

From: [City of Santa Fe](#)
To: [Governing Body Public Comment](#)
Subject: New submission from your Governing Body Public Comment form
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 10:39:16 AM

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Submitted on: Friday, April 25, 2025 at 10:39am

- First Name: Joan
- Last Name: Conrow
- Your Email Address: joanconrow@gmail.com
- Your District: District 2
- Meeting Date: 04/30/2025
- Section of Agenda you would like to comment on: Final Action
- Your Comment: April 25, 2025

Dear Governing Board Members,

I'm writing to express my extreme disapproval of your attempt to legalize the encroachment of Zia Road onto Candelero Park through a resolution and lot line adjustment. We all know it's not the proper way to handle this matter.

This sets a very bad precedent, with city staff now apparently given carte blanche to unilaterally give away public land to developers. And if diligent citizens happen to catch them in the act, then our elected officials will simply approve it after the fact. Is it any wonder that citizens speculate about corruption, cronyism, incompetence?

This debacle is yet another example of the contempt the city has shown the residents of Candlelight throughout the review, and now construction, of the Zia Station project. The city has repeatedly sided with the developer against the community while granting extravagant entitlements in exchange for a few measly years of a few "affordable" apartment units. And now it grabs part of our park and further widens the road that splits the north and south sides of Candlelight—again to accommodate the developer, with zero compensation to the community.

If Merrit Brown could not accommodate the traffic for his project without grabbing public park land, then the city should have required him to reduce the density. But then,

the city has bent over backwards to give him everything he wants—most recently illegally repurposing dedicated park land to do it.

While it's disheartening to see the blatant disregard for the rule of law and due process by the Trump Administration, it's downright tragic to see our own city officials take a similar tack.

Kudos to Councilman Mike Garcia for keeping us informed and most important, doing the right thing by rejecting the city's deeply flawed approach to this matter. It's not too late for the rest of you to follow his lead.

Thank you.

Joan Conrow

Vice President

Candlelight Neighborhood Association