

City Leadership:

Mayor Arnold Cantu
Mayor Pro-Tem Fernando Carballeira
Alderman Place 1 Carlos Salinas
Alderman Place 2 Debbie Martinez
Alderman Place 3 Martin Martinez, Jr.
Alderman Place 5 Lando Hinojosa

Taking Action:

- New Congressional Office
- TWC Awards Local Grant
- Washington representation
- City Livestream Workshops
- Legislative Update
- Next Business Workshop
- EDC Initiative
- Government Transparency



Mayor Cantu and Superintendent Conrad Cantu with TWC Labor Commissioner Julian Alvarez.

Visit www.freertx.org

Congressional Opening



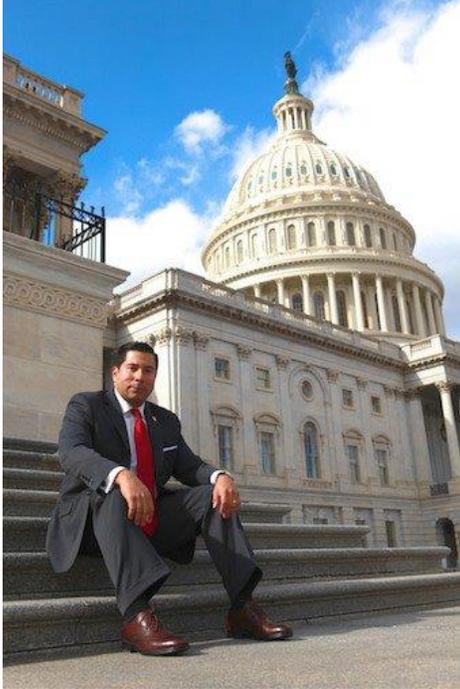
(Washington, DC) Congressman Vicente Gonzalez, who represents Texas' 15th Congressional District, has chosen the Duval County Seat - San Diego, Texas as the site for his northern outreach office. Congressman Gonzalez also has a Washington, DC office at the U.S. Capitol and a district office in Edinburg, TX. Congressman Gonzalez was elected last November and was sworn into office in January. He was

elected after the retirement of former Congressman Ruben Hinojosa. Jose Borjon, Gonzalez's Chief of Staff, visited the City of Freer and met with Mayor Arnold Cantu and City Manager Ana Garcia late last year and discussed the city's federal legislative priorities with the city's lobbyist Ernie Gonzalez, Jr. Congressman Gonzalez is in search of a local outreach representative that will service the northern part of the 15th Congressional District. Interested candidates must be U.S. Citizens, have strong written and oral communication skills, be willing to work evenings and weekends, have reliable transportation, and pass a criminal background check. If interested, email a cover letter and resume to Karen Hinojosa, District Director, karen.hinojosa@mail.house.gov.

TWC Grant Awarded

(Austin, TX) Freer ISD was awarded a grant through the **Jobs and Education for Texas JET Grant Program** through the Texas Workforce Commission. Commissioner Julian Alvarez personally called the city's government relations consultant Ernie Gonzalez to inform him on the announcement on May 3, 2017. Commissioner Alvarez credited Mayor Arnold Cantu and City Manager Ana Garcia for hosting his staff and him at a workshop in March at the Freer ISD Board Room. Mayor Cantu, City Manager Ana Garcia, and consultants Janice and Ernie Gonzalez met with several members of the House and Senate during the Freer Capitol Days in Austin in March. During the visit the delegation stressed the need for the TWC JET grant program that could help strengthen the region's labor workforce. Freer ISD will receive over \$58,000 in the JET grant, which will help purchase and install equipment to provide 76 students in the medical profession with training for registered nurses.

Washington Representation



State & Federal Lobbyist Ernie Gonzalez

(Washington, DC) The city's government relations consulting firm, EMC Strategy Group, LLC, will now be representing the City of Freer, TX in Washington, DC. EMC's scope of services has been primarily centered in State and Federal representation and lobbying services at the State Capitol or Federal Regional Offices in Texas. EMC will now be making several trips to Washington, DC during the year, which will provide all of its client's greater access through the federal legislature and executive branch agencies. "We are extremely excited about the expansion of our representation at the national stage," says EMC President & CEO Ernie Gonzalez, Jr. "Typically, only larger communities, like; Brownsville, McAllen, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, and El Paso have professional representation in Washington, DC, and this will open many opportunities for Freer, TX," adds Gonzalez.

