



Dear Mayor Webber and Members of the City Council,

We are writing on behalf of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce regarding the upcoming meeting about the future of the Soldier's Monument (Obelisk). Over the past four years, we have closely observed the discussions surrounding the monument, with many of our members actively participating in the dialogue. While we requested to be included in CHART and other related discussions, this request was unfortunately not granted. We are concerned that many important groups, including other Veterans and Hispanic organizations, were excluded from these conversations. Greater inclusion of interested groups in the future would help reduce divisiveness and potentially avoid unnecessary litigation.

The Soldier's Monument holds profound historical and cultural significance for Santa Fe, particularly in honoring many of our Hispanic ancestors who stood against slavery. While interpretations of its meaning may differ, the monument presents an invaluable opportunity for our community to acknowledge the complexities of our shared history and foster unity through understanding. We believe its restoration, paired with inclusive and historically accurate context, can serve as a powerful symbol of healing, education, and reconciliation.

We respectfully urge the City Council to forego an appeal of the recent district court ruling. Continuing legal challenges will only deepen divisions within our community and impose an unnecessary financial burden on the city and its taxpayers. This issue has already consumed significant public resources—funds, time, and energy—that could have been better directed toward addressing urgent community needs.

Santa Fe faces pressing challenges that demand immediate attention and investment. Public safety, housing affordability, economic development, and infrastructure improvements all require focus and funding. Redirecting taxpayer dollars to these critical areas would better reflect the priorities of our residents and benefit the community as a whole.

The Hispanic Chamber remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote inclusivity and collaboration. This moment presents an opportunity to move forward with reconciliation and progress, rather than continuing costly and divisive litigation.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to our community. We trust that you will make decisions that honor our shared past while paving the way for a more united and prosperous future.