

Resilience.

By DANIEL DIAZ
Community Reporter

MAIN ST — Every September comes the joyous occasion of celebrating Mexican pride, culture and togetherness. As many locals know, no one else comes close to throwing a block party than our own Santa Ana. But this year is different.

Federal immigration enforcement has played an enormous part in severing crowds this Mexican Independence Day, but the fact of the matter is that the People—la Raza—still showed up in a great display of resilience. Their presence became an act of resilience, proof that unity thrives even when fear tries to divide.

As the parade rolled forward, so did the spirit of Santa Ana. Thousands filled the streets draped in the green, white, and red of the Mexican flag, mingled with flashes of yellow, pink, orange, and blue. Together, they turned the city into a moving mural of joy and defiance.

Elected officials, community groups, and residents proudly represented every corner of Mexico, marching with banners, music, and tradition. The celebration carried into Calle Cuatro, where chinelo dancers spun through the streets and local organizations, vendors, and the carnival welcomed families to continue the party.

Still, the difference in turnout was hard to miss.

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Community member dressed as Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a Catholic priest, leader of the Mexican War of Independence, who is recognized as the Father of México (Daniel Diaz/The Santanero).

Santaneros keep
Fiestas Patrias
traditions alive in
the shadow of ICE

from *AI, Resilience*

In years past, families crowded the sidewalks hours ahead of time, jostling for space and holding their spots along Main Street. Children balanced on parents' shoulders, paleteros weaved through the crowd, and the buzz of anticipation was constant. This year, many stretches of curb sat open, the urgency to claim a seat noticeably absent. Parade-goers who did attend commented quietly to one another about the gaps, while others stayed seated, enjoying the show without the usual struggle to keep their ground. The atmosphere carried both celebration and caution, a reminder of the weight outside forces had placed on what should have been a carefree afternoon. Even so, those who came carried the weight of tradition, filling the air with energy that outshone the emptier sections of pavement.

Just earlier Sunday morning, prior to the start of the parade, federal immigration agents raided the Bristol Speedway carwash for the sixth time this summer, kidnapping two workers before heading eastbound. This caused some to stay home and opting to watch the parade live on YouTube out of fear, a daily reality for Santaneros.

But by the day's end, one truth stood out: Santa Ana's strength is its people. In the face of fear and challenge, they chose to celebrate, to stand together, and to remind the world that independence is not just a date — it's a living tradition.



Parade member portraying the late Paquita la del Barrio. (Daniel Diaz/The Santanero).



Miss Michoacán strolling down the parade. (Daniel Diaz/The Santanero).



Parade members holding Mexican flag while on horse. (Daniel Diaz/The Santanero).



Michoacán parade members marching down Main Street. (Daniel Diaz/The Santanero).



Tecuanes dancers showing off their moves. (Daniel Diaz/The Santanero).



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News-notice

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Daniel Diaz is the primary person to get in contact with regarding pretty much anything on this newspaper. His email is ddiaz@santanero.org.

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Community members posing for a picture after participating in the parade. (Daniel Diaz/The Santanero).

Chinelos dancing in Calle Cuatro after the annual Mexican Independence Day parade. (Daniel Diaz/The Santanero).

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