

**CITY OF EL PASO ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION**

CITY CLERK DEPT.

**COMPLAINT FORM**

2016 FEB -3 PM 2:30

Please refer to the instructions accompanying this form for assistance in filling out this form and filing it with the City Clerk's Office. A complaint may be filed against a City officer for the officer's acts or omissions, as regulated in Section 2.92.050 of the Ethics Ordinance. A "City officer" is a member of the City Council and the members of most of the boards and commissions of the City. This form cannot be used to file a complaint about a City employee—please refer to the instructions.

1. Name: Jim Tolbert

2. Address: 2701 Frankfort, El Paso, Texas 79930

3. Telephone number: Day: (915) 525-7634 Evening: (915) 525-7364

4. Name and title of each City officer being complained about:

Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager

5. General statement of the nature of the complaint and alleged violation of the ethics ordinance, to include whenever possible, the specific section of the Ethics Ordinance allegedly violated.

Tommy Gonzalez acted in such a manner as to violate a number of provisions outlined in the Standards of Conduct (City of El Paso Municipal Code Standards of Conduct § 2.92.050). His actions serve to undermine the public's trust and confidence.

6. A statement of the facts that constitute the alleged violation and the dates on which or period of time in which the alleged violation occurred (attach additional pages, if necessary).

This purpose of this complaint is to provide further information to the Ethics Commission to support the Ethics Complaint I filed on 12/3/2015. Additional information has come to light regarding the placement of speed humps on Stanton Street and actions that Mr. Gonzalez took to ingratiate himself with Rep. Romero that I believe further highlight Mr. Gonzalez' reckless disregard for the policies adopted by City Council and give the reasonable basis by his conduct for the impression that Rep. Romero can improperly influence him.

7. Provide relevant documentation or a list of all documents and other material relevant to the allegation, including the location of any such documents, if known.

See attachment.

Please continue with page 2 and complete the required affidavit. You may appear in person and request the City Clerk's Office to notarize the complaint at the time that you sign and file it.

STATE OF TEXAS

)

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
2016 FEB -3 PM 2:30

) ss:

COUNTY OF EL PASO

)

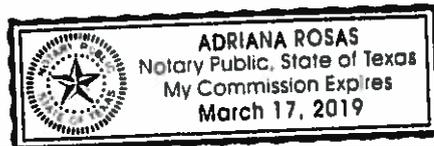
BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared the person whose name is written above on line 1 of this form, being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows:

"I hereby swear or affirm that the information contained in this complaint is either true and correct or I have good reason to believe and do believe that the facts alleged therein constitute a violation of Chapter 2.92 of the El Paso City Code."

  
(SIGNATURE)

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, by

Mr. James Tolbert, on this the 3rd day of February, 2016.





NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

03-17-2019

For City use only: Received on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarded to the City Attorney's Office on \_\_\_\_\_

Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTACHMENT

CITY CLERK DEPT.

2016 FEB -3 PH 2:31

### STANDARDS OF CONDUCT VIOLATED

New information has come to light regarding the placement of speed humps on Stanton Street and actions that Mr. Gonzalez took to ingratiate himself with Rep. Romero which provides additional evidence to support my belief that City Manager Tommy Gonzalez violated the following Standards of Conduct (outlined in the El Paso City Code §). These Standards of Conduct state that employees:

D. Shall not give reasonable basis by their conduct for the impression that any person can improperly influence, or unduly enjoy their favor in, the performance of their official duties, or that they are unduly affected by kinship, rank, position or influence of any person;

G. Shall not knowingly perform or refuse to perform any act in order to deliberately thwart the execution of city ordinances, rules or regulations or the achievement of official city programs; and

N. Shall not knowingly, in the case of an employee, recklessly disregard the established practices or policies of the city relating to the duties assigned to the employee.

### STATEMENTS OF FACT AND ALLEGE VIOLATIONS OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

**Relationship with Rep. Romero.** Mr. Gonzalez took actions to ingratiate himself with Rep. Romero that give the impression that Rep. Romero can unduly influence him. Not only did Mr. Gonzalez use his authority to grant special favors to Rep. Romero (see complaint filed on 12/3/2015), he also paid Rep. Romero to file his taxes<sup>1</sup> and paid Rep. Romero's brother to incorporate his business.<sup>2</sup> In taking such actions to ingratiate himself with Rep. Romero, Mr. Gonzalez has violated subsections D of § 2.92.050 of the City Code.

§ 2.92.050 (D): Tommy Gonzalez gave a reasonable basis by his conduct for the impression that Rep. Romero enjoyed his favor in his official duties and that he is unduly affected by Rep. Romero's influence.

**Speed Humps.** Representative Larry Romero advocated for speed humps on Stanton Street in front of his alma mater Cathedral High School. Despite the fact that Stanton Street was ineligible for speed humps based on the program parameters outlined in the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NMTP) adopted by the City Council on March 28, 2008 and a review by the Traffic Manager, City Manager Tommy Gonzalez directed staff to move forward and place the speed humps in front of Cathedral High School as advocated by Representative Romero.

In defending his actions, Tommy Gonzalez indicated that he had the latitude to make this decision because he did not use program funds specifically set aside to implement the NMTP. According to the *El Paso Times*, "Gonzalez said the city policy didn't apply to the Cathedral project because the humps

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<sup>1</sup> "City Manager hired Rep. Romero to file taxes," *El Paso Times*, December 14, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> "City Manager hires rep's brother to create firm," *El Paso Times*, October 4, 2015.

were installed using general funds and not those from the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program that outlines those standards and allocates funding for qualify projects.”<sup>3</sup>

A recent *El Paso Times* article indicates that at the time the speed humps were put in place in February 2015, the source of funds was the NMTP funds. It was only after the *El Paso Times* began seeking communications related to the placement of the Cathedral speed humps that the City changed the funding source to something other than the NMTP funds. “In September – seven months after the installation and a couple of weeks after the Times began asking questions about the project – a city analyst created a journal entry to charge the approximately \$7,000 for the speed humps to the general fund.”<sup>4</sup> It was only after the media began asking questions that the source of funds for the project was changed in order to justify the actions of the City Manager.

Not only was this dishonest, it further demonstrates that Tommy Gonzalez violated the Ethics Code. Specifically,

§ 2.92.050 (G): Tommy Gonzalez knowingly directed City Staff to place speed humps on Stanton Street in direct violation of the NMTP, an official city program adopted by the City Council. He did so without seeking the approval of the Council for not following the official city program and thus thwarted the achievement of the NMTP.

§ 2.92.050 (N): Tommy Gonzalez recklessly disregarded the established practices and the policy of the City relating to the duties assigned to him as the City Manager. Under the City Charter, the City Manager is charged with “see(ing) that all laws, provisions of this Charter and acts of the City Council, subject to enforcement by the City Manager or by employees subject to the Manager’s direction and supervision, are faithfully executed.” The program parameters for neighborhood traffic calming are detailed in the NMTP that was adopted by the City Council on March 23, 2008. Tommy Gonzalez did not faithfully execute that act of the City Council and in so doing recklessly disregarded the duties assigned to him.

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<sup>3</sup> “Speed humps near Cathedral violate city policy: The humps in front of Cathedral High were install by the City against the recommendation of its top street official,” *El Paso Times*, October 31, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> “Editorial: Cathedral speed hump issue gets bizarre,” *El Paso Times*, January 9, 2016.

# City manager hires rep's brother to create firm

Cindy Ramirez, El Paso Times 4:04 p.m. MDT October 4, 2015



(Photo: Ruben Ramirez / El Paso Times)

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez and his wife have created a consulting company and hired the brother of city Rep. Larry Romero to organize it.

Gonzalez in an email said he set up G2 SDI Services LLC with his wife "to ensure any consulting I was asked to do was separated from any speaking requests where I represent the city."

The city manager's employment contract with the city allows him to serve as a consultant or undertake "speaking engagements, writing, teaching or other professional duties" as long as he notifies the city of his work and doesn't present a conflict of interest.

The formation of G2 SDI Services LLC was filed with the Office of the Secretary of State of Texas on May 20, according to records. Gonzalez is listed as the registered agent, with him and his wife Sandy listed as managers. Gonzalez said he hasn't yet conducted any work under the corporation.

Recorded as G2's organizer is John Romero, who lists his Romero Consulting business, then located on Larry Mahan Street in East-Central El Paso, as the address on record.

A registered agent refers to the person who is registered and authorized to do business in Texas, while an organizer is responsible for setting up the corporation and filing documents with the state agency. An organizer may be a member of the corporation but doesn't have to be one, according to the Texas Secretary of State's Office.

John Romero is not listed as part of the company's management.

"This was just a one-time deal," John Romero said, adding that he assumes his brother referred him as he does with other acquaintances. "(Gonzalez) asked if I could help advise him and set up the corporation and I did just as I would any client."

He would not say how much he was paid by Gonzalez.

In an email, Gonzalez said he wanted the set-up of his consulting firm to be handled locally and that it was "helpful that someone offered to assist me."

The relationship between Gonzalez and Rep. Romero has received scrutiny from El Paso [broadcast \(http://www.kvia.com/news/street-resurfacing-city-rep-romero-denies-wrongdoing/35209722\)](http://www.kvia.com/news/street-resurfacing-city-rep-romero-denies-wrongdoing/35209722) and [print media \(http://www.elpasoinc.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_472b05a4-567e-11e5-9000-031e068ce130.html\)](http://www.elpasoinc.com/news/local_news/article_472b05a4-567e-11e5-9000-031e068ce130.html).

A number of streets and one alley in Romero's district were resurfaced this year, even though they were not on the city's list for such work. That included Romero's home street, and an alley between businesses owned by two small donors to Romero's campaign.

Gonzalez has said he only gave instructions for city staff to gather information from representatives on changes to the street resurfacing plan, and said he was unaware that any work was being done on streets that weren't on the city's plan. But [documents obtained \(http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2015/09/29/emails-city-manager-didnt-stop-projects/72998268/\)](http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2015/09/29/emails-city-manager-didnt-stop-projects/72998268/) by the El Paso Times under the Texas Public Information Act showed that city staff informed Gonzalez of the plans and he did not object.

Larry Romero was one of the leaders of a council plan in June to give Gonzalez a \$61,000 pay raise.

Cindy Ramirez may be reached at 546-6151; [cramirez@elpasotimes.com](mailto:cramirez@elpasotimes.com); [@EPTCindyRamirez](https://twitter.com/EPTCindyRamirez) on Twitter.

Read or Share this story: <http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2015/10/04/city-manager-hires-reps-brother-create-firm/73245058/>

# City manager hired Rep. Romero to file taxes

Elida S. Perez, El Paso Times 10:49 p.m. MST December 14, 2015



(Photo: MARK LAMBIE/EL PASO TIMES)

City Manager Tommy Gonzalez paid city Rep. Larry Romero to do his federal taxes earlier this year, Romero confirmed to the El Paso Times.

Romero spoke about his work for Gonzalez after the issue was raised in a City Council executive session on Monday. The special council meeting was called to discuss Gonzalez's performance.

Several city officials, who asked not to be identified because the tax work issue was discussed in closed session, said the tax work arose as the council discussed Gonzalez's performance. The sources said both Gonzalez and Romero confirmed the arrangement and said the city representative was paid for the work.

"It's nothing to hide," Romero said in a phone interview late Monday.

Romero owns and operates Romero Financial Services, a company that provides insurance, income tax, notary public and real estate services based on Montana Avenue. He said he purchased the business from his father nine years ago, but has been providing tax services in the community for decades — including for other city employees.

"That's what my business does," Romero said. "I don't remember how we got to talking about it, but I did do his income taxes and he did pay."

Romero said he remembered mentioning his company's services and Gonzalez showed up at the office to get his federal taxes filed. He charged the city manager between \$100 to \$150 and said it was nothing out of the ordinary for his services.

Gonzalez could not be reached for comment.

The city's ethics ordinance restricts outside employment by officers and employees, which includes members of City Council, when it could conflict with their municipal roles.

One section says officers and employees "shall not personally provide services for compensation, directly or indirectly, to a person or organization who is requesting an approval, investigation or determination from the body or department of which the officer or employee is a member."

