



Freer Texas, TX, Government Relations Newsletter, Volume 1/ Issue 2, June 29, 2016

City Leadership:

- Mayor Fabian Bazan
- Mayor Pro-Term Martin Martinez, Jr.
- Alderman Place 1 Carlos Salinas
- Alderman Place 2 Kenneth Sharber
- Alderman Place 4 Fernando Carballeira
- Alderman Place 5 Lando Hinojosa

LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE OUTREACH

The EMC Team made its official appearance on behalf of the City of Freer, TX at the State Capitol on June 14, 2016. Our team conducted introduction meetings with the Texas Department of Agriculture and visited several offices of the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. The purpose of our Austin visit was to begin to build relationships with state officials that will be beneficial for the City of Freer as we begin to seek state support for local projects.

Introduction meetings included:

- Erica Garza, Assistant Director of CDBG, Texas Department of Agriculture
 - Luis Moreno, Chief of Staff, Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa
 - Sean Griffin, Chief of Staff, Senator Judith Zaffirini
 - Matt Lamon, Chief of Staff, Representative J.M. Lozano
 - Bob McVey, Chief of Staff, Representative Ryan Guillen
- We also met with State Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa and Senator Ted Cruz Regional Director Casandra Garcia on June 8, 2016 in McAllen, TX.

SEEKING PROGRESS

- Outreach to State and Federal Legislators.
- Outreach to State and Federal Executive Agencies.
- Begin discussions for Interagency Agreements.
- Outreach to Oil Companies for gifts in kind and grants.
- Research funding opportunities.
- Represent the city at the COG.



EMC with Bob McVey, Rep. Guillen’s Office



EMC with Sean Griffin, Sen. Zaffirini’s Office



Texas State Capitol, Austin, TX

The City of Freer was applauded by Bob McVey, Chief of Staff for State Representative Ryan Guillen, for conducting legislative outreach seven months before the start of the 2017 session. “I think it’s smart that the City of Freer is making its presence known early rather than later,” said McVey. He added, “many communities show up too late to the ball game and seek assistance once all the decisions have been made.” Similar comments were made by all the legislative offices EMC visited including



U.S. Senator Ted Cruz Regional Director Casandra Garcia



Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa



Erica Garza, Assistant Director CDBG Programs, Texas Department of Agriculture



State Senator Chuy Hinojosa, who frequently works with Senator Judith Zaffirini on key legislation impacting South Texas.

EMC will continue its communication with the State and Federal Legislature and work through legislative offices in order to better leverage access to all offices of the Executive Branch.

We have already reached out to the office of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz to assist in facilitating a meeting with the U.S. Border Patrol Sector Chief to help form an Interagency Agreement with the City of Freer, City of Freer Police Department and the U.S. Border Patrol for an Emergency Prisoner Detainment Contingency Plan.

We are also seeking assistance from the office of U.S. Congressman Ruben Hinojosa and the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a site visit and walkthrough of the airport. We will seek assistance from the FAA to help the city improve or modernize the condition of the municipal airport.

Possible funding sources

EMC has identified several State and Federal grants that the city may apply for to help with business & economic development, public safety and transportation. We will review requirements for each grant and conduct a workshop with City Administrator Ana A. Garcia within the next two weeks to determine which grants we will seek on behalf of the city. We may ask the City Council to approve a Self-Certification Audit in lieu of a formal audit.

EMC will begin its outreach to oil companies located in or near the city and make formal asks for equipment, vehicles and even monetary donations in forms of grants to help purchase much-needed equipment for the police department, fire department, street and maintenance. We will also develop an action plan with the City Administrator to seek donations to help underwrite local festivals sponsored by the city. We will explore the feasibility about creating a city nonprofit, which could provide potential contributors the ability to have their charitable donations tax-deductible. Although the City of Freer is tax-exempt, it is not currently designated as a nonprofit through the IRS. We will identify examples of city nonprofits and present options to the City Council for review and consideration.

Examples of sponsorship opportunities:

- Holiday Parade
- Christmas Toy Giveaway
- Spring Festival
- 4th of July Parade and Firework Show
- City of Freer College Internship Program
- Employee Assistance Program





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Contact Us

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"I think it's smart that the City of Freer is making its presence known early rather than later!"

"Many communities show up too late to the ball game and seek assistance once all the decisions have been made!" Bob McVey, Chief of Staff for State Representative Ryan Guillen

MOVING FORWARD

EMC continues regular communication with Mayor Fabian Bazan and City Administrator Ana A. Garcia.

EMC team will join Ana A. Garcia at the next Coastal Bend Council of Governments (COG) meetings on July 22, 2016 in Corpus Christi.

Actions items:

- Outreach to State and Federal Legislative Offices for assistance with Executive Branch official requests.
- Outreach to State and Federal Executive Branch Agencies for assistance.
- Interagency Agreement discussions.
- Outreach to Oil Companies.
- Grant research and application process.
- City nonprofit feasibility.

