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**GOVERNOR MICHELE LUJAN GRISHAM WAS  
THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE SANDOVAL COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING RIBBON CUTTING**

*Event was held Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at the new facility in Bernalillo, NM*

Bernalillo, NM, July 24, 2024: **New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham** was the guest speaker at the ribbon cutting for the new *Sandoval County Public Safety Building* held Tuesday, July 23, 2024. The \$12.2 M, 19,240 square-foot facility houses the Sheriff's Office and the Emergency Operations Center. Governor Lujan Grisham provided \$5.6M of capital outlay funding to the Public Safety Building project in August 2022 so that it would be a state-of-the-art facility from design through construction through technology.



*Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham*

During her remarks, Governor Lujan Grisham said, "This is what we are celebrating today, a kind of unique New Mexico style leadership where it does not matter where you're from, it doesn't matter your party affiliation. What matters is developing projects that both keep people safe and create the kinds of investment strategies that allow you to keep doing that work for a decade or more." The Governor also pointed out that Sandoval County per capita is the safest county in the state.

**David J. Heil**, *Chair of the Sandoval County Board of County Commissioners*, said "This Public Safety Building demonstrates the commitment of this Commission along with our partners from the state and federal government to protect and serve the citizens of Sandoval County." Mr. Heil thanked the taxpayers, the governor, and the state and federal governments for their financial support of the project. This support included two General Obligation Bonds, American Rescue Plan Act funds, and capital outlay from the State of New Mexico.

According to Mr. Heil, this project started in 2018 when the Commission identified that to meet the needs of the fastest-growing county in New Mexico, it would require that the Sheriff's Office relocate from the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District courthouse to allow the Magistrate Court to move in, which would then free up space in the Sandoval County Detention Center for behavioral health services. He indicated that these endeavors are underway and that the new building represents the completion of the first phase of a larger plan.

The Project Management Team for the new building was recognized during the event. County Public Works management, RMKM Architects, P.C., and Enterprise Builders were lauded for their success in bringing the project in basically on time and to budget as the project faced challenges during construction such as inflation affecting materials' costs, increased labor costs, and supply chain disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.



*Sheriff Jesse James Casaus* also gave remarks at the event and Wayne Johnson, County Manager, was the Master of Ceremonies. In attendance were elected officials and representatives from the county and state government along with county staff and area first responders. A reception followed and was hosted by RMKM Architects, P.C., Enterprise Builders, and Stand True 4 Blue.

*Sandoval County Sheriff Jesse James Casaus performs the honors at the ribbon cutting. To his left is Commissioner David J. Heil, District 4, Chair of the Sandoval County Commission, and to his right is Commissioner Katherine Bruch, District 1.*

*Sandoval County, the fastest-growing county in New Mexico, encompasses 3,714 square miles of diverse geography and has a population of approximately 154,000 people. It includes the incorporated municipalities of Bernalillo, Cuba, Corrales, Jemez Springs, Rio Rancho, San Ysidro, and the Town of Cochiti Lake as well as numerous unincorporated communities, and all or portions of 12 Indian Pueblos and Tribal Nations. For more information, visit [www.sandovalcountynm.gov](http://www.sandovalcountynm.gov).*

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