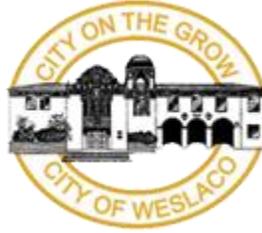


City of Weslaco

"The City on the Grow"



Miguel D. Wise, Mayor
John F. Cuellar, Mayor Pro-Tem, District 2
Robert J. Garza, Commissioner, District 1
Olga M. Noriega, 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

Release on:
August 19, 2011

Contact:
Leonardo Olivares
City Manager
956.973.3110

Weslaco Reduces Staff to Become Leaner Organization

Weslaco, TX – The City of Weslaco announced today a Reduction in Force, citing decreased revenues and other mounting financial obligations. Approximately 20 full-time positions were eliminated effective immediately, with all personnel assigned to those positions placed on administrative leave for the next five weeks.

"Taxpayers work hard for every dollar," said Leonardo Olivares, City Manager. "Our City needs to be responsible with every dollar. The City is committed to maintaining our standard of service to our citizens, however, in these tough times, we must be disciplined to do more with less."

This announcement comes after a series of workshops and special meetings, when staff presented to the City Commission a proposed budget which identifies a recent decline of approximately \$1 million revenue through fines and fees. Concurrently, the budget itemizes another \$2 million in obligations due from various, previously-approved development agreements, financial incentives extended to different projects which together account for ten percent of the general fund budget.

All employees affected by this Reduction in Force are placed on administrative leave for the next five weeks, receiving compensation and benefits until September 23 – the same minimum benefit in last year's Voluntary Separation Plan. Additionally, so long as they separate in good standing, at the conclusion of their five weeks they also will receive compensation for accumulated sick and vacation leave as per personnel policies and remain eligible for re-hire within the City should vacancies become available later.

"This was my decision, not the City Commission's," Olivares said. "We do thank our employees for their service. We are not raising property taxes. Rather, Weslaco is making responsible choices as it transforms itself into a leaner, more efficient operation."

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