

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF SANTA FE  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DYLAN WROBEL;  
DAWN FURLONG;  
LILY SCHWEITZER;  
RYAN WITT;  
STEPHEN FOX;  
MELISSA ROSE; and  
LAUREN STRAILY,

D-101-CR-2021-00014  
D-101-CR-2021-00083  
D-101-CR-2021-00084  
D-101-CR-2021-00085  
D-101-CR-2021-00086  
D-101-CR-2021-00087  
D-101-CR-2021-00088

Defendants.

### **Statement of the Defendants**

We, the undersigned, came together to participate in a restorative justice community group conference to address charges and related concerns arising from actions on the Santa Fe Plaza on and around Indigenous People's Day 2020.

We undertook this labor knowing we would share a deep dive into so much more than the events of that single day. Against the backdrop of a raging national crisis of confrontation with the worst abuses and most unsavory aspects of our collective history and character, we grappled with the intersection of national and local traumas that led up to the toppling of the Soldiers' Monument (obelisk). Through restorative justice, we have endeavored to play a part in the healing of that trauma locally and as a fragment of the larger national mosaic.

As a result of the gathering with various parties who were hurt and angered by our actions, we the charged parties want to make certain statements to help heal from this experience:

1. First, we express our apology for our actions to the larger community, including local Hispanic and Indigenous groups, whose work on historical reconciliation were negatively impacted or interrupted because of our actions on Indigenous People's Day.
2. We wish that the obelisk had been removed in a manner that included community

involvement, that may have resulted in the monument being moved to a museum or to the cemetery as opposed to having been destroyed and contributing to the harm or risk of harm to others.

3. Through this restorative justice process we came to better understand the pain and frustration of the community, particularly those who have worked for years to find peaceful, nonviolent and amicable resolutions to many of the issues that divide our community.
4. We hoped after engaging in the restorative justice process that this process could pave the way for future conflict resolution on matters of community importance.
5. Through the Restorative Justice sessions we could now see that conversation, dialogue, and mutual education should be a foundational tool in social activism.
6. As a result of the restorative justice process, which between intake and various sessions required our participation for over 30 hours, and cost us collectively over \$15,000, we came away more deeply committed to better initiatives of coalition building and understanding the necessity to engage in hard conversations with people of diverse opinions and views.
7. Several of the charged parties had travelled from out of state to participate in the restorative justice sessions. They had left the state because of death threats made against them after the incident in the plaza. The violent threats contributed to decisions to keep this process confidential.
8. As a result of the restorative justice process and the Pre-Prosecution Diversion program, we chose to help the community by devoting time and energy to various non-profits and organizations that directly impact the quality of life in Santa Fe or our resident communities. This community service amount collectively to more than 320 hours in programs that:
  - distributes food to local shelters and food banks;
  - provides education to youth who have dropped out of high school to help them transition to higher education and meaningful work;
  - cross cultural collaborative projects that enhance food security for future generations in Santa Fe;
  - provide rehabilitative services for neglected and abused animals;
  - teaches art, exercise and movement to children and adults with diverse backgrounds;
  - provides assistance to women with limited access to pre-natal, birthing and post partum medical care;
  - provides regenerative agriculture education and services including food waste diversion, preparing soil for planting, irrigation, composting, weeding, harvesting, and distribution of food grown on the premises, and in addition, running a Farm Camp to children and youth providing education and experience in all facets of sustainable and regenerative farming.

- renovated a church in its transition to a community center
- 9. All participants came away feeling that we must expand opportunities to sit and communicate, listen, and hold space for each of us to voice our thoughts to foster growth and understanding in our community.
- 10. The participants were grateful to have met and learned many things from each other. We shared an experience of real empathy for one another. Even the harmed parties who participated said they were better able to understand the motivations, values and perspectives of the charged parties and this empathy led to open dialogue and listening that would not have been accomplished without a restorative justice component.

Signed this 1st day of February 2022 by the following charged Defendants:

/s/ Ryan Witt

/s/ Lauren Straily

/s/ Dawn Furlong

/s/ Melissa Rose

/s/ Austin Schweitzer

/s/ Zachary Young

/s/ Lily Schweitzer

/s/ Dylan Wrobel