As a member of City Council, Romero has a vote on the city manager's performance evaluation and on his salary. Romero was one of the leaders of the effort this spring to give Gonzalez a \$60,000 pay raise.



EL PASO TIMES

[Council takes no action on city manager](#)

<http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/12/14/council-takes-no-action-city-manager/77294584/>

Another section of the ethics ordinance says officers and employees "shall not accept other employment or engage in outside activities incompatible with the full and proper discharge of their duties and responsibilities with the city, or which might impair their independent judgment in the performance of their public duty."

Gonzalez in May hired Romero's brother, John Romero, to help him organize and prepare state-required paperwork for a consulting company being formed by the city manager and his wife, Sandy.

When asked about the arrangement in October, Gonzalez said he wanted the set-up of his consulting firm to be handled locally and that it was "helpful that someone offered to assist me."

Romero said he realizes the "picture being painted" makes it appear as though he is getting everything done that he asks for his council district, but said he is not gaining from the services he provided.

"I can't believe people think that these dollar amounts will result in me getting what I wanted," Romero said. "My brother and I are business owners and we charge for our services."

The city manager's involvement with recent controversies that also include Romero are the subject of an outside city investigation in its early stages.

Austin lawyer Ross Fischer, hired last week, had his first meeting with City Council and City Attorney Sylvia Borunda Firth during closed session to discuss the investigation process requested by Mayor Oscar Leaser.



**EL PASO TIMES**

**Romero touted former partner for city contract**

**(<http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/11/21/romero-touted-former-partner-city-contract/76082552/>)**

At issue is Gonzalez's involvement the city's abandoned attempt ([/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/11/21/romero-touted-former-partner-city-contract/76082552/](http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/11/21/romero-touted-former-partner-city-contract/76082552/)) to replace its financial advisers, First Southwest, when the firm had two years remaining on its contract with the city.

Gonzalez and Romero have also been involved in making changes to the street resurfacing program ([/story/news/2015/09/29/emails-city-manager-didnt-stop-projects/72998268/](http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2015/09/29/emails-city-manager-didnt-stop-projects/72998268/)) without council approval and executing the installation of speed humps ([/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/10/31/speed-humps-near-cathedral-violate-city-policy/74712464/](http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/10/31/speed-humps-near-cathedral-violate-city-policy/74712464/)) near Cathedral High School in violation of city policies.

"As far as I'm concerned these are non issues," Romero said.

*Elida S. Perez may be reached at 546-6137; [eperez@elpasotimes.com](mailto:eperez@elpasotimes.com); @ElidaSPerezEPT on Twitter.*

Read or Share this story: <http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/12/15/city-manager-hired-rep-romero-file-taxes/77334656/>



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# Editorial: Cathedral speed hump issue gets bizarre

El Paso Times Editorial Board 9:08 p.m. MST January 9, 2016



(Photo: RUBEN R. RAMIREZ/EL PASO TIMES)

El Paso's city government appears more inept with each revelation about the speed humps placed on Stanton Street in front of Cathedral High School.

The speed humps (more accurately, cushions) were installed in February 2015 ([/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/10/31/speed-humps-near-cathedral-violate-city-policy/74712464/](http://story/news/local/el-paso/2015/10/31/speed-humps-near-cathedral-violate-city-policy/74712464/)) at the direction of City Manager Tommy Gonzalez, who was acting on a request from Cathedral alumni through one of their own, city Rep. Larry Romero.

In doing so, city officials ignored the recommendation of their top street official that the speed cushions not be placed at that location. Doing so violated multiple internal policies – traffic-calming measures can't be placed on arterial streets like Stanton, can't be placed on transit routes, can't be placed on streets with more than one lane in each direction, and can't be placed on or near steep grades.

The city's policies are based on best practices used across the nation. But that didn't stop Gonzalez, who said he had a duty to act on a public safety matter. (Never mind that the city didn't do the required speed tests until installation of the cushions was underway, and the tests showed that speeds on Stanton didn't reach the levels required for installing traffic-calming devices.)

