



All Pueblo Council of Governors

Officers:
James R. Mountain, Chairman
Dominic Gachupin, Vice-Chairman
Governor Arden Kucate, Secretary

October 30, 2024

Honorable Mayor Alan Webber & The Santa Fe City Council

mayor@santafenm.gov

Santa Fe City Council

200 Lincoln Avenue

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Sent Via Electronic Mail

RE: Support for the Soldier's Monument Obelisk to be Relocated to the Santa Fe National Cemetery

Dear Mayor Webber and Honorable Members of the City Council:

The All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG) fully supports the relocation of the Soldier's Monument Obelisk (Obelisk) to be erected at the Santa Fe National Cemetery and that a truthful narrative replace and reflect the collective sentiments of our leadership. The time has, once again, come for us to remain standing in unity to address the history of our ancestors and heritage in truth and in good faith so that we shall learn from that history and further promulgate our respectful coexistence for those today and for those still yet to come. The commitment by the leadership of Tesuque Pueblo, Mayor Alan Webber, the Santa Fe City Council, Los Caballeros, the Santa Fe Fiesta Council and the All Pueblo Council of Governors, have established a new and committed precedence with the placement of the Two Runners Statue and Don Diego de Vargas Statue this year in 2024.

At a duly called meeting of the All Pueblo Council of Governors on October 24th, the matter of the Soldier's Monument Obelisk was addressed. The All Pueblo Council of Governors revisited and discussed APCG Resolution 2017-20 that requested a meeting with the Mayor of the City of Santa Fe, the City Council of Santa Fe and the Archdiocese to formally engage in a dialogue to address and resolve a number of issues emerging from certain statues and their historic symbolism and associated events leading to public protests to prevent any potential public safety catastrophes resulting from these emerging controversies. The Obelisk was at the center of the dialogue in 2017.

The APCG Governors respectfully remind our fellow leaders and partners, the City of Santa Fe Mayor and Council of this historical time and accomplished action. Former Governor Regis Pecos was appointed by the APCG to assist and facilitate dialogue between the respective parties. The process was received favorably and resulted in a lengthy months-long facilitated process beginning with the Mayor and the City Council and eventually involving the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. It also included the non-profit organizations of the Santa Fe Fiesta Council and the Los Caballeros, organizers of certain events. The months-long process ultimately resulted in an amicable reconciliation with agreed upon negotiated outcomes outlined in a Five Point Plan.



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The All Pueblo Council of Governors passed Resolution 2018-18 “approving and accepting the negotiated Plan and authorized the named representatives on behalf of the All Pueblo Council of Governors to proceed with the final plans and make public the outcome as desired by the Pueblo Governors on behalf of its people and its desire to usher in a new era of relations for the sake of peace and co-existence as a gift to all people and all future generations our shared spirit of our core values of love, respect and compassion for all.”

The final plans included point five, regarding the “commissioning of a piece of art that commemorates the reconciliation and truth of past atrocities to learn from and that the commemorative piece of art reflect the spirit of peace as a gift to all future generations and be placed in the Santa Fe Plaza”. Inherent in this plan was to replace the Obelisk and appropriately place the Obelisk in a different more appropriate place to honor those who perished in battle. This was part of a comprehensive plan to shift the paradigm toward an inclusive celebration of all cultures while reflecting the truth of our complex history. From that complex history, a communion of cultures emerged to create a rich heritage and profound beautiful merging of traditions creating the unique spirit that reflects all of us.

We called for an inclusive dialogue, and we engaged in good faith to address and resolve the issues guided by our collective core values that former Governor Pecos utilized to reach an amicable reconciliation articulated and delineated in the Five Point Plan. This process was highlighted with a sunrise mass epitomizing our shared faith.

The All Pueblo Council strongly reaffirms this facilitated negotiated outcome as part of a Government-To-Government process with the Mayor and City Council. It also included the Most Reverend Archbishop John Wester on behalf of the Archdiocese, the Santa Fe Fiesta Council and Los Caballeros as part of this reconciliatory celebration. Any action inconsistent with this outcome would fundamentally undermine and disrespect this decision. Again, we respectfully remind you all and ask that you honor our collective decision.

Sincerely,

James Mountain
Chairman
All Pueblo Council of Governors

cc:
Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
APCG’s 20 Pueblo Governors