

The Mid-Valley's exclusive news source since 1967

Mid-Valley Town Courier

mytowncourier.com



Sunday, April 3, 2011



THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
OF WESLACO

BUSINESS VISITOR AND EVENT CENTER LRGVDC RELOCATION

The recent news story regarding the relocation of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) to Weslaco was not complete. The LRGVDC is a headquarters that The Economic Development Corporation of Weslaco (EDC), in partnership with the City of Weslaco, wants to relocate to Weslaco. More specifically, it is the intent to locate LRGVDC downtown.

Of the options offered, the LRGVDC chose to locate in the current Business-Visitor Center. This will bring 75 individuals to the center of downtown Weslaco, bringing a major employer to the community. The contract will provide for a purchase option at Two Million Dollars, and it will be a permanent move. When the purchase option is exercised, it will provide additional revenue to continue with the redevelopment of East Business 83.

The newspaper account did not provide the plan for the Business-Visitor Center: Where would the EDC and Chamber of Commerce offices go? What does the community receive in return?

Based on the EDC Board action of March 7 and 21, the plan is twofold:

1. A permanent home for the LRGVDC.
2. A new Event Center to house the Business-Visitor Center, EDC offices, and Chamber offices.

First, the plan is that the vacant south half of City Hall be converted into a new Business, Visitor, and Event Center. The idle city asset is over 25,000 square feet. The plan is to relocate the EDC and Chamber offices as well as the Business-Visitor Center to this site.

This can be accomplished by the end of August with a very focused and deliberate plan of action. The City Commission is aware of what they have asked the EDC to do and what the EDC has requested from the City to make the plan work.

The EDC is committed to provide the community, the visitor, and the business investor with a Business-Visitor Center that is just as good as, if not better than, the current facility. The EDC also is committed to having a venue in the middle of town that will serve as an 18,000 square foot events center.

This action by the EDC board is consistent with the plan for downtown to continue to be a viable and active part of the community. It also brings a headquarters company to Weslaco, joining the Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Headquarters, the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, and the Texas Rural Aid state headquarters, and the IDEA Public Schools headquarters. These all help promote Weslaco as a business center located to serve the Rio Grande Valley market.

The end goal is to continue to reinvent Weslaco from the center, downtown. This is both the Heart and the Soul of the community. For this to happen, the EDC is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Weslaco to diversify our economy and to grow Weslaco – one impact project at a time.

Hernan Gonzalez
Executive Director

Martha Noell, CEO
Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce