

The Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners

**SPONSORED BY: COMMISSIONERS DEBBIE O'MALLEY, ART DE LA CRUZ
MAGGIE HART STEBBINS, LONNIE C. TALBERT, and WAYNE A. JOHNSON**

WHEREAS, James Madison, the father of our federal Constitution, wrote that “consent of the governed” requires that the people be able to “arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives;” and

WHEREAS, every citizen in our participatory democracy has an inherent right of access to government meetings and public records; and

WHEREAS, an open and accessible government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people’s trust and confidence in their government and in the government’s ability to effectively serve its citizens; and

WHEREAS, “Sunshine Week” is a national initiative featuring participants from the news media, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools, and others interested in the public’s right to know and promoting a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information; and

WHEREAS, the protection of every person’s right of access to all public records and government meetings is a high priority of Bernalillo County; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the “BernCo View” transparency portal, citizens now have access to employees’ salaries and benefits, along with a full list of job descriptions; a listing of unclaimed deceased persons for those seeking a lost loved one; Bernalillo County’s legislative priorities presented to lawmakers in Santa Fe during the annual session; grant recipients; contracts and sole source procurements; union contracts; building permits; and the county’s strategic plan, performance measures and performance data relative to other counties nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo County is committed to openness and transparency in all aspects of its operations and continues to set a standard in this regard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernalillo County Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaims the week of March 16 – 22, 2014 as

Sunshine Week

DONE, this 25th day of March, in Bernalillo County, State of New Mexico.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Debbie O’Malley, Chair

Art De La Cruz, Vice Chair

Maggie Hart Stebbins, Member

Lonnie C. Talbert, Member

Wayne A. Johnson, Member

ATTESTED BY:

**Maggie Toulouse Oliver
County Clerk**

