

Santa Fe County Proclamation

PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 15TH TO OCTOBER 15TH AS “NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH”

Introduced by: Commissioner Camilla Bustamante

WHEREAS, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, the term Hispanic generally includes the terms Latino/a, Chicano/a or Mexicano/a which refer to a person’s culture or origin – regardless of race and ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, many Americans refer to themselves as Chicano/a to acknowledge their indigenous and mixed ancestry and to express solidarity with the civil rights movements of Mexican Americans that combat institutional racism, encourage cultural revitalization, and achieve community empowerment by rejecting assimilation and violations of human rights; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month began as a commemorative week when it was first introduced in June of 1968 by California Congressman George E. Brown; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Week was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15th and ending on October 15th and was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, with Congressional passage of Public Law 100-402; and

WHEREAS, the timing of National Hispanic Heritage Month coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of several Latin American nations including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua (September 15, 1821) and Mexico (September 27, 1821), which symbolize a rejection of oppressive colonialism; and

WHEREAS, each year National Hispanic Heritage Month has a theme and, in 2023, the theme is *Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America*; and

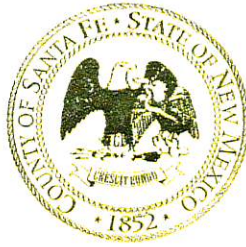
WHEREAS, the Chicano, Hispano, Mexicano people of New Mexico acknowledge their existence as neighbors within the Greater Tewa Basin and honor generational relationships and continue to build a shared culture of love and respect with their Pueblo relatives; and

WHEREAS, the self-identified Hispanic populations of Santa Fe, New Mexico, is 54.3% according to the United States Census of 2022; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is home to several traditional communities including Land Grants and Acequias that take great pride in their Hispanic heritage and that embody the indigenous definition of sustainability: “Healthy Environment, Healthy Culture, Healthy People” through their traditional agricultural practices and sustainable natural resource management; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County includes numerous cultural heritage communities such as Agua Fria, Chimayo, Pojoaque, Tesuque, La Cieneguilla, La Cienega and Galisteo that reveal peaceful coexistence for generations and are open for all people to appreciate and learn from; and

WHEREAS, *familia* (family) and *querencia* (deep sense of belonging to and care of a place, community or culture) is a shared value at the core of Hispanic culture; and



WHEREAS, cultural resilience is not supported by battles, war, and conflict but rather forging through such adversity by developing nurturing relationships with family, neighbors, community, water and land; and

WHEREAS, there is opportunity to address the realities of conflict and communion between Hispano and Native cultures through education and dialog; and

WHEREAS, the protection of land and water through *querencia* is a trait of Hispanic cultural resilience to support life for future generations; and

WHEREAS, generations of mothers, grandmothers, farmers, and clergy fostered culture and community in times of conflict; and

WHEREAS, *las abuelas*’ (grandmothers’) traditions of seed saving, planting, and harvesting crosses generations in New Mexico and have nurtured its prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the mother tongue has a significant impact on a child’s personality and psychological development of an individual in shaping a distinct identity that, if not nurtured, may result in problems with self-esteem and mental health; and

WHEREAS, generations of youth have been raised in the same household or by their grandmother or *abuela* and are at risk of losing their mother tongue given the loss of social context, thus social cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, the New York Times reported that the New Mexico Spanish dialect that is unique to this region is continuing to disappear; and

WHEREAS, the number of migrants from Spanish-speaking countries continue to increase, and it is imperative that the Spanish language be reclaimed and integrated in the arenas of government, business, education, health care, and art; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County encourages residents to celebrate, grow, share, educate, and evolve their Hispanic – Hispano/a, Latino/a, Chicano/a or Mexicano/a – identity in Santa Fe County.

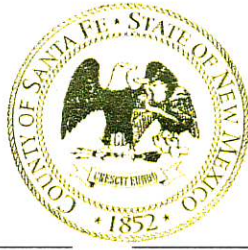
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 15 TO OCTOBER 15, 2023, AS:

“HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH – HONORING THE NURTURERS GUIDING PROSPERITY IN SANTA FE COUNTY”

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 12TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

Anna C. Hansen, Chair
Commissioner District 2

Hank Hughes, Vice-Chair
Commissioner District 5



[Handwritten signature of Justin S. Greene]

Justin S. Greene
Commissioner District 1

[Handwritten signature of Anna T. Hamilton]

Anna T. Hamilton
Commissioner District 4

[Handwritten signature of Anna T. Hamilton]

[Handwritten signature of Camilla Bustamante]

Camilla Bustamante
Commissioner District 3

[Handwritten signature of Gregory S. Shaffer]

Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Handwritten signature of Jeff Young]

Jeff Young
Santa Fe County Attorney

ATTESTATION:

Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk