

Santa Fe County Proclamation

PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, AS “FIESTAS DE SANTA FE CULTURAL CELEBRATION AND BELONGING DAY”

*Reaffirming Santa Fe County’s Commitment to Cultural Inclusion, Belonging,
Transformational Healing, and Continued Relationship Building*

Introduced by: Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone and Commissioner Camilla Bustamante

WHEREAS, the Fiestas de Santa Fe, formally established in 1712, are among Santa Fe’s longest-standing cultural traditions and, for generations of families and community members, remain a deeply meaningful and living expression of faith, family, music, community, cultural identity, and belonging; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is home to a rich and complex cultural landscape that includes centuries-old Hispano villages, Native communities and sovereign Pueblos, immigrant families, and diverse faith, cultural, racial, and identity communities whose histories and living traditions contribute to who we are today; and

WHEREAS, the history from which our present-day community emerged is layered and complex, encompassing encounters among peoples, as well as periods of conflict and profound change, and enduring stories of resistance, survival, faith, cultural continuity, and resilience that are remembered and experienced differently across our communities; and

WHEREAS, honoring one another requires that we make room for these distinct histories and lived experiences through both storytelling and story-listening, recognizing that understanding does not require that every community experience or remember our shared past in the same way; and

WHEREAS, according to a centuries-old Hispano tradition, Don Diego de Vargas attributed the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose image became known as La Conquistadora and according to Hispano tradition, represents a “peaceful” occupation and, in 1992, was given the additional title Nuestra Señora de la Paz – Our Lady of Peace – as a symbol of peace among the peoples of New Mexico; and

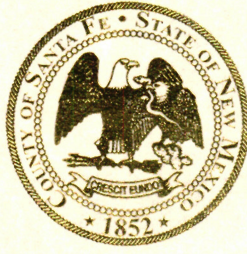
WHEREAS, Nuestra Señora de la Paz has held a significant place in the history and traditions of La Fiesta de Santa Fe, serving for generations as a symbol of faith, peace, cultural continuity, and community devotion within Santa Fe’s historic celebration; and

WHEREAS, the modern title of Our Lady of Peace is an opportunity to recognize both Hispano religious tradition and the Pueblo peoples and many others whose intertwined histories are inseparable from Santa Fe; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County recognizes the sovereignty and enduring presence of Pueblo peoples and respects the generations of Hispano families and communities who have carried forward deeply rooted cultural and religious traditions, while honoring the many other peoples, cultures, faiths, and identities that together form the living fabric of Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025 Fiestas de Santa Fe, a longstanding visit by the Fiesta Court and Cuadrilla to Santa Fe County administrative offices did not occur inside County facilities following an administrative decision regarding the use of public buildings under existing ordinance, resulting in disappointment, hurt, and conflict within the community and raising important questions about cultural traditions, public institutions, and belonging; and

WHEREAS, in the months that followed, Santa Fe County, County employees, and members of the Santa Fe Fiesta Council chose to respond not by deepening division, but by coming together through facilitated dialogues grounded in deep listening, cultural humility, acknowledgment of harm,



relationship building, and a shared commitment to greater understanding – demonstrating that government has a responsibility not only to establish policy, but also to listen, learn, repair relationships, and build trust with the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, those dialogues further demonstrated that trust is built through communication and relationships, and that listening across differences can transform moments of conflict into opportunities for reflection, learning, repair, and stronger public institutions; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2025, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 2025-03, the Historical and Cultural Events Ordinance, affirming the cultural, civic, and educational value of public celebrations and establishing a framework for the Board of County Commissioners to recognize the many historical and cultural traditions of Santa Fe County during its meetings; and

WHEREAS, as Santa Fe County approaches the first year of Ordinance No. 2025-03, we recognize that the adoption of policy was not the end of this work, but a commitment to continue it; and that County government has an enduring responsibility to learn from conflict, strengthen public trust, respect cultural differences and sovereign relationships, serve all people equitably, and help create the conditions in which understanding, transformational healing, and belonging can continue to grow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026, WHEN THE BOARD WILL WELCOME THE SANTA FE FIESTA COUNCIL AND FIESTA COURT TO THE SANTA FE COMMISSIONERS CHAMBERS, AS:

“FIESTAS DE SANTA FE CULTURAL CELEBRATION AND BELONGING DAY”

in recognition of the 314th Fiestas de Santa Fe and in honor of the generations of families and community members who have carried and shared these living traditions, together with the Santa Fe Fiesta Council, Fiesta Court, Cuadrilla, volunteers, and County employees whose service and participation continue to bring the Fiestas to life; and

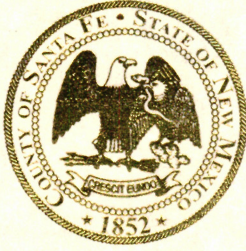
BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that in celebrating Fiestas de Santa Fe, Santa Fe County also honors the many peoples, histories, cultures, faiths, traditions, and identities that make our County what it is today, understanding that no single history, tradition, or perspective defines the whole of our shared community; and

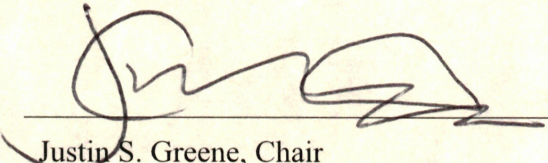
BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Santa Fe County commits to responsible and inclusive governance and to recognizing multiple truths, honoring all traditions and peoples, and upholding the core values of respect and peaceful, non-oppressive community relationships;

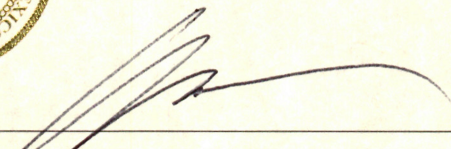
BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Santa Fe County reaffirms the promise embodied in Ordinance No. 2025-03 and in the dialogues that helped shape our path forward: to continue listening and learning across differences, strengthening relationships, honoring cultural traditions and Pueblo sovereignty, and building trust among all the communities we are privileged to serve; and

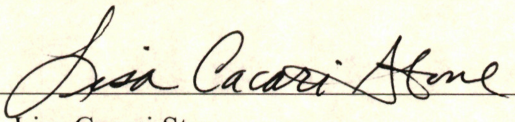
BE IT FINALLY PROCLAIMED, that Santa Fe County remains committed to learning from the conflicts and divisions of the past and present, strengthening the institutions that serve our community, and working toward a shared future grounded in dignity, mutual respect, cultural diversity, transformational healing, and belonging – where many histories can be remembered, many traditions can live, and all people have a place in the story of Santa Fe County.

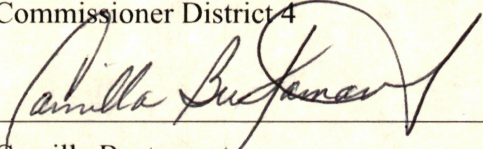
APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 25th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.

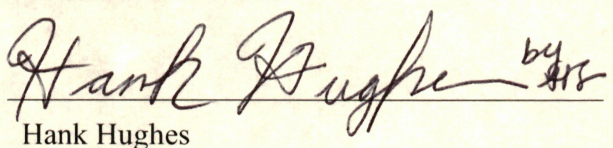



Justin S. Greene, Chair
Commissioner District 1


Adam F. Johnson, Vice Chair
Commissioner District 4

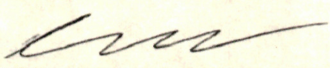

Lisa Cacari Stone
Commissioner District 2


Camilla Bustamante
Commissioner District 3

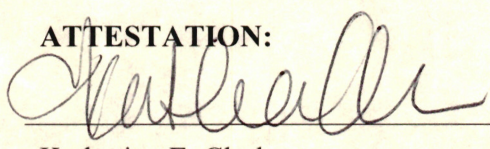

Hank Hughes
Commissioner District 5


Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

ATTESTATION:


Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