City officials said that the policies outlined in the [Neighborhood Traffic Management Program \(https://www.elpasotexas.gov/capital-improvement/project-updates/sidewalks-and-traffic-calming\)](https://www.elpasotexas.gov/capital-improvement/project-updates/sidewalks-and-traffic-calming) didn't apply because the money for the speed cushions came from the general fund, and not the NTMP.

And this is where a strange story becomes bizarre.

Documents obtained by the El Paso Times show that the speed cushions were taken from existing NTMP inventory, meaning they were paid for through that program. In September ([/story/news/local/el-paso/2016/01/05/city-reclassified-cathedral-speed-hump-spending/78334834/](http://story/news/local/el-paso/2016/01/05/city-reclassified-cathedral-speed-hump-spending/78334834/)) – seven months after the installation and a couple of weeks after the Times began asking questions about the project – a city analyst created a journal entry to charge the approximately \$7,000 for the speed humps to the general fund.

He was acting at the behest of Chief Financial Officer Mark Sutter.

Why is the city's top financial person, who is responsible for a budget in the hundreds of millions of dollars, issuing directives about such a comparatively trivial amount?

Whatever the explanation, the budget transfer allowed city officials to generate a silly argument that they could evade city rules on speed humps and cushions by claiming the money didn't come from a specific fund.

That creates at least the appearance that the city was covering up a relatively trivial – though inexcusable – error.

And to take the story to the next level of ridiculousness, crews working for the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority removed some of the speed cushions ([/story/news/local/el-paso/2016/01/05/cathedral-speed-humps-removed-trolley/78331430/](http://story/news/local/el-paso/2016/01/05/cathedral-speed-humps-removed-trolley/78331430/)) last week to make way for trolley tracks. The city likely will have to remove all of them. City officials were aware that the cushions were being placed on the planned trolley route, but went ahead anyway.

The Cathedral speed cushion issue is a small illustration of Gonzalez's struggles as city manager, but it's emblematic of his approach to governance.

An independent investigation of several actions tied to Gonzalez is underway and expected to be completed by the end of the month. City Council then will have to make hard choices about his future.

But it's increasingly clear that Gonzalez has not been providing the leadership El Pasoans need and expect.

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# City reclassified Cathedral speed hump spending

Cindy Ramirez, El Paso Times 8:31 p.m. MST January 5, 2016



(Photo: RUBEN R. RAMIREZ/EL PASO TIMES)

The controversial speed humps in front of Cathedral High School were initially paid for with funds from the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program and not the general fund as city officials have asserted.

A budget transfer from the NTMP to the general fund to cover the cost for the project was made in late September — about seven months after the humps were installed and a few weeks after the El Paso Times first raised questions about the project, according to documents obtained by the Times under the Texas Public Information Act. The transfer was made at the direction of Chief Financial Officer Mark Sutter.

City officials, including City Manager Tommy Gonzalez, have justified the installation of the \$9,000 speed humps on Stanton Street by saying they were not paid for through the NTMP, which sets strict limits on where traffic-calming devices can be placed. A [Times investigation](http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/10/31/speed-humps-near-cathedral-violate-city-policy/74712464/) (<http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/10/31/speed-humps-near-cathedral-violate-city-policy/74712464/>) last year showed that the speed humps violated multiple policies in the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.



EL PASO TIMES

[Cathedral speed humps removed for trolley](http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2016/01/05/cathedral-speed-humps-removed-trolley/78331430/)

[\(http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2016/01/05/cathedral-speed-humps-removed-trolley/78331430/\)](http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2016/01/05/cathedral-speed-humps-removed-trolley/78331430/)

In an emailed statement, Sutter on Tuesday said the city manager "did not direct funding issues. Staff had inventory available from the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, so that inventory was used and the program was reimbursed from the general fund."

The speed humps, which were installed Feb. 25-26, were requested by Cathedral High School officials and pushed for by city Rep. Larry Romero, an alumnus of the private Catholic school. Gonzalez approved their installation against the recommendation of the city's top street official, who warned that the street did not meet city requirements for the humps, or speed cushions.

