



EL PASO COUNTY

Commissioner
David Stout
Precinct 2

Newsletter - Volume 3 - Issue 3 - 2017

County Commissioners Court Approves FY18 Budget -- No Tax Increase



After a long, arduous process, I am proud to announce that the El Paso County Commissioners Court has approved and adopted our budget for Fiscal Year 2018 without raising taxes.

Our General Fund budget will be \$327 million, an increase of \$13 million, or 4% from Fiscal Year 2017. All funds will be \$412 million, keeping our financial reserves at about 16%.

And for the third consecutive year, all of our investments will take place while keeping the tax rate at approximately \$0.457. Here are some of the highlights:

- Funding for the County employee step program totaling \$2.8M and a 1.6% COLA totaling \$1.76M
- Allocating \$350K for mental health assessments
- Allocating Transportation and Storm Water mitigation funding totaling \$4.92M
- Investing in the County Economic Development department incentives programs (\$500K for incentives in approved policy)
- Further operational investments in County Parks
- \$500K investment in a Wellness Center at the County Courthouse
- Utilizing Hotel Occupancy Taxes to complete a Historic District survey and investing in the preservation of our historical assets
- Reclassification and salary adjustments for attorneys

Many more great things were included in this budget, but were too many to list. I am excited for the upcoming Fiscal Year and would like to extend a special thanks to the other members of the Commissioners Court, Wally Hardgrove, his team in the Budget and Fiscal Policy Department, Betsy Keller, Department Heads and all of our County Employees for all of their hard work and dedication to this organization throughout this process.

County Hospital District Sees a 6.4% Tax Increase Amid Uncertainty

Throughout the budget deliberation process, the El Paso County Commissioners Court also adopted the County Hospital District's Budget and Tax Rate of approximately \$0.252, a 6.4% increase from last year. Several issues contributed to the increase, such as uncertainty of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid at the federal level, the financial position of the El Paso Children's Hospital and the potential revenue caps bill at the Texas Legislature. The tax increase translates into an increase of about \$22 per the average home in the County of El Paso.

In the adopted budget, UMC's revenue budget will be \$627M with the following breakdown:

- Property tax revenue \$104M (17% of budget)
- Medicaid Supplemental revenue \$88M (14%)
- Net patient service revenue \$204M (32%)
- Premium revenue \$169M (27%)
- Other revenue \$63M (10%)

In the adopted budget, UMC's expense budget will be \$633M with the following breakdown:

- Depreciation \$29M (5%)
- Purchased Services \$53M (8%)
- Supplies \$92M (15%)
- Medical Claims \$146M (23%)
- Salaries and benefits \$195M (31%)
- Physician costs \$36M (5%)
- Intergovernmental Transfer \$37M (6%)
- Interest \$13M (2%)
- Other \$34M (5%)

This budget has allowed us to provide a 1.5% merit increase and \$3M market adjustment for positions at UMC. UMC will also eliminate the parking fee for employees and bulk up the hospital's cash reserves. Additionally, bond funds will allow the hospital to invest in an interventional lab for neuro-intervention and acquire land in Central El Paso that will be the future home of a clinic, with the possibility of an outpatient surgery center.

I'd like to thank Jacob Cintron, the CEO of University Medical Center and his staff for their hard work and dedication on this budget. I'd also like to extend a special thanks to SEIU and National Nurses United for their advocacy for our hospital workers throughout the budgeting process.



Future Investments in Ascarate Park

In the past, issues of the overall cleanliness of Ascarate Park, and a vegetation growth problem, have arisen repeatedly at the lake. Our Parks Department has consistently addressed some issues but in order to do so in the long term, we have allocated funds towards the purchase of a new boat, specifically designed for the maintenance of the lake, trash removal, shore-line clean up and more. This boat, in addition to the potential assistance from JPD and the Adult Probation Department, can help us keep the lake and the park clean during high peak hours.

Another issue we've experienced at Ascarate Park is the cleanliness and lack of restrooms for our visitors. In the Fiscal Year 2018 budget funds were approved to fix the permanent restrooms at the Park, as well to provide more portable toilets and regular maintenance, especially during the peak hours such as holidays and other special events. Overall, we have allocated \$1.8M towards Ascarate Park for FY2018.

We are also planning to invest in the beautification of Ascarate, as well as overall safety. We are working with the Parks Department on making improvements to the entrance sign, adding possible artwork and murals, and investing in a full time sheriff officer to patrol the Park.

In order to improve the fishing experience for our angler community, we are also looking into establishing a potential catch-and-release policy at Ascarate Lake or placing signage that at least encourages the practice of catch-and-release. There are many benefits to incorporating this type of policy. However, in order to enforce this type of policy, we would need to invest in additional staff, overnight monitoring and other resources. Thus, this option will require further research before any sort of policy is put into action.

Lastly, in order to improve the overall experience at Ascarate Park, we are hoping to produce a more thorough survey and assessment of the Park. Having a professional assessment will help the department craft a better plan and bring in leadership that understands the goals and direction as the court and the priorities change.

County Veterans Resource Guide Published and Online Now



Recently, my office, along with the El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board, published a County Veterans Resource Guide. The Veterans Resource Guide provides an inventory of Veteran service organizations and resources throughout El Paso County to its residents.

The Veterans Resource Guide has been a work in progress for many years and I am so proud that we have completed the final product. However, our job is not done. In order to provide the best, most up-to-date options and services for our Veterans, the live resource guide will continuously update online.

Throughout several public meetings, the El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board has worked to identify gaps in services for Veterans and present solutions and recommendations to the County Commissioners Court. This Veterans Resource Guide is the first of many projects the County is working on in order to better serve the Veteran community.

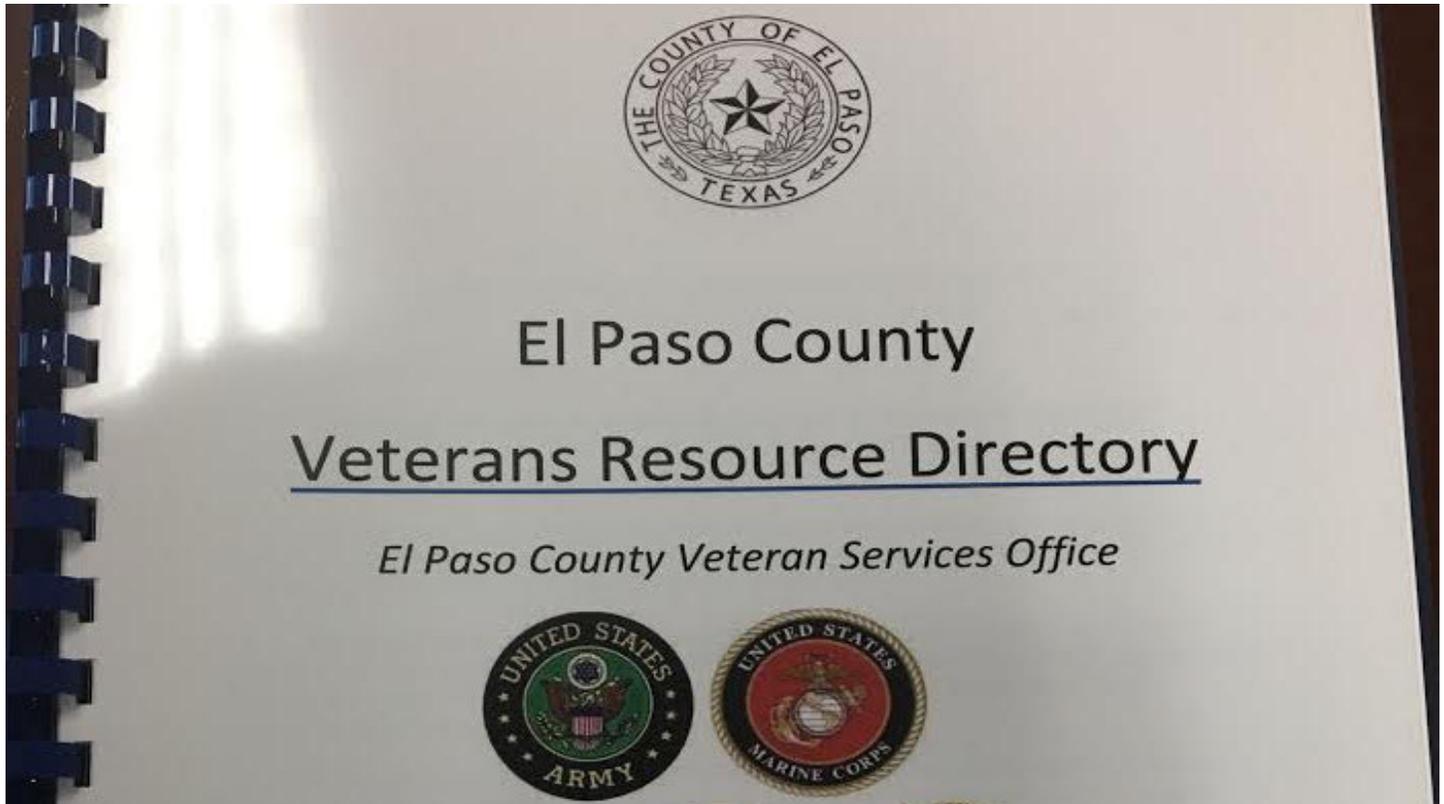
It is my hope that this book will help connect Veterans to opportunities that they may have not known otherwise.

The institutions listed provide a wide range of public and private services, including emergency medical and mental healthcare, along with educational, employment, and housing services.

This handbook was initiated by the Office of State Senator José Rodríguez, with input from the Office of Congressman Beto O'Rourke, Emergence Health Network, and completed by the El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board, along with the County Veterans Assistance Office.

The resource guide was printed by the County and will continuously be distributed throughout El Paso County at several key access points for Veterans such as the County Veterans Assistance Office, Emergence Health Network, and many of the local service providers listed within the booklet.

The guide is also available online, with the most up-to-date resources, at http://www.epcounty.com/veterans/Documents/County_Veteran_Services_Directory-6-17.pdf.



New County Economic Incentives Policy

After months of hard work from our Economic Development Department and several deliberations, the County Commissioners Court approved our new County Economic Incentives Policy.

This policy outlines different tax incentives for companies looking to establish their business or headquarters in El Paso County and mirrors the incentives offered by the City of El Paso.

Throughout the policy, we established key zones within the County that could benefit from revitalization such as the Alameda Corridor, Downtown, the Mission Trail, the County Airport, Tornillo Port of Entry, the Northwest and the Northgate Transient.

With these incentives, businesses can invest in development projects such as façade improvements and chain fence removal. The policy also provides incentives for arts-related businesses, bed and breakfasts, and even businesses that address the gender wage gap, by paying equal pay for equal work for both men and women.



Historic Preservation of Duranguito Neighborhood

In February of 2016, the El Paso County Commissioners Court approved the expenditure of \$140,000 of Hotel Occupancy Taxes to undertake a historic architectural survey in the areas of Downtown, Segundo Barrio and Chihuahuita.

A historic architectural survey aligned with our strategic plan and goals to contribute to the economic development of our County, especially in Downtown.

As a result of this survey, we hope to create one of many historic districts, designated as such, by the National Register for Historic Places. Once this occurs, all owners of properties within the districts would become eligible to receive federal and state tax credits, totaling up to a possible 45% of renovation expenditures. We hope this will serve as a catalyst for downtown property owners to invest in their properties or sell them to someone who may invest in doing the same. This will not only help to preserve some of the historic treasures found downtown, but we also feel it would help us to tell El Paso's history better and attract more tourism to the area. After all, El Paso only receives 2% of tourism dollars spent in Texas and research demonstrates that people spend two-and-a-half times more on heritage tourism than regular tourism.

The results of this survey are also extremely important, due to the City's plans to demolish Duranguito in order to build the 2012 Quality of Life Bond's multipurpose cultural and performing arts center—or "arena."



Though, at the time we approved funding for the survey, we were unaware of the City's plans. When we found out, we decided we should ask the company we hired to do the survey to study the Duranguito area and to give us preliminary recommendations as to which buildings in the planned arena's footprint should be designated as historic by the National Register.

I have always been a strong opponent of placing the arena in Duranguito for various reasons, such as the displacement of residents, the historic value of these buildings, and the lack of transparency and misinformation by the City of El Paso throughout the site selection process.

In April, after a unanimous vote, the historic architectural survey was awarded to the historic preservation consulting company, Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc. The preliminary report on Duranguito was recently submitted to the County Economic Development Department and found the following:

After surveying 1,372 resources within the boundaries of the survey, Hardy-Heck-Moore identified the four block portion of Duranguito as part of an eligible historic district under the National Register of Historic Places.

The four block portion of Duranguito also includes several resources that may be individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for architectural significance. These resources have been identified as:

- o The Trost Fire House
- o The Chinese Laundry
- o The Mansion House Brothel
- o Four 19th Century, Victorian-era homes

Hardy-Heck-Moore did note that these recommendations are preliminary and based on field survey efforts alone. They will require additional research and consultation with the Texas Historical Commission before these recommendations are finalized. However, the preliminary research echoes the previous statements made by several scholars in our own community and a study done by the City for Sun Metro in 1998.

Barrio Duranguito is a historically significant neighborhood.

The preliminary report by Hardy-Heck-Moore has determined that these buildings have architectural significance. But they've also noted that further research may contribute to further historical significance if they find that these buildings are associated with historically significant individuals.

With these preliminary results, I am still in complete disbelief that the City would continue to move forward with placing the arena in this neighborhood. In fact, the MountainStar Sports Group, the owners of the El Paso Chihuahuas, have even chosen to enter the discussion by buying an ad campaign to convince our community that Duranguito is the best place for this arena. However, this is not the case and this decision will have negative ramifications for years to come.

Destroying Duranguito will not only displace families, but it will have a negative economic impact on our heritage tourism industry and destroy a piece of our own history, identity and culture that we can never get back.

This is why I continue to stand with the residents and advocates of the neighborhood, throughout the recent protests that have taken place since the violation of a recent court order to stop all demolition efforts.

I will continue to advocate against the arena in this neighborhood, and it is my hope that our representatives at the City will listen, before it's too late.





COURT OF APPEALS
EIGHTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS
EL PASO, TEXAS

IN RE: MAX GROSSMAN,

Relator.

§

No. 08-17-00199-CV

§

AN ORIGINAL PROCEEDING

§

IN INJUNCTION

§

SECOND AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER

On September 11, 2017, the Court issued a per curiam order granting Relator's motion for emergency relief and ordering the City of El Paso to halt the demolition of certain properties located in the Duranguito neighborhood of El Paso. The Court issued an amended order on September 12, 2017 to correctly identify all eight properties covered by the order. Relator subsequently filed a verified enforcement motion alleging that demolition proceeded on at least a portion of the properties in violation of the Court's order.

Finding that it is necessary to temporarily stay demolition of the properties in question pending expedited review of the issues presented, we grant Relator's request for emergency relief. The City of El Paso is ORDERED to cease and desist all efforts to demolish the following properties located in the city of El Paso at 215 W. Paisano, 216 W. Overland, 220 W. Overland, 305 Chihuahua, 308 Chihuahua, 309 Chihuahua, 312 Chihuahua, and 315 Chihuahua, or to remove persons from these properties. Further, the City of El Paso is ORDERED to suspend any and all

Update on SB4 -- The “Show Me Your Papers” Bill



On Monday, May 15, the Commissioners Court voted 4-1 to hire outside counsel to pursue litigation against the State of Texas to fight SB 4 which was signed into law by Governor Abbott and was scheduled to take effect on September 1.

Luckily, several cities and counties around Texas also sued the State, and recently, the Judge issued a temporary injunction against the law.

This is good news, because we know that for now, we have some more time to fight back against this terrible law.

SB 4 is yet another mandate by the state, which would require local law enforcement officers to enforce complex federal immigration laws. The law leaves too much room for interpretation, which could easily put a community in non-compliance. Cities and Counties, like ours, could face substantial financial penalties imposed by the state, which could surpass \$150,000.

Additionally, the County may incur further costs to train officers to work within the new law, again, a cost that local taxpayers will have to fund and which could surpass the \$150,000 we're committing to stopping this law.

Further, the County could face a costly lawsuit or lawsuits should we follow SB 4 in contradiction to a federal settlement agreement we have from a federal court case.

I believe SB 4 is not only immoral and unconstitutional, but it is a threat to public safety and to El Paso County's settlement agreement in a federal court. I fear that this law will ultimately separate families, terrorize communities, and erode the trust we've built between peace officers and the community they serve and protect.

I support the integration of immigrants into our society, and therefore call on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that would create a pathway for immigrants living in our community to earn residency or citizenship.

Immigrants do contribute to our local economy, whether they are here lawfully or not. For example, they contribute to our property tax base when they pay rent, and they contribute to our sales tax revenue when they make purchases. In addition, U.S. citizen children of undocumented parents attend our schools and universities, and they are part of El Paso's workforce.

I plan to continue fighting against this law until it is thrown out completely by the courts.



Mayor Margo Votes Against City-County Partnership for Community IDs



After several years of research and advocacy at the local level, the Border Network for Human Rights (BNHR) and my office followed up with the City of El Paso regarding a Community ID project.

A Community ID would allow all residents of El Paso County to have access to an identification, which would in turn create access to basic services. Without an ID, many of our friends and neighbors cannot pick up their kids from school, access a library or identify themselves to the police in times of need. This project would provide access to an ID to many of our residents who currently live in the shadows, such as the undocumented community, the homeless population and the transgender community. The ID would create inclusivity for those who struggle to live in our community without identification. The ID would also come with discounts in order to incentivize other members of our community to purchase the ID.

For two consecutive years, the County of El Paso voted to support a Community ID project, by allocating about \$350,000 towards the implementation of this program.

And in addition to our partnership with the BNHR on this project, we received numerous letters of support from many organizations in El Paso. Those organizations include:

- Diocese of El Paso/Bishop of El Paso
- Annunciation House
- Centro San Vicente
- Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services
- El Paso Coalition for the Homeless
- El Paso County Sheriff's Office
- Las Americas
- State Delegation
- Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project
- SEIU Texas

However, the County would not be able to create this program without the support of the City. Thus, BNHR and I worked to meet with members of City Council to ask for their support because there were numerous community benefits that stemmed from implementing this program.

As discussed above, a Community ID program would provide tens of thousands of people who are members of our community with access to certain services to which they don't have access without an ID. This program would allow us the opportunity to tell our neighbors and friends that, yes, they are part of this community, and they deserve to be recognized as such.

Second, our City has been considered as one of the safest in the US for many years running. This is largely due to the relationship our police and the sheriff's officers have with the community. Creating a community ID would only enhance that relationship and help galvanize that safest city designation because those who have otherwise lived in the shadows would have the confidence to contact the authorities. And with the current political climate and the potential implementation of SB4, this ID is needed now more than ever.

Third, the creation of this ID could even stimulate our economy. Imagine if the thousands of individuals that didn't have access to a traditional ID all opened bank accounts. Banking institutions would make money, people could begin to create a credit history, buy vehicles, homes, etc.

Some communities have already implemented their own community ID and are having great success. Among those are New York, San Francisco, New Haven CT, and many others.

Despite all of these benefits and the number of residents who would gain a positive impact from this ID, on August 21, 2017, Mayor Dee Margo voted against the program, breaking a tie in the City Council's 4-4 vote on the project.

I thank City Representative Aleksandra Anello for including the budget request and extend my gratitude to Rep. Svarzbein, Rep. Hernandez-Brown, and Rep. Ordaz-Perez for voting in favor of this program. Unfortunately, the Mayor's vote has now resulted in a lack of funding and City partnership needed to move forward on this project, placing the Community ID program on hold for at least one more year.

I was very disappointed in this decision, especially because I know that our community would benefit greatly from this ID program. This Community ID project would've been the first of its kind in the State of Texas and the first of its kind on the border and I am shocked that Mayor Margo would choose to implement tactic of fear mongering in order to convince members of Council to oppose this measure instead of leading his community amidst the divisiveness we currently face in this state and country.

We will continue to reach out to those members of Council who voted against the program with the hopes of providing them with the information they need in order to support Community ID's in the future.

City Allocates Funds for Crisis Intervention Training

The Crisis Intervention Training program will allow the City of El Paso, the El Paso Police Department and Emergence Health Network to work together, in hopes of creating a better relationship between the police and the residents of El Paso, especially those living with mental illness.

In the past, there have been too many instances in which individuals with mental illness have died as a result of their interactions with the police. This is largely due to a lack of training in the police department, related specifically to responding to emergency calls related to those with mental illness. Despite a strong commitment by local law enforcement leadership to increase behavioral and mental health training for officers, there are many gaps in the force's readiness to respond in crisis situations. In order to fill this gap, my office pushed Emergence Health Network to work closely with Chief Allen and the City to propose the Crisis Intervention Training program.

This was a badly needed program that is going to save lives and I would like to thank Representative Alexandra Anello for realizing the importance of programs like these and for putting this program in her budget request. Although a program like this requires an initial investment, the long-term pay off far exceeds those costs.

As a result of our collaboration, the City has allocated funds to train 14 officers in crisis intervention. In addition, at the County, we are working on increasing the number of individuals who are diverted away from jail and into behavioral health treatment. Hopefully, with the right training, our police officers will be better equipped to handle crisis situations—so that we may avoid tragic situations and deadly confrontations between those struggling with mental illness and the police.

Thanks to the City Council, the El Paso Police department and Emergence Health Network for supporting this program!

Travel and Advocacy at the State and Federal Level



Local Progress

Local Progress is a national network that supports and connects progressive local elected officials and organizations from across the nation. They are committed to advocating for a strong middle and working class, equal justice under law, sustainable and livable communities, and government that serves the public interest effectively, values that align with my own.

Recently, I had the opportunity to participate and speak at several events that were coordinated by this organization, such as a press conference against SB4 and the Annual Local Progress Conference. Both events took place in Austin, Texas, throughout the 85th Texas Legislature.

At the Annual Local Progress Conference, I participated in a panel discussion called “Beyond ACA: Public Health Concerns and Solutions.” The discussion allowed me to meet two other progressive elected officials, Dorcy Applers, from the Albany City Council and Councilmember Ayanna Pressley from Boston, Massachusetts.

Throughout the conversation, the three of us discussed the impact of a potential repeal of the ACA, or Obamacare, could have at the local level. I learned about the issues each community faces in Albany and Boston and also talked about El Paso's story and our County's need for the ACA.

The decision at the federal level regarding Obamacare is still pending. However, if Obamacare is repealed, this decision can impact the lives of people in El Paso because hundreds of our residents currently covered by Medicaid would be left uninsured.

This is especially an issue in Texas, because our State Legislature did not expand Medicaid. In Texas, we depend on what's called the 1115 Waiver for Medicaid funding.

Unfortunately, this Waiver is expected to expire by the end of this year. If we lose Obamacare and the Waiver, our most vulnerable residents will be left without insurance, without access to the care that they need, and many could die.

In fact, with the loss of Obamacare, our vulnerable population can even get sicker. As a result, the cost for care will only increase and any revenue lost from federal or state funding will need to be made up for by local property taxes.

These are some of the many issues I brought up at the panel discussion with Councilmember Pressley and Councilmember Applrys. In return, I learned a lot about the challenges their community faces such as access to mental healthcare, sex trafficking and domestic abuse.

I am optimistic that progressive leaders, like those I met at the Local Progress events, will continue to move our country forward, by advocating for their communities at the local level and beyond.



National Association of Counties

Earlier this year, I participated in the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. As an organization, The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government, and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.

As a result of my involvement with this organization and my experience on the border, I was appointed as the Vice Chair of the Immigration Reform Task Force of NACo and as a member of the International Economic Development Task Force and Health Steering Committee by the president of this organization. Both task forces are committees that will continue to work with governmental, nonprofit and industry partners to highlight the importance of local government. I am eager to be an active participant and leader in these two committees and look forward to the work ahead!



University Medical Center Completes Renovations to Hospital



In May 2013, University Medical Center issued \$150M Certificates of Obligation. Proceeds of the bond funds financed the renovation and improvements of the Hospital Annex, constructed and equipped new neighborhood clinics, renovated existing hospital inpatient floors and allocated funds for the acquisition of certain medical equipment and machinery for the main hospital campus.

This summer, University Medical Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony to announce the completion of the inpatient floor renovations, with the finalized renovation of the 5th floor. This renovation was the third of three major renovations, floors 5, 6 and 7 at UMC, comprising a \$23.7 million initiative that the Commissioners Court felt was critical to the health and welfare of El Paso's citizens, and especially important to the many families in my precinct.

I am so proud of the work that UMC has done in order to take care of our trauma patients not only in El Paso County, but across much of the Southwest. In fact, UMC has the only Level 1 Trauma Center in a 280 mile radius, and takes care of 85% of trauma cases that happen in our region. Because of the great doctors, technology, training and facilities at this hospital, UMC is able to take care of the most serious injuries. Now, the 5th floor will bring many improvements to the facilities and will be completely dedicated for those patients who are on the road to healing, offering services for trauma and orthopedics.

With the addition of the newly renovated 5th floor, I know that patients will continue to receive the services that they need to ultimately achieve a speedy, caring recovery.

While this is the completion of renovation of the 5th Floor, it is not the end of our County's responsibility to ensure maximum access to healthcare. We still have a lot of work to do, but I am proud to see UMC moving in the right direction by creating a floor completely dedicated to improving the care that our County's trauma patients receive.



County of El Paso Keeps Federal Inmate Contract

In June of 2017, County Commissioner Vincent Perez held a press conference to raise his concerns regarding the County of El Paso's contract with the federal government to house federal inmates in our County Jail. Commissioner Perez cited fiscal reasons to end the contract, but raised another issue—he argued that a large percentage of the population held in our jail by the federal government is mostly made up of undocumented immigrants.

Shortly after the press conference, Commissioner Perez posted an item on the Commissioners Court agenda to discuss the possibility of ending the contract. After discussing the contract, the Commissioners Court asked our County Administration department to vet Commissioner Perez's argument and numbers a little bit further to weigh the pros and cons of keeping or ending the contract.

However, the issue of housing mainly undocumented immigrants as a result of the contract concerned me, as a strong advocate for our immigrant community.

I worked together with Judge Escobar to meet with local stakeholders and gain input from members in our community that work directly with immigrants to help determine how this decision could impact those who are currently in our jail. We had several meetings with representatives from the Border Network of Human Rights, the Mexican Consulate, Las Americas, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), the Public Defender's office, the Sheriff's office and the Catholic Diocese. After discussing the pros and cons of the contract, we determined that ending the contract with the federal government would have a negative impact on the immigrant community.

We realized that if the inmates were not housed in our County jail, the federal government would send them further away from our community, possibly to private prisons. Due to the human rights violations that have commonly occurred in private prisons, we were more concerned with sending members of our community to live in those conditions, far away from legal representation, far from the organizations that support them and far from their families.

Thus, we determined that, regardless of the fiscal implication of the contract at this point in time—the moral decision would be to allow these federal inmates to continue in our own County jail.

I support maintaining the federal inmate contract because I have no doubt that the inmates in our jail will be treated with dignity and respect. I am also comforted by the fact that our Public Defender's office is accessible to these inmates, due to its proximity to the jail. Removing them from our jail would make it harder for these inmates to access their right to legal representation due to an increase in transportation costs and time needed for attorneys to access their clients.

Additionally, Sheriff Wiles has worked very hard to maintain a positive relationship with the Mexican Consulate, to allow representatives to come into the jail and provide any aid to the undocumented community. Therefore, even though I believe our immigration system is broken and I'm against being part of President Trump's deportation machine, I believe we should not make these people's lives more difficult as they go through this process that for the time being, is inevitable.

I will, however, work to change the process by continuing to advocate both at the state and federal levels on behalf of all immigrants in our community, so that they may be fully integrated into our society through comprehensive immigration reform.

Precinct 2 Resolutions

Global Youth Service Days

Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders and our hope for the future. The skills and lessons they learn today will help drive them and our nation to a brighter future. Unfortunately, many of today's youth are not afforded the opportunity to be involved and participate as active members in the community where they learn the life lessons that will help them become productive members of society. On April 10, 2017, the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners court designated April 21st and April 22nd as Global Youth Service Days. A celebration began on Friday April 21, 2017, at the El Paso County Judge Enrique H. Pena Juvenile Justice Center Gymnasium that provided our county's youth the opportunity to understand the value of community service. With support of our local businesses and organizations, the celebration continued on April 22, 2017.

Mental Health Awareness Months

We are proud to announce that we had two resolutions for mental health advocacy in our community. Millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition and the hardships that come with it. Those affected by mental health disorders often go without the proper care and treatment as the cost of healthcare services have skyrocketed in recent years. This neglect of proper treatments has lead individuals suffering from mental health disorders to experience higher rates of suicide and homelessness. On May 15, 2017, the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court recognized the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month. On July 24, 2017, we also recognized the month as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. By sponsoring these resolutions, we hope to spread awareness of the realities of those suffering with mental health disorders and to the structural and financial barriers that prevent them from receiving the care they deserve.

Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week

The hard work of the pre-trial, probation, parole supervision professionals to keep our community safe often go without thanks. These members of our community have held themselves to the highest level of professionalism through a culture that holds accountability in a manner conducive to personal growth, development, and dignity. The El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court recognized July 17th through July 21st 2017 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week. In doing so, El Paso County, along with the American Probation and Parole Association, recognized and honored these members of our community in their devotion to the safety of the public and peace in our community.

