

City of Weslaco

"The City on the Grow"



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John F. Cuellar, Mayor Pro-Tem, District 2
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Rene Rodriguez, Jr., Commissioner, District 3
Gerardo "Jerry" Tafolla, Commissioner, District 4
Lupe V. Rivera, Commissioner, District 5
Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner, District 6

Leonardo Olivares, City Manager

Press Release

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Voluntary Separation from City Complete

Weslaco, TX — The City of Weslaco announced today that the Voluntary Separation Plan (VSP) is complete. A buyout plan initially made available in August 2010, the City Commission approved the measure in order to right-size the City's workforce without implementing a Reduction in Force (RIF). As of last week, all 54 employees who voluntarily enrolled officially had separated, and all their buyout benefits had been paid in full.

"The VSP helped avoid a Reduction in Force (RIF) -- there were no mass lay-offs," said City Manager Leonardo Olivares. "We did the right thing for our employees and for our taxpayers. And although it comes at a cost now, we anticipate a savings of \$2.3 million per year."

Through the plan, separating workers received one week salary for each year of employment with the City, with a minimum of five weeks and a maximum of twenty weeks compensation. Additionally, each employee received payment for accumulated sick leave and vacation leave they had earned over the years. The cost of the buyout benefits totaled approximately \$1.3 million, with about half attributed to just the pay-out for accumulated leave.

"Our Commission and our constituents were very clear that they want a responsible and accountable government, with a reduction in budget without any reduction in services," he added. "I believe we have been able to do both through this plan."

This will help the City build a general fund balance of 25% and improve its bond rating.

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