding leadership of individuals in local government; and


WHEREAS, we, the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, are so blessed to work alongside such competent and adaptable public servants.

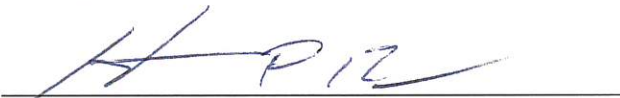
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 2022, AS:

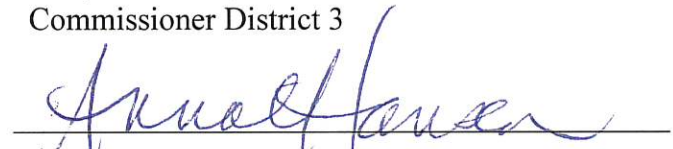
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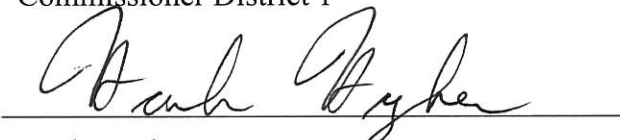
APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 12th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.



 Anna T. Hamilton, Chair
 Commissioner District 4


 Rudy N. Garcia, Vice-Chair
 Commissioner District 3

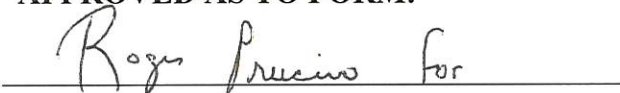

 Henry P. Roybal
 Commissioner District 1


 Anna Hansen
 Commissioner District 2

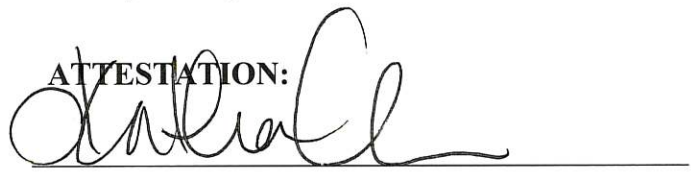

 Hank Hughes
 Commissioner District 5


 Katherine Miller
 County Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


 Gregory S. Shaffer
 County Attorney

ATTESTATION:


 Katharine E. Clark
 County Clerk