Professor Karl Putnam

We regret to inform the public of a valued member of our community that has passed away. On July 10, 2017, Professor Karl Putnam fell 30 feet while hiking in the El Paso's Franklin Mountain. Karl was a beloved professor in the Accounting and Information Systems Department at the University of Texas at El Paso where he taught students of all levels the fundamentals of accounting and information systems to become successful business leaders in the field. Karl not only had an impressive background in academics, but was a champion of the environment as well. He was a lead supporter of many environmental protection ordinances for our city, all while encouraging others to take-part of the many pleasure the great outdoors has to offer. On July 24, 2017, The El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court honored the life and work of Professor Karl Putnam and expressed our most sincere sympathy to his family for the loss of this cherished member of our community.

Chicano Heritage Month

The many contributions made by Mexican-Americans not only to our community, but to our nation are often understated and under-appreciated. Mexican-Americans have left a profound mark in our country's fields of education, government, fine arts, science, business, and our nation's military. The El Paso's County Judge and, the County Commissioners Court, along with the Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe honored these contributions by recognizing September 15th through October 15th as Chicano Heritage Month. On September 23rd La Fe highlighted a series of arts, culture, and education events in the heart of El Paso County's historic Segundo Barrio.

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Over three years ago El Paso Children's Hospital was certified as a Children's Oncology Group. COG is the world's largest organization that performs clinical research to improve the care and treatment of children and adolescents with cancer. El Paso Children's COG is one of only 200 certified in the nation. With this certification, children right here at home are receiving the best care, the latest research and protocols, in a multi-specialty environment designed just for kids. In fact, our children are receiving the very same protocols as those at St. Jude, Sloan-Kettering or MD Anderson. It is important to continue providing these services in our own community, because unfortunately, one in five of our nation's children lose their battle with cancer. Many infants, children and teens will also suffer from long-term effects of comprehensive treatment, including secondary cancers. Therefore, on September 18, 2017, the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court declared the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to spread awareness of the issue and show support for our Children's Hospital.

Dream Act and Comprehensive Immigration Resolution

On September 18, 2017, I was proud to sponsor a Dream Act and Comprehensive Immigration Reform Resolution, calling the El Paso County Commissioners Court to stand with the immigrant community, which includes Dreamers and their families.

The resolution declared support for the following statements:

1. The County of El Paso urges the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to take bipartisan comprehensive reform of immigration legislation that provides a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented individuals living, studying and working in the United States; and
2. The County of El Paso denounces efforts by the Trump Administration to end DACA and calls upon Congress to pass and implement the Dream Act; and
3. The County of El Paso will not subject our border community to political tradeoffs that would cause further criminalization of immigrant families and further militarization of our border region; and
4. The County of El Paso remains committed to protecting our rich and vibrant immigrant community and stands with young immigrants and their families to ensure integration into our society; and
5. The County of El Paso calls upon its residents to stand with Dreamers, young immigrants and immigrant families to find solutions that will create an inclusive, accepting society.

The resolution passed, 4-1. I would like to thank my fellow Commissioners Court members who supported our immigrant community by voting in favor of this resolution. I'd also like to thank the Border Network for Human Rights and the Dreamers of our community for accepting the resolution.

Stout in the News

Tensions high during City Council meeting after issues with public comments on Union Plaza, KFOX, 09-19-17

Condado aumenta los fondos para tratar problemas mentales en la cárcel, Univision

Aprueba condado resolución a favor de inmigrantes, Univision, 09-18-17

Commissioners approve resolution supporting Dreamers; Haggerty lone vote against, KVIA, 09-18-17

Inician derrumbes de edificios en el barrio Duranguito, Telemundo, 09-13-17

Appeals court orders city to halt Duranguito destruction, suspend demolition permits, El Paso Times, 09-12-17

Political drama escalates as Union Plaza fight continues, KFOX, 09-12-17

Suspenden demoliciones en “Duranguito,” Univision, 09-11-17

8th Court of Appeals grants emergency appeal to postpone demolitions in Duranguito, KVIA, 09-11-17

Duranguito advocates petitioned voters to place historic overlay on neighborhood, KVIA, 09-10-17

Lawmakers, organizations voice arena opposition ahead of demolition, KVIA, 09-07-17

Arena effort would destroy part of El Paso’s history: Column, El Paso Times, 09-03-17

County received only a handful of noise complaints from Sun City Music Festival, KFOX

El Paso City Council votes against municipal ID cards, KFOX, 08-21-17

County takes first step toward preserving Hart’s Mill, related historic places, El Paso Times, 08-21-17

County hopes grant will help highlight Hart’s Mill area, fuel tourism, El Paso Times, 08-15-17

County Commissioners set 1 percent pay raise for themselves, El Paso Times, 08-14-17

Commissioners Court approves proposed pay raises for itself, elected precinct officers, KVIA, 08-14-17

