Once upon a time, everyone wanted to be different. In fact, many people challenged the idea that people should be similar to each other. They did this because individuals as thinking that life would be so boring if we all looked alike, thought alike and talked alike. However, it is human nature to seek to be different from us and those times seemed to have gone out of style. Now, in our age of global communication, there are so many examples of how far discrimination, intolerance and bullying have gone in the last few decades. It can be hard to see how the teenager whose homocing_nomination was initiated as a prank to humiliate her, or the news anchor who was publicly ridiculed for the way she looked right. We shake our heads over the religious groups who hold violent demonstrations against those whose beliefs are different from their own and it appears that the list goes on. And when it is decided that one person or group had the responsibility to be the judge of what is acceptable in this world? Who has the right to say that a person’s gender, religion, language, race, body type, age, or sexual orientation is the right one? So much can be learned about a person’s character by meeting another person and it is a fact that there is much to learn from people who are different from us.

We must start by teaching our children to behave respectfully towards other people. We need to teach them that it is wrong to tease or reject a person because they are different. We must make them understand that it is wrong when some people become hateful toward others, and that behavior like this should not be tolerated.

It is human nature to notice those people who look different, or talk differently. Familiar faces, groups or activity around political signage are acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind."

Citizen Input Meeting

Proper Language Development Code

San Juan County will be holding a Citizen Input meeting on Monday, October 22nd from 4pm-7pm at the McGee Park Multi-Use Building. The meeting is an open house so citizens are encouraged to attend anytime between 4pm-7pm. For more information on the proposed Land Development Code, please visit the county website at www.sjcourts.net or the County Executive Office in Aztec.

We have worked together since 2003 to create a NM Office of Peace to promote nonviolence in our homes, schools and communities. Legislation sponsored by Senator Ortiz Pino in 2011 and 2012 was intended to help pass a bill to create a NM Office of Peace to promote peace education in schools statewide, including dialogue, mediation and restorative justice (RJ). The bill passed help people take responsibility for their behavior, acknowledge harm done and create ways to repair the harm, respect differences and flawed human nature. It works well in classrooms and the juvenile justice system.

It can be helpful to add another layer of peace education that will promote a sustainable peace economy and support veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This program has been in place since 2003 and the House passed the Office of Peace act in 2007. Can you help pass this bill? Contact your state legislators and candidates now, and again during the 2013 Legislature, and ask them to sign on to the legislation to help pass the Office of Peace bill. Please visit www.thedepartmentspecifically/TALON. Together we can create a culture of peace, improving safety and quality of life for families.

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