Dear Fellow Santa Feans,

The start of 2021—a year of healing and recovery—is the right time to begin an inclusive process to bring our diverse city together. We can look back our long and deep history; we can write some history of our own as we build on our shared values.

If one of the most painful parts of 2020 was the violence on the Plaza that led to the toppling of the obelisk, last week the City Council and I took a major step forward to blaze a path to reconciliation for our whole community.

After months of committee hearings involving every member of the City Council, we unanimously adopted a resolution to begin “the CHART process.” (You can read the resolution here: santafem.gov/chart) Patterned after a community-led process used in Albuquerque, our Culture, History, Art, Reconciliation, and Truth process represents a grass-roots, open, transparent, and democratic way for everyone in our community to have their voice heard—and to hear the voices of friends, neighbors, and all who want to participate. The process calls for courageous conversations, where we honestly and respectfully listen to and learn from each other.

Importantly, the elected officials in City government—including me—will take a step back. These discussions will belong to you. Your voice, your values, your personal and family stories and your recommendations are what matter.
In the coming weeks, the City will put more information about the CHART process on the CHART page. Again, you can find it here: santafenm.gov/chart. You’ll be able to sign up to receive updates and notifications. There’ll be clear descriptions offering you different ways to get involved: take a survey; have an interview over the phone; or sign up to attend a series of meetings where you’ll be able to interact with other folks from across all parts of our community.

The process should be open, easy, convenient, and meaningful. The goal is healing based on mutual respect.

I’m proud that, together, we’re moving ahead to healing and recovery. This is our Santa Fe.

Thank you. Stay safe, stay well,

Alan