El Paso County considers cutting holidays, KTSM, 08-02-17

Commissioner David Stout discusses Duranguito, El Paso Times, 08-02-17

Survey finds Duranguito has at least 7 possible historical properties, El Paso Times, 08-02-17

First round of historical survey results to County, KTSM, 08-02-17

Union Plaza neighborhood should be historic, preliminary study shows, KFOX, 08-02-17

Preliminary report says Union Plaza neighborhood should be designated as historic, CBS, 08-02-17

Commissioner Stout presents report on potential historical significance of Duranguito, KVIA, 08-02-17

First findings of Downtown EP historical survey out today, KTSM, 08-02-17

County to remove dumped domestic animals from park, KFOX, 08-02-17

Reduce Condado tarifa de transporte público, El Diario, 08-01-17

Estadísticas de los costos si entra en vigor la ley SB4, Telemundo, 08-01-17

El Paso County Hospital District officials ask for slight tax increase in budget, KVIA, 08-01-17

Texas' War on Local Control is Part of National Trend, Texas Observer, 08-01-17

Morality, cost debated in County's federal inmate contract talks, El Paso Times, 07-31-17

Disminuye la tarifa para los autobuses del condado de El Paso, Telemundo, 07-31-17

County Judge: Eliminating County's inmate contract with Feds would be immoral, KVIA, 07-31-17

Community rallies together to raise funds for City Rep. Alessandra Annello's husband, KVIA, 07-21-17

Community comes together to help newlyweds after tragic crash, KFOX, 07-21-17

UMC, Children's budgets dependent on health care plan, El Paso Times, 07-20-17

Tin Man hosts fundraiser for Alberto Halpern, What's Up, 07-19-17

Community to hold fundraiser for City Rep. Alessandra Annello, Alberto Halpern, KVIA, 07-13-17

Friends of Beto Halpern plan fundraiser July 21, El Paso Times, 07-12-17

County helps Veterans find services easier, KFOX, 06-23-17

County Aide critical but stable after wreck, El Paso Inc, 06-19-17

Esposo de regidora electa sufre un accidente de gravedad, Telemundo, 06-14-17

Proposal to stop housing federal inmates in county jails does not move forward, El Paso Times, 06-13-17

Alexsandra Annello's husband in critical condition after crash, KVIA, 06-13-17

Aprueban estudio para establecer edificios históricos, El Diario, 06-08-17

County Commissioners plan to limit hours of alcohol sales at Sportspark, El Paso Times, 06-06-17

Buscan análisis antes de cancelar contrato sobre cárceles federales, Univision, 06-06-17

County historical survey set to get underway, KVIA, 06-05-17

Greg Abbott demanda al condado de El Paso por no apoyar la ley SB4, Univision, 06-05-17

Celebran en El Paso la marcha del orgullo LGBT, Univision, 06-03-17

County to argue Senate Bill 4 could break 2006 federal court settlement, 05-23-17

2006 settlement might help county in SB 4 fight, El Paso Times, 05-22-17

Downtown arena could impact coliseum's future, El Paso Times, 05-21-17

Activists: Greg Abbott's SB 4 pitch to Univision viewers is 'nothing but lies', Texas Observer, 05-16-17

List of local governments planning to fight Texas over "sanctuary" bill growing, Texas Tribune, 05-16-17

Commissioner to protest SB-4 in Austin, KTSM, 05-15-17

El Paso County moves forward with litigation against SB-4, KTSM, 05-15-17

Condado de El Paso busca demandar al estado por SB-4, Univision, 05-08-17

Sanctuary cities bill puts Texas county in tight spot, Fox News, 05-05-17

Prepara demanda el Condado de El Paso ante la posible aprobación de la SB4, Telemundo, 05-04-17

County nixes grant application for historical survey, El Paso Times, 05-01-17

County's Community ID program in jeopardy, El Paso Times, 04-30-17

County prepares to lead sanctuary city fight, El Paso Times, 04-27-17

Shortage of psychiatrists in El Paso puts patients at risk, 04-26-17

Eligen firma para realizar estudio de edificios en el centro, Univision, 04-25-17

County chooses firm for Historical and Architectural survey of downtown, KVIA, 04-24-17

'Counting on you': Texans testify against transgender bathroom bill through the night, Austin American-Statesman, 04-20-17

House lawmakers hear overnight testimony on alternative "bathroom bill", Texas Tribune, 04-20-17

County Historical Commission chair concerned about HB 4146, KVIA, 04-10-17

SB4 Abogados, Telemundo, 04-10-17

Corte de comisionados se blinda contra demandas por propuesta SB-4, Univision, 04-11-17



Gallery



Commissioner Stout and Mayor of Juarez,
Hector Armando Cabada Alvidrez



Commissioner Stout at the Cielo Vista
Neighborhood Association



Commissioner Stout at our Monthly Community
Meeting in the Ascarate Golf Course Restaurant



Commissioner Stout speaking at our Biweekly
Morning Meeting at Denny's Restaurant



Commissioner Stout giving an update on County
business to seniors



Commissioner Stout with representatives from
the Service Employees International Union



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