

Governor Bill Richardson Issues Executive Order to Reactivate Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health

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SANTA FE- Joined by former World Champion boxer Sugar Ray Leonard, Governor Bill Richardson today issued an Executive Order reviving the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health. The Governor will appoint 35 New Mexicans from across the state to serve on the Council, which will work to make fitness and health-related activities more available.

Governor Richardson prepared remarks:

"Today I am taking action to help all New Mexicans lead healthier lives, by re-activating, by Executive Order, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health.

You can see right here- in Sugar Ray Leonard- what physical fitness looks like, and what it can mean for your life. Sugar Ray looks as young, and as good, as he did in the prime of his boxing career- I don't think the guy has aged. That's because he has a lifelong commitment to physical fitness, and healthy living.

This council, made up of 35 volunteers from across the state, will work with businesses, educational institutions, associations, and foundations to improve the availability of fitness and health activities for all New Mexicans. I'll be naming a chairman soon.

The members of the council will also advise me on fitness and health related policy. I'll be naming the chairman, and the members of the council soon.

Obesity, and related illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes affect thousands of New Mexicans each year. **Much of this is preventable.** Physical fitness, and healthier lifestyles, can reduce the number of people who get these diseases, and improve the quality of life and outcome for those who do.

I am particularly committed to getting this message to our children, so they can understand the importance of physical fitness, and develop a healthy lifestyle from a very young age. Healthy kids spend more time in school, are more successful, and grow into healthy adults. And let's face it, healthier adults mean a healthier economy, and less of a strain on our healthcare system.

New Mexico is the perfect place for fitness- with our many recreation areas, opportunities for cycling, hiking, running, swimming- whatever outdoor, or indoor activity you desire- New Mexico has it. We've got to convince more people to get fit."

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2003-042

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AND HEALTH

WHEREAS, the well-being of New Mexico's citizens is directly related to the quality of their physical fitness and health; and

WHEREAS, a regular program of vigorous physical activity for children and adults can reduce obesity and the risk of heart disease; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a council to promote physical fitness through existing programs and new programs; and

WHEREAS, the development of a partnership between government, private citizens, and business will be helpful in accomplishing the goal of better physical fitness and health for all New Mexicans;

NOW THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of New Mexico, do hereby establish the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health, which shall be instituted as follows:

1. Not more than thirty-five (35) members from the public and private sectors shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
2. The term of office for each member of the Council shall be for the duration of the Governor's term.
3. The Governor shall appoint the Chair of the Council prior to the first meeting.
4. Council members shall serve voluntarily and shall receive no pay for their services, nor shall they be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses.
5. The Council shall meet at least quarterly and not more than monthly to be determined by the Chair.
6. In making appointments to the Council, consideration will be given to geographical representation.

The duties and responsibilities of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health are as follows:

1. To seek cooperative relationships between state agencies, educational institutions, businesses, associations and foundations to improve the availability of fitness and health activities to all citizens in New Mexico.
2. To promote programs that increase interest, enthusiasm and participation in health and fitness programs.
3. To make policy and program recommendations to the Governor relating to fitness and health.
4. To coordinate activities with the President of the United States' Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and to carry out their programs at the state level whenever feasible.

THIS ORDER supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Governor.

ATTEST:

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS ___ DAY OF OCTOBER, 2003

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR