

1 A MEMORIAL
2 RECOGNIZING MAYOR DAVID COSS AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS.

3
4 WHEREAS, David Coss was introduced to the world of
5 politics at age fifteen when he was hired as chief page for
6 the 1970 legislative session; and

7 WHEREAS, David was following in the footsteps of his
8 father, Ronald Coss, who was director of the legislative
9 education study committee when David served as chief page;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, David, then a sophomore at Santa Fe high
12 school, was excused from school for the thirty-day
13 legislative session and recalls assisting Senate Chief Clerk
14 Juanita Pino, Senator Aubrey Dunn, Senator Michael Alarid,
15 Senator Joe Skeen and Senator Jack Eastham; and

16 WHEREAS, David graduated from Santa Fe high school in
17 1972 and received a bachelor of science degree in agriculture
18 from New Mexico state university in 1977 and a master of arts
19 degree in zoology from southern Illinois university in 1981;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, from 1981 to 1993, David was an environmental
22 scientist for the surface water control bureau of the
23 department of environment, and from 1993 to 1995, he was
24 director of the environmental protection division of the
25 department of environment; and

1 WHEREAS, from 1995 to 1998, David was director of the
2 city of Santa Fe public works department and was director of
3 the field operations division of the state land office from
4 1999 to 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, for nine years, David was an officer and a
6 union organizer for the communications workers of America,
7 helping to defeat so-called right-to-work laws and to win
8 collective bargaining rights for public workers in
9 New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, David was a Santa Fe city councilor from 2002
11 through 2006, serving as a member of the public works
12 committee, the public utility committee, the regional
13 planning authority and the water conservation committee; and

14 WHEREAS, David was Santa Fe's mayor for eight years,
15 first elected in 2006 and reelected to a second term in 2010;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss's political and management style was
18 focused, collaborative, conciliatory, respectful and open to
19 new ideas; and

20 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss had many significant accomplishments
21 during his mayoral terms and never missed an opportunity to
22 praise and tout Santa Fe's extensive cultural and social
23 offerings; and

24 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss ensured that the city put on its
25 best face when the legislature convened in Santa Fe by

1 welcoming legislators and their families and by providing
2 passes to the city's recreation centers and parking
3 facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, Santa Fe was officially established in 1610,
5 and in 2010, Mayor Coss took great pride in Santa Fe's
6 celebration of its four hundredth anniversary and the
7 opportunity to highlight the city's history; and

8 WHEREAS, during planning and construction of the
9 Santa Fe convention center, an ancestral native Tesuque
10 village was discovered beneath the proposed center, and
11 Mayor Coss worked closely with the Pueblo of Tesuque to
12 ensure that the remains and artifacts were not desecrated;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the negotiations with the tribal governments
15 were conducted by Mayor Coss with sensitivity and a desire to
16 find middle ground acceptable to all parties; and

17 WHEREAS, under David's tenure as mayor, a living wage
18 law was passed in Santa Fe, the first city in the state to do
19 so; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2009, when the college of Santa Fe was
21 facing closure due to financial difficulties, Mayor Coss
22 assisted in a public-private partnership, which included the
23 city of Santa Fe, to purchase the campus, allowing the school
24 to remain open as the Santa Fe university of art and design;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, in 2013, Mayor Coss received national awards
2 from Americans for the arts and the United States conference
3 of mayors for his local arts leadership; and

4 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss led Santa Fe to partner with the
5 state in such important projects as expanding tourism and the
6 film industry, creating the Santa Fe railyard district,
7 establishing the rail runner commuter train, expanding the
8 Santa Fe airport, restoring the Santa Fe river, implementing
9 the Buckman direct diversion project and supporting
10 affordable housing initiatives; and

11 WHEREAS, public safety issues included increasing police
12 officer salaries across the board to improve recruiting
13 efforts; upgrading equipment; expanding and remodeling the
14 police station; working with police and the immigrant
15 community to improve relations and increase public safety;
16 addressing domestic and sexual violence issues; and assisting
17 with the development of the law enforcement assisted
18 diversion project to allow heroin addicts to be diverted into
19 treatment instead of incarceration; and

20 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss always represented the city at
21 deployment and return ceremonies of the national guard and
22 ensured the placement of a statue honoring medal of honor
23 recipient Master Sgt. Leroy Petry in front of Santa Fe city
24 hall; and

25 WHEREAS, Mayor Coss is proud of the environmental

1 progress made during his tenure, including twenty-five percent
2 of Santa Fe's electricity now being produced by solar energy;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, David is proud and unapologetic about his
5 support for protection of the environment, labor rights,
6 immigrant rights and the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual
7 and transgender community; and

8 WHEREAS, David continues his advocacy by serving on the
9 executive board and chairing the legislative committee of the
10 Rio Grande chapter of the Sierra club; and

11 WHEREAS, David and his wife of thirty years, Carol Rose,
12 have three children, Celedina, Dylan and Molly, and he is
13 blessed to still have his parents, Ron and Millie, in
14 Santa Fe; and

15 WHEREAS, in retirement, David is enjoying babysitting
16 for his two granddaughters, Giana Tohee and Madison Lithgow,
17 and expanding his intellectual horizons as a freshman at Santa
18 Fe community college, majoring in Spanish;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Mayor David Coss be recognized for
21 his many accomplishments and for his selfless contributions to
22 New Mexico; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
24 transmitted to Mayor David Coss. _____