

1 CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2013-84

3 INTRODUCED BY:

4 Councilor Bushee

5 Councilor Dimas

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10 A RESOLUTION

11 AFFIRMING THE CITY’S COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY AND FREEDOM FROM
12 DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE FOR ALL OF ITS RESIDENTS, INCLUDING
13 CHILDREN AND YOUTH; CONDEMNING BULLYING, HARASSMENT AND
14 INTIMIDATION IN SCHOOLS; AND URGING THE COMMUNITY TO WORK
15 TOGETHER TO FURTHER DEFINE AND UNDERSTAND THE MULTIPLE ASPECTS OF
16 BULLYING.

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18 WHEREAS, cities throughout the state of New Mexico are becoming more aware of the
19 growing trend of bullying, harassment and intimidation in schools and on the Internet that has become
20 a serious nationwide problem, often with severe consequences; and

21 WHEREAS, surveys indicate that as many as half of all children are bullied at some time
22 during their school years, and at least 10 percent are bullied on a regular basis; and

23 WHEREAS, more than 25 percent of adolescents and teens have been bullied repeatedly
24 through their cell phones or the Internet and more than 80 percent of teens use a cell phone regularly,
25 making it the most popular form of technology and a common medium for cyber bullying; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the social media network has vastly increased the number of users online and
2 young people are eager to participate without understanding the consequences of their behavior; and

3 **WHEREAS**, general bullying and cyber bullying have both caused severe damage,
4 heartache, and even fatal tragedy to young people and their families and friends; and

5 **WHEREAS**, victims of bullying display a range of responses, even many years later, such as
6 low self-esteem, difficulty in trusting others, lack of assertiveness, aggression, difficulty controlling
7 anger, and isolation; and

8 **WHEREAS**, bullying has been identified as a major concern by schools across the U.S. and
9 is an even greater concern when considering children with special needs; and

10 **WHEREAS**, school bullying, harassment, and intimidation can directly affect a student's
11 health and well-being and thus contribute to excess absences from school, physical sickness, mental
12 and emotional anguish, and long-term social and mental consequences; and

13 **WHEREAS**, school bullying, harassment, and intimidation can take many physical, verbal,
14 and written forms, including physical bullying; teasing or name-calling; social exclusion; peer sexual
15 harassment; bullying about race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity;
16 and cyber bullying (bullying through email, text messaging, or other digital means); and

17 **WHEREAS**, it is long past time for not only society, but also for the community of Santa Fe,
18 down to the individual school, to acknowledge that bullying is not some sort of rite of passage to be
19 simply ignored or tolerated; and

20 **WHEREAS**, public and private schools seek to provide a healthy, positive, and safe learning
21 atmosphere for all children; and

22 **WHEREAS**, numerous bullying prevention programs, curricula, and strategies have been
23 developed in recent years for use in schools and research indicates that bullying at school may be
24 significantly reduced through comprehensive, school-wide programs that are designed to change
25 norms for behavior; and

1 **WHEREAS**, many schools across in Santa Fe have already engaged in prevention efforts and
2 these programs emphasize assessment of the prevalence of bullying incidents and preventive, early
3 intervention strategies; and

4 **WHEREAS**, with the help of local school boards, private schools, school personnel, parents,
5 concerned individuals and children and youth providers, school bullying can be effectively addressed.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
7 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that:

8 **Section 1.** The Governing Body affirms the City's commitment to equality and freedom
9 from discrimination and violence for all of its residents, including children and youth.

10 **Section 2.** The Governing Body condemns bullying, harassment and intimidation within
11 schools and throughout the community.

12 **Section 3.** The City Children and Youth Commission staff is directed to:

13 A. Collaborate with parents, students, schools and children and youth providers to
14 further define and understand the multiple aspects of bullying and effectively use
15 systems for reporting school-related bullying incidents; and

16 B. Coordinate with schools, parents, children and youth providers and all other
17 concerned groups to come together to form a coalition whose goals would be to
18 explore funding mechanisms to bring about, through education and other means, the
19 end of bullying, harassment, and intimidation within schools and throughout the
20 community of Santa Fe.

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution
22 to the Santa Fe School Board, private schools and the City's children and youth providers.

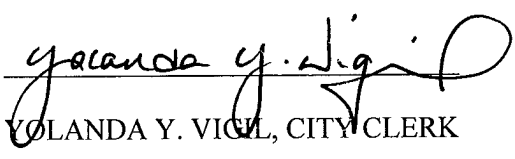
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PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 25th day of September, 2013.




DAVID COSS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY