



## **33 NEW PARK BENCHES!**

### **Public Invited to Ribbon-Cutting at the Historic Santa Fe Plaza**

**Wednesday, January 26, 1:30 p.m.**

January 24, 2022 — This week 33 iron benches lining the broad, brick walkways of Santa Fe Plaza will be replaced. Using the same mold that was used 30 years ago, the benches will be made of poured aluminum and painted to replicate the originals.

“Aluminum lasts longer,” Acting Parks Division Director Melissa McDonald says. “We’ll have no rust and a lot less maintenance with these new beauties. Some had gotten pretty shabby.”

“This is a much-needed facelift for the most important park in the city — our historic plaza,” said Buddy Roybal, a volunteer with Friends of the Plaza. “We were thrilled to find the exact molds that were used back during the Pick administration,” Roybal said, referring to Sam Pick’s second administration as Mayor.

Mayor Alan Webber says: “The Plaza continues to be the heart of Santa Fe and it needs and deserves our love and attention. These 33 new benches, made possible by the great support of Buddy Roybal, a group of committed volunteers, and our hard-working City team not only preserve the Plaza and make it friendly and attractive, but also refresh its historic look.”

The Plaza is a National Historic Landmark and the new fixtures were approved by the Historic Preservation Division of the City Planning and Land Use Department.

The Parks Division has scheduled a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Wednesday, January 26, at 1:30 p.m. to celebrate the success of the improvement project and to thank

Roybal and Chuck Higgins of Friends of the Plaza, the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce, and others.

The new benches cost \$20,000 and were funded by an allocation made possible by a positive adjustment in recent Gross Receipts Tax revenues.

According to McDonald, the Parks Division will be removing the old benches and will reuse ones that are in reasonably good shape throughout the city. “The benches that are too damaged for repair,” McDonald said, “will hopefully be auctioned off this summer to people who want a real piece of our plaza’s history.”

**Event Details: Ribbon-Cutting for Plaza Benches**

- Where: Santa Fe Plaza
- When: Wednesday, January 26, 1:30 p.m.
- Who: Members of the public and the media are encouraged to join Mayor Webber and members of the Governing Body, Friends of the Plaza, and the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce
- Contact: Melissa McDonald, Acting Parks Division Director, (505) 303-9502, [mamcdonald@santafenm.gov](mailto:mamcdonald@santafenm.gov);

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