



NEWS RELEASE

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SWEARING IN CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR BERNALILLO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Recently elected Bernalillo County officials will be sworn in at a ceremony on Monday, January 1, 2007 at 10:00 am in the Judge Frank H. Allen, Jr. Ceremonial Courtroom in the Bernalillo County District Courthouse.

Commissioner Alan B. Armijo has been re-elected to serve a second term representing District 1. During his first four years in office he was elected Chair of the Commission three of the four years and also served as Vice Chair his first year. Alan has been a strong leader for the County in areas of economic development, public safety and fiscal management. Under his guidance, the County has issued over \$160 million dollars in revenue bonds and assisted other companies by waiving impact fees creating a tremendous boost to the local economy in the form of 3,500 new jobs, more construction and an increase in gross receipts tax revenue. The County has received exceptionally high bond ratings from Fitch, Standard and Poor's and Moody's, which is a reflection of the County's strong financial condition. He provided direction during the transition of the full operation of the Metropolitan Detention Center to the County, has increased fire protection throughout the unincorporated area and worked closely with the Sheriff's Department to increase salaries, which will improve recruitment and retention of deputies.

Commissioner Armijo has worked for Albuquerque Public Schools for over 30 years, is currently the Governmental Liaison and has over twenty-three years of experience as a teacher and coach. He holds a Master's and Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of New Mexico and a certificate from the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government Program.

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Elected to a second term, Commissioner Michael Brasher is a strong advocate of community input and works closely with neighborhood associations and constituents to pinpoint issues and develop solutions within District 5. During his first term, he has been instrumental in increasing wildfire awareness and education, is currently working closely with County staff regarding the construction of the Fisher Smith Memorial Gymnasium and has been very involved in the development of the Tijeras Canyon/Carnuel Plan. The plan is consistent with the East Mountain Area Plan (EMAP) and includes concerns regarding future residential and commercial development, specifically focusing on the need for water and wastewater infrastructure. Commissioner Brasher also worked in conjunction with East Mountain residents to honor Sheriff's Deputy James McGrane's memory with a permanent memorial located on the site where the deputy was shot and killed.

He is the General Manager of KANW Radio, a non-commercial educational station owned and operated by the Albuquerque Public Schools. He possesses forty-one years of experience in broadcasting.

Darren P. White begins his second term as Bernalillo County Sheriff. He has a diverse background, having served as a Cabinet Secretary for the NM Department of Public Safety and as an officer with the Albuquerque and Houston police departments. Prior to his law enforcement career, Sheriff White served in the United States Army as a member of the elite, 82nd Airborne Division. DWI prevention is a top priority for Sheriff White. Under his leadership, the Department has initiated aggressive DWI enforcement operations. Sheriff White has targeted fugitives through regular warrants sweeps resulting in hundreds of arrests per year. One of his most rewarding experiences as Sheriff was leading a team of deputies and firefighters to rescue survivors and restore public safety in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

In 2006 the Aspen Institute recognized Sheriff White as one of the nation's top 24 young elected officials. Following an eight-month search involving input from more than 1,400 business, political, and civic leaders, he was selected for the fellowship program. The Institute has identified him as one of "the true rising stars" of American politics.

After being appointed to complete an unexpired term as Probate Judge, the Honorable Merri Rudd was elected to her second term of office as Probate Judge in November. She is the author of *Life Planning in New Mexico* and writes a bi-weekly column for the *Albuquerque Journal*. She wrote the "New Mexico Probate Judges Training Manual" used by the UNM Judicial Education Center to train judges statewide. She attended Vanderbilt University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in 1976 and the University of New Mexico School of Law, earning her J.D. in 1986. Judge Rudd has received many awards, including the New Mexico Press Women's Award in 2000 and the YWCA "Women on the Move" Award in 1998.

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Newly-elected County Assessor, Karen L. Montoya, is the first woman to ever hold this position. As she begins her first term, she brings extensive experience and knowledge to the duties assigned to the Assessor. A veteran County employee, she worked in the Assessor's office from 1991 to 2004 and is well versed in the areas of agricultural valuation, real estate appraisal, residential and commercial valuation and assessment administration. For the last three years, she has worked as a Senior Appraiser with the New Mexico State Property Tax Division.

A New Mexico Certified Appraiser, Assessor Montoya served as Chair of the County Valuation Protest Board and is also a member of the International Association of Assessing Officers.

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