

## VIGIL, XAVIER I.

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**From:** City of Santa Fe <noreply@santafenm-gov.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 9:53 PM  
**To:** Governing Body Public Comment  
**Subject:** New submission from your Governing Body Public Comment form

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Submitted on: Monday, February 23, 2026 at 9:53pm

- First Name: Alaina
- Last Name: Szostkowski
- Your Email Address: [REDACTED]
- Your District: Please Select One
- Meeting Date: Special Meeting
- Section of Agenda you would like to comment on: Public Comment
- Your Comment: To Interim Clerk Cardenas, the Honorable Members of the Santa Fe City Council and Honorable Mayor Michael Garcia of the City of Santa Fe:

I write to you today to express my opposition to the proposed reconstruction of the Soldiers' Monument and strongly urge you to remove the pieces from the center of the Plaza.

Until New Mexico, and the United States as a whole, can truly reckon with the material inequalities and ongoing harm wrought by successive waves of colonization, I do not think the restoration of a stone phallus will bring us any closer to healing. Continued inaction on the part of the government will result in further action on the part of the people.

Mayor Garcia has said his goal is to "unite the city" once again. I do not believe rebuilding the monument will accomplish that. However, there are other ideas that could potentially repair harm and build bridges.

1. Consult with the Navajo Nation and Mescalero Apache (who were considered belligerents during the US Indian wars of the Civil War era) governments and tribal members in Santa Fe about what they would like to see happen to the monument.

2. Continue community engagement discussions about racism, settler colonialism and ethnic pluralism in O'ga P'ogeh and New Mexico as a whole (following findings of the CHART process).

3. Improve education in schools and public sites about the complexity of New Mexico's role during the US Civil War and the impacts of Anglo-American colonization on Hispano and Native communities in the mid-1800s.

4. Most importantly, appeal Judge Wilson's ruling, take down the monument and create a better, more inclusive center for the Plaza.

I believe the Plaza should reflect everyone's love for this place and the possibilities that arise for all people to thrive when we recenter Indigenous histories, presence, and futures.

Thank you for your consideration of this public comment; I unfortunately cannot attend Tuesday's meeting in person and have attached a more complete comment as a pdf.

Respectfully,

Alaina Szostkowski