Stanton Street is not a residential street, has more than a single lane in each direction and is on a bus route — all of which would disqualify it from receiving the speed humps under the NTMP.

A city spokeswoman said Gonzalez's response remains the same as back in October, saying "safety concerns are a priority" and offered no other comment.

## Email trail

Emails obtained by the Times show city employees were asked to reclassify about \$7,100 for the cost of materials from the NTMP to the general fund in late September. The remaining cost was already paid through the general fund, which includes property taxes, sales taxes, city fees and other sources.

Documents show the speed humps cost \$9,236, although previous records put the cost closer to \$9,400.

On Sept. 28, an accounting manager emailed an administrative analyst with the Streets and Maintenance Department about the reclassification.

"I entered (journal entry) 423934. I was able to find budget in FY15 per Dr. Sutter's instruction. Please review, the only cost charged to project .... was the cost of the actual speed cushion."

The Times requested but has not received the journal entry relating to the transfer. The entry logs business transactions and typically shows dates, amounts and a short description of the transaction.

The accounting manager replied, "The journal entry looks great. I am just confused by the amount, I thought that you needed to reclassify \$9,236.23 but JE is for \$6,790. Can you please clarify this for me?"

That same day, the analyst later replied to the accounting manager: "We only paid for the cushion themselves out of capital that's why I included the Bid Tab and the PO. The cost of each section of speed cushion is \$679 and we used ten sections for this installation. All other costs were paid out of Gen Fund."

In an Oct. 12 email response to an Open Records Request by the Times, city attorneys said the speed humps "were not installed as part of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program. The speed humps were paid for through the General Fund."



Crews work on relocating a water pipe along Stanton Street in front of Cathedral High School. The project will take as many as six weeks. It will make way for the rails that will be part of the streetcar project. (Photo: RUBEN R. RAMIREZ/EL PASO TIMES)

#### Off again, on again

The humps were installed in February and temporarily removed in May for the Slide the City event, during which a 1,000-foot-long water slide was set up for a day along Stanton Street. The humps were reinstalled after the event.

This week, crews began removing some of the humps ([/story/news/local/el-paso/2016/01/05/cathedral-speed-humps-removed-trolley/78331430/](#)) in front of Cathedral to allow for water utility work in preparation for the \$97 million trolley project. Part of the trolley's 4.8-mile route will run in the northbound lane along Stanton Street. Emails previously obtained by the Times showed that Gonzalez was aware that the speed humps were being placed in the future trolley route when he authorized installation.

A city spokeswoman said the city hasn't decided what to do with the speed humps in front of Cathedral as the trolley work proceeds.

Officials with the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority, which is in charge of the trolley project, said it wouldn't make sense to have the speed humps on one travel lane. They could not be placed along the trolley rails.

#### Scrutinizing relationships

The relationship between the city manager and Romero has been increasingly scrutinized in the past few months.

Documents obtained by the Times have also shown that Gonzalez approved or didn't object to several street paving projects ([/story/news/2015/09/29/emails-city-manager-didnt-stop-projects/72998268/](#)) requested by Romero that had not been approved by the full council. Gonzalez hired Romero to prepare his federal taxes ([/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/12/15/city-manager-hired-rep-romero-file-taxes/77334656/](#)) and hired the representative's brother to set up a consulting firm.

Romero and Gonzalez are also being investigated for their role ([/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/12/07/city-approves-austin-lawyer-investigation/76960462/](#)) in trying to replace the city's financial advisers without council approval following a report on the matter by the Times ([/story/news/local/el-paso/2015/11/21/romero-touted-former-partner-city-contract/76082552/](#)).

Romero, who is recovering from a stroke (<http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2016/01/05/city-rep-larry-romero-ill-return-unknown/78320034/>) he suffered last month, was an adamant supporter of Gonzalez's \$61,000 pay raise this summer. Both men have said there is no connection between the projects and the pay raise.

Cindy Ramirez may be reached at 546-6151; [cramirez@elpasotimes.com](mailto:cramirez@elpasotimes.com) (<mailto:cramirez@elpasotimes.com>); @EPTCindyRamirez on Twitter.

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Jan. 24, 2016, 3:47 p.m.



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