

7/11/22 NOTES
iSOS General Meeting

1. Thanks to all of you who are writing postcards to Black voters in Florida, urging that they vote in the August 23 Florida Primary Election! Cindy Pabst and Alexa Marcos are sponsoring a postcard party at the home of Nina and Alan Courtney on Sunday, **July 17th from 4-6 p.m.** Hope to see you on July 17th, [Click here to RSVP](#) and please tell your friends.
2. Don't forget our Indivisible SOS Santa Fe Gala at the home of Betsy Porter on Thursday, July 28th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We have over **50 attendees** including a number of guests. Food will be catered by Cowgirls. **We need set up and clean up help for the Gala at Betsy's.**
3. Santa Fe County Federation for Democratic Women is hosting a meet the candidates (19 are coming!) night and fundraiser for the candidates on Saturday, July 30th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the home of Alex and Martha Trujillo at 39 El Callejoncito Rd., Pojoaque 87506. Directions are simple:
 - Travel north on 285 (past the opera and Tesuque) to SR 503.
 - Turn right toward East Nambe, go 1/2 mile to first road on right.
 - Cross the creek and follow the signs.
 - There will be music, food by Real Burgers, old car show, outdoor movie, and door prizes.

*Let me know if you are interested and we can carpool!
This is a fundraiser-all money will go to candidates-The cost for the event is \$35.00 pp
-children under 5 are free. Please make your check payable to SFCFDW
1202 Gonzales Court, Santa Fe, NM 87501.*

As of today, Geoff and I are planning on attending!

Even if you can't attend, please consider donating!

4. Gabe has compassion, energy and is a great candidate. Claudette DuBois and SOS are going to canvass for Gabe 6 weeks. **Sandy is looking for 12 teams of 2 to canvass in SW ABQ.** Sandy is meeting with the field coordinator later today.
5. Rachel's group is working behind the scenes with police, public safety agencies to help bolster the most progressive elements within those types of groups. They are thrilled to have Rachel's help. There are no staff! No middle management. Also an issue with dispatch staffing. We are proposing this as a non-partisan effort. Repairing the training system will be better than the messaging on "tough on crime". **Ricann will ask for this topic to be on the NMIC agenda.**
6. We need **active participation** in our Committees. Please give this a priority in your life now through legislative session.
7. Report from Marti on committees. Marti sent out a questionnaire about committees and participation and/or alerts. Committee chairs have received the results of this. Marti will share the report out to everyone.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Our speaker today is John Blair, City Manager for the City of Santa Fe.

We want to talk about homelessness, water, prices of housing, environment and water.

John grew up in SF. Both his parents worked in public service. For 8 years he worked for Sen Binghamton, also in Heinrich's office for additional years. He worked the the Dept of the Interior in Obama's presidency. Many government jobs in state as well. He has worked for 6 months as

City Manager. A big piece of his work will be to help modernize city government, updating internal systems, financial and building out the staff within the city.

Things the city is dealing with: Santa Fe has 90,000 population and w/county it's double that. Hold onto small town charm and still deal with big city problems. We hate the way things work now and yet we also hate change! We can do a better job on the way we communicate and reach out to the public.

Homelessness policy used to be, pre-covid, to chase people out of encampments. During covid, encampments were allowed to stay if they met some conditions. Changing again now... Proposal to allow them in midtown campus. Another is to build 4 "campuses", 1 in each council district. When the homeless are housed closer together, we can better provide better services. Consuelos (?) provides support, as city does not have the staff to do so. SF is trying to emulate or hire Urban Alchemy out of San Francisco. Also working with SFCounty. The longer we go without doing anything the worse the problem gets. We probably have hundreds of homeless in SF.

Sandy has experience with Corporation for Supportive Housing that can be of help. Nancy McGraw is their development officer. She will be in SF here end of July and Sandy can put them together. They do tiny houses. Sandy sits on Behavioral Health Committee and also Housing Committee. Santa Fe offers builders the option to buy their way out of providing affordable housing. We shouldn't allow them to buy their way out, although that money is made available to "solving" the homeless problem.

There are some good examples in a recent NYTimes article on Houston and ending homelessness. There are successful camps in Las Cruces and Denver, 10'x10' plots for people, version of tiny house options too. Ideal size would be 50-60 people/campus.

Comment: Affordable housing is not available, and there is lots of drug use within more communal settings. Lots more help is needed for this population. What are the services?

Response: SF is looking to hire a steward for planned encampments. Cannabis being legal now, so it would be allowed within the "home". There are even city staff that are homeless now. But lots of NIMBY. Open fires are a concern in un-regulated encampments. We need to work towards humanizing the homeless population.

Comment: Many options now are cheaply built spaces, with little or no insulation and residents can be triggered by the sounds/noise. Single family spaces, even if small, are more appropriate for some people.

Response: There has been some talk in the city about instituting a millionaires tax, ie. when selling a house, some small percent would go toward solving homelessness. The city has talked to builders and there's talk of changing the density and zoning. One idea is to coordinate with Focus on Vets - their #1 issue is homelessness. Vet authority has a fund for that. The city is looking at capacity to get federal grants.

Comment: on homelessness and begging.

Response: Some "beggars" are homeless, some aren't. We are looking for a humane way to handle this. The city is looking to buy hotels to help with this situation.

Comment: Civil Right/Criminal Justice, Rachel's committee has been working with Law Enforcement within county, not city so far. The committee started with the SF sheriff to improve relations with immigrant communities, along with SOMOS. We learned there are many issues within the training of police and other law enforcement personnel in NM. Apparently, there is only 1 instructor. The committee is working with law enforcement toward changing laws/policies that address training. Rachel has an appointment with chair of the applicable interim committee. Rachel is hoping for a meeting of law enforcement leaders to listen to them and learn more about their needs and perspective. The idea would be to start with legislation in the interim committee and follow it through to implementation. The committee would like to help them out where we can legislators and those within law enforcement have no time to research, but we can support them in that way.

Response: Public safety is a big concern here in SF. John has gone from 19 to 7 direct reports. Police and Fire now report to someone else. SF is a bit more progressive in these matters than the rest of the state.

On the use of ARUs (alternative response units) in SF, there are 2 units right now. 911 calls go to a regional call center (working to make this a better system) Paramedic, councilor, and (probably) not an armed officer respond to distress situations. Most calls are appropriate for the use this type of response. SF is working towards this model, while the state is looking for more traditional law enforcement officers. SF is looking to hire more traditional law enforcement officers too and has given law enforcement officers a 16% pay raise. The city is looking into creating a program for mortgage assistance for Police and Fire and hoping to expand to all city employees some day.

Police can now drive their cars home with mileage limits. People feel safer when they see a police car in their neighborhood.

* There will be a new national mental health line: 988. Alternative to 911, mobile crisis and ARUs. July 18th it will start. Wendy, friend of Sandy's will run it for NM. We'll have her come to talk to us.

Police marched along side LGBTQ in pride parade, this huge city presence was an example of what we're building in Santa Fe.

Mayor is a big supporter of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income. We have a pilot program.

Q. Climate and water:

A. John will come back for another meeting only on climate. SF is doing great with water. In the last 20 years, 1/3 greater population and 1/3 less water usage, when city took over from PNM. How do we continue to encourage water savings, when we already do a good job. SF Water Director can come to talk to us if we want. Eventually we will need federal intervention with drying sources up stream and TX/CA drawing from them as well. Put pressure on governor and feds on climate. How to be creative around environment/water and then we can share with regional partners.

Q. We must rethink rural (agricultural) and urban water use.

A. We have to find a way to undivide our state esp between urban and rural areas around water and other issues.