

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indigenous Groups To Celebrate Victory of Removal of Racist Statues After Santa Fe City Council Heeds Their Demands.

Santa Fe, NM --- Today, June 18th, 2020, on the eve of Juneteeth 2020, The Three Sisters Collective (3SC) with support from Tewa Women United, The Red Nation, Walk the Talk, SURJ, Black Voices Albuquerque, Santa Fe While Black, and Indigenous Women Rising, will lead a non-violent event in the Santa Fe Plaza to celebrate the victory of removing three racist statues from the city of Santa Fe:

- The obelisk located in the Santa Fe Plaza
- The Kit Carson obelisk located in front of the Santa Fe Courthouse
- The Don Diego de Vargas statue at Cathedral Park (this statue has been [removed as of June 18, 2020](#))

On June 17th, 2020 the 3SC delivered an [open letter to Mayor Alan Webber and to the Santa Fe City Council](#) demanding the removal of the three statues listed above and for the Mayor and council members to attend the event being organized.

“Our ask is that these monuments, specifically the obelisk in the plaza, be permanently removed and replaced with something that represents the original people of this land. We are available and willing to work with you on that process.

As city officials who have been elected to uphold the will of the people as well as ensure the safety of Santa Feans, we call upon you to attend this event and listen to the demands and voices of your Indigenous constituents.”

Shortly after delivering the letter, the 3SC, Mayor Webber, and a City Council member, who has been a steadfast ally to the collective, met to dialogue about 3SC’s demands and how best to protect community members at the event set for June 18th, 2020, in light of recent violence instigated by armed vigilante groups in Albuquerque, NM.

Organizers from the Three Sisters Collective stated, “above all else, it is our priority to keep our community members safe from any violence instigated by the police and/or by armed far right militia groups. By having our city leaders present at our event, this creates a barrier of safety, as we know from recent events, that it is Black, Indigenous, and Brown folks who are disproportionately targeted, killed, and harmed by police and armed vigilante groups. We call upon our white allies to use their privilege in this way, to protect their community members of color.”

Following this meeting and dialogue, Mayor Webber announced his intentions to remove the three statues from the downtown Santa Fe area.

“The future is knocking at our door”, said Mayor Webber, “and we are required to answer. It’s not only an obligation, it is an honor and an opportunity to answer that call...The time has come, I believe, for us to step into the moment and walk into the future and take decisive action. My intention, as Mayor, is to call for the obelisk located in the Santa Fe Plaza to come down, to call for the Kit Carson obelisk located in front of the Santa Fe Courthouse to come down, and to remove the Don Diego statue...My belief is that we must take these steps now because they are the right thing to do, it is a moment of moral truth and we have been called to do it by our Native American colleagues, friends, and family members and it is long overdue”.

The event today, June 18, 2020 will celebrate this long overdue victory with prayer and messages shared by the local community. In honor of the momentum created by the #DefendBlackLife movement, today’s event will also include members of the Black community from Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

Event begins at 5pm MST and the agenda is as follows:

- Welcome and Blessing
- Three Sisters Collective Introduction
- Historical Context by Pueblo Representative
- Reproductive Justice
- DACA: NM Dream Team
- Indigenous Black Solidarity: Three Sister Collective and NDN Collective
- Black Lives Matter: Santa Fe While Black
- Solidarity from City of Santa Fe: Mayor Alan Webber
- Closing

****A live stream of the event can be [watched here](#) ****

Three Sisters Collective asks for all attendees to wear a mask and to practice social distancing.

The following is a statement from the Three Sisters Collective:

The removal of these statues and monuments has been a demand from the Pueblo and Native community here in Santa Fe and beyond for decades and thanks to both the momentum created by the Movement for Black Lives and the leadership of Native women, these statues are now, finally, being removed. Right now, the entire nation is experiencing a reckoning and eradication of White Supremacy and it is only fitting that these statues that put men who murdered, enslaved, and tortured, Native Peoples are removed in order to create a culture of

equity and justice. We are heartened by the intentions, actions, and solidarity from Mayor Webber and the Santa Fe City Council. We will continue to work and build with these elected officials to continue to make Santa Fe a community that honors its original peoples and stands committed to inclusion, equity, and liberation. We intend on working with community leaders and elected officials for a clear vision and process for Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations and to indigenize spaces throughout Santa Fe.

The following is a statement from City Councilwoman, District 1, Renee Villarreal:

"I stand in solidarity with Three Sisters Collective and my other Indigenous sisters, brothers and gender nonconforming relatives in the removal of monuments and statues that represent white supremacy, colonialism, and genocide. These depictions create divisions, false narratives and misconceptions of our past and present, rather than a means to honor and celebrate our shared and connected cultural heritage and history. I am proud to be on the right side of herstory!"

--Renee Villarreal, Santa Fe City Councilwoman, District 1

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Three Sisters Collective strives to recenter an indigenous matriarchal presence in Oгаа Po'ogeh , Santa Fe, New Mexico, through arts, activism, education, and community building.