

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-__**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4
5 Mayor Michael Garcia

6 Councilor Lee Garcia

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10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **SUPPORTING THE PLACEMENT OF THE REMNANTS OF THE SOLDIERS’**
12 **MONUMENT IN THE NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM ON A TEMPORARY BASIS;**
13 **AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO WORK WITH STATE OFFICIALS TO**
14 **ENTER INTO A TEMPORARY LOAN AGREEMENT.**

15 **WHEREAS**, the Soldiers’ Monument (“Monument”), located in the Santa Fe Plaza, was
16 funded by the Territorial Legislature of New Mexico in the 1860s and erected to recognize local
17 Union soldiers; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in 1868 the Territorial Legislature of New Mexico authorized the addition of
19 four inscribed plaque slabs to be added to the plinth base of the Monument; and

20 **WHEREAS**, three sides of the plinth base of the Monument commemorate soldiers who
21 fought in the United States Civil War in battles with Confederate forces, including in the Battle of
22 Glorieta Pass that allowed the Union to retain control of the American Southwest; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Fourth North Facing Plaque originally stated “To the heroes who have
24 fallen in the various battles with savage Indians in the Territory of New Mexico”; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Monument, its plaques, and its location on the Plaza have been

1 controversial for at least the last 115 years:

- 2 • In 1909, Territorial New Mexico Governor Bradford Price publicly opposed a proposal
3 to cut out the word ‘Rebel’ in three places on the plaques and replace it with
4 “Confederate”.
- 5 • In July of 1973, the City’s Council voted to remove the entire Soldiers’ Monument
6 after receiving a letter from then Governor Bruce King that requested removal of the
7 Fourth Plaque, stating that the “word ‘savage’ was offensive to Indians and non-
8 Indians”.
- 9 • In September of 1973, the City Manager reported that David King, the State Planning
10 Officer at that time, requested that the Council rescind its action regarding the Soldiers’
11 Monument and the Council voted to rescind.
- 12 • In 1974, someone chiseled out the word “savage” from the Fourth North Facing Plaque
13 and, shortly thereafter, the All Indian Pueblo Council “strongly urged that” the word
14 savage not ever appear on the Soldiers’ Monument again.
- 15 • In 2000, the NAACP, Santa Fe Branch, submitted a Guest Editorial responding to the
16 Historic Santa Fe Foundation, defending the NAACP’s proposal to remove the
17 Soldiers’ Monument from its location in the Plaza, noting that “we... have a beautiful
18 Ve[eteran]’s Cemetery w[h]ere we have many ceremonies every year to honor those
19 killed, as a potential ideal setting for the monument.”
- 20 • Also in 2000, the Historical Society of New Mexico wrote to the City of Santa Fe’s
21 Mayor, Council, Manager and “People of Santa Fe” that “the words ‘savage Indians’
22 excluded the Pueblo Indians who have always been regarded by the Spanish, the
23 Mexicans and then the ‘Anglos’ as ‘civilized’ Indians, and [i]n that that removal or
24 destruction of the Monument would be akin to ‘book burning’ ...”; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe (“City”) also recognizes that the

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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3 Marcos Martinez

[Marcos Martinez \(Feb 19, 2026 12:46:36 MST\)](#)

4 MARCOS MARTÍNEZ, INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *Legislation/2026/Resolutions/Loan of Soldiers' Monument to New Mexico History Museum*