

## VIGIL, XAVIER I.

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**From:** GARCIA, MICHAEL J.  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 10:14 PM  
**To:** CARDENAS, GERALYN F.  
**Subject:** Fw: Soldier's Monument

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Here is another public comment to be added to tomorrow's special gov body meeting.

Mike

Michael J. Garcia  
Mayor

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**From:** Aria Chiodo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 6:53:31 PM  
**To:** Mayors Office <mayor@santafenm.gov>  
**Subject:** Soldier's Monument

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Dear Mayor Garcia,

I am writing in response to the issue of the Soldier's Monument that is being discussed at the Governing Body meeting on Feb.24th. I cannot attend the meeting but would like to voice my opinion.

My opinion mirrors many others in the Santa Fe area, such as the All Pueblo Council of Governors, Pueblo of Tesuque, Santa Fe Indigenous Center and other Indigenous organizations and community leaders. This monument is at best controversial and at worst incredibly racist, celebrating genocide. As a New Mexican born and raised in Taos, I understand the complex cultural and racial relationships in our region that every elected official has to contend with. I know this monument is significant to many New Mexican's history and heritage. But we cannot continue upholding racist monuments simply because its been the norm. Furthermore, rebuilding the obelisk is an unnecessary expense at a time when there are so many essential services that need funding, such as housing and transportation.

There are many options of where the monument as it is now could go-- the Veterans Cemetery or the courtyard of the New Mexico History museum (across the street from its current location), perhaps with a plaque explaining its history and controversial past. It does not belong in the Plaza of our town, nor should we even consider the funds to rebuild the obelisk.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Aria Chiodo (she/her)