Workshops Going High-tech

(Freer, TX) The City of Freer began offering Business & Economic Development Workshops in August of 2016. These small business centered workshops have included special presentations from several State and Federal agencies, Texas A & M Corpus Christi and Kingsville, Del Mar College and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Last month the city's Business & Economic Development Consultants began streaming its workshops on Facebook Live. There were nearly 340 people that viewed the last workshop, which included presentations from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and LiftFund. The City of Freer will continue to stream all future workshops in an effort to reach more people. "I was really impressed by the EMC team and their eagerness to livestream the business workshop," said Laura Estrada, LiftFund Area Director. "The ultimate goal is to reach as many people as possible, and if putting these workshops on social media will provide better access to the residents of Freer and the surrounding community, then I hope that the city will continue to lead the way in their innovative thinking," adds Estrada.



SBA/LiftFund Workshop streamed live on Facebook on April 10, 2017.

Please visit

www.freertx.org

to learn more.





Freer Police Chief John Spillers before House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

Legislative Update

(Austin, TX) The City of Freer has been represented throughout the duration of the 85th Legislative Session. In fact, the city's lobbyist Ernie Gonzalez, Jr., has provided testimony on several pieces of legislative impacting public safety, business & economic development and transportation. Last September Chief John Spillers testified at a special hearing before the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee to make a plea to state legislators for targeted funding for rural communities. Soon after the chief's testimony, State Representative Ryan Guillen stepped in to help address this important public safety issue and filed a "rider" into the proposed House version of the state's budget. EMC's Ernie Gonzalez is now lobbying the House and Senate Conference Committees, which include five Representatives and five Senators. Among other top legislative priorities, Gonzalez is still pushing for increased funding for transportation, infrastructure, public safety, business & economic development, and quality of life projects. The session is scheduled to conclude in June, but there is a strong possibility that the session may continue well into the summer as members battle out remaining state priorities. For updated legislative information, please visit www.capitol.state.tx.us.



With Representative Ryan Guillen

Marketing Business Workshop

(Freer, TX) The City of Freer will hold its next Business & Economic Development Workshop on May 23, 2017, at 3 – 4:30 p.m., at the Freer ISD Board Room. This month's workshop will center around growing small businesses through marketing. Janice and Ernie Gonzalez, formally served as Public Relations and Communications Directors and have extensive professional experience in developing successful marketing campaigns. The workshop will highlight low-cost marketing strategies and methods for small business owners. The City of Freer, through its Business & Economic Development Consultants, provides FREE marketing services to business owners within the San Diego city limits. For more information about the workshop visit www.freertx.org or call 210.960.4340, ext. 102.





CALENDAR

May 8 – City Council Mtg., 7 p.m.

May 23 – Business Workshop, 3 p.m.

CITY LEADERSHIP

City Manager - Ana A. Garcia,
361.394.6612
Anagarcia@ci.freer.tx.us

Police Chief John Spillers
john.spillers@ci.freer.tx.us

911 (emergency only)
361.394.6002 (non-emergency)
361.394.7031 (emergency alternate)

Fire Department
911 (emergency only)
361.394.6553 (non-emergency)

Street Supervisor – David Guajardo
david.guajardo@ci.freer.tx.us
361.394.6612

Business & Economic Development
Janice M. Gonzalez
210.960.4340, ext. 102
Janice.gonzalez@emcstrategygroup.com

Government Relations
Ernie Gonzalez, Jr.
210.960.4340, ext. 101
Ernie.gonzalez@emcstrategygroup.com



Seeking Citizen's Advisory Committee

(Freer, TX) The City of Freer, through its Business & Economic Development Consultants, is seeking quality leaders to serve on a citizen's advisory committee that will focus on Business & Economic Development. This committee will help develop a short and long-range strategic plan that will be presented to the city council for adoption into the city's overall local economic growth plan. Freer's economic statistics by the numbers:

Profile for San Diego, Texas from www.statsamerica.org

Population 2,775	Labor Force (persons working) 1,399
Households 876	Median Household Income \$47,250
Total Housing 1,164	Poverty Rate 20.7%

We are seeking people from a cross-section of the community to include: business owners, educators, government, clergy, constructions, healthcare, and financial services. For more information, please call 210.960.4340, ext. 102, email janice.gonzalez@emcstrategygroup.com.

Transparency

(San Antonio, TX) As part of our commitment to transparency, EMC prepares a monthly newsletter, which is available to the city council, staff and general public. This publication highlights EMC's work on behalf of the city that occurs during the month. The newsletter includes important dates on upcoming workshops, training opportunities, State and Federal government outreach updates, and key information on Business & Economic Development initiatives. EMC maintains constant communication with the city director and mayor regarding important updates. EMC's team is registered through the **Texas Ethics Commission** and the **House of the Clerk for the United States Congress** and submit monthly lobbying reports as required by State and Federal Statute. For information about our team, please visit www.emcstrategygroup.com.

