

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION (RCA)**

DEPARTMENT: Department of Community and Human Development

AGENDA DATE: October 17, 2006

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Nathalie Prise (541-4643)

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

This item relates to the City's three appointments to the Board of Trustees of the El Paso Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center (EPMHMRC). Council is asked to reappoint two current hold-over members whose terms will expire on December 31, 2007, and to fill the third vacant slot from a list of three candidates submitted by the Screening Committee. This third appointment will expire on December 31, 2006 but will be eligible for re-appointment to a full term that will expire on December 31, 2008.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

This item involves the City's three appointments to the El Paso Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center (EPMHMRC). One of the City appointees is to be a Mental Health (MH) consumer or have a family member who is an MH or Mental Retardation (MR) consumer. The second appointee is an At-Large position, and the third appointee is to be a professional with expertise in education administration, fiscal management, healthcare, medicine or law. Trustees serve a two-year term, and can be reappointed for two additional terms.

Presently, James Herendeen, Ph.D. is filling the Consumer position on the MHMR Board of Trustees. Dr. Herendeen has a family member who is an MH consumer. Mr. Gilbert Carrasco is filling the At-Large position. Their terms expired on December 31, 2005. In accordance with state law, Dr. Herendeen and Mr. Carrasco continue serving on the board until they are replaced or reappointed by City Council. Both are eligible for reappointment for one more term. The professional position on the MHMR Board is presently vacant and the term for this position will expire on December 31, 2006.

The Community Center Screening Committee most recently met on September 13, 2006, for the purpose of developing recommendations regarding the City appointments to the El Paso MHMR Board of Trustees. The committee is making the following recommendations to City Council:

- That Dr. James Herendeen and Mr. Gilbert Carrasco be reappointed to the terms they are presently holding over in that expire on December 31, 2007. If reappointed, both Trustees will have served three terms, and cannot be reappointed after December 31, 2007.

- That a list of three candidates be submitted for City Council consideration from which the Council will select a candidate to fill the vacant professional level position on the MHMR Board. The term of the appointee will expire on December 31, 2006, but would be eligible for reappointment thereafter for a full two-year term. The list of candidates are as follows, listed by order of priority by the Screening Committee:

1. Mr. Jerry Romero
2. Mr. Xavier Bañales
3. Ms. Cecilia Herrera

If the Council is unable to make an appointment from the listed recommendations, it will be necessary for the City to solicit a new pool of applicants and start the process over.

The Interlocal Agreement that established the EPMHMRC states certain criteria for selection of the board members. All board members and their spouses cannot own or control any interest in a business entity or organization that will receive funds from the Center. Additionally, they cannot work for or receive goods or funds from such an organization in an amount greater than 10% of its funding, unless the board member is a consumer of MH/MR services. By law, the Board members must be qualified voters in El Paso County and residents of El Paso County. State law also requires that the Board appointments must reflect the ethnic and geographic diversity of the service area, which is El Paso County.

A summary of applicant backgrounds is provided below and complete resumes of the applicants are attached.

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUNDS OF MHMR BOARD APPLICANTS

MR. JERRY ROMERO

Background: Mr. Romero has been Vice President/Community Development Director for Border Banking for Wells Fargo Bank of El Paso, N.A., from June 2000 to the present. He has been in the banking business since 1984. In 1984 he graduated from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco & the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis/National Community Development Lending School. Mr. Romero either has or is presently serving on board of directors of twelve local and statewide non-profit and governmental organizations.

MR. XAVIER BAÑALES

Background: Mr. Bañales was appointed as Executive Director of LULAC Project Amistad two years ago. He has thirty years experience in not-for-profit management. Mr. Bañales headed the Juvenile Probation Department for the County of El Paso for five years. He has served a total of twenty-four years in high administration positions with Girl Scouts organizations in El Paso, San Antonio and San Francisco, CA. Mr. Bañales has a Bachelor's degree in History and Master's degree in Education, both from UTEP. He has or is presently serving on eight local and statewide non-for-profit and governmental boards of directors.

MS. CECILIA HERRERA

Background: Ms. Herrera has been a Prevention Application Management Coordinator for the Western Center for the Application of Prevention, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, from October 2004 to the present. She is a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor in Texas. Ms. Herrera has been in the alcohol and substance abuse counseling field since 1969. She has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work for the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, and an Associate degree in Social Work from El Paso Community College. Ms. Herrera has or is presently serving on four not-for-profit and governmental advisory boards.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

On November 1, 2005, the El Paso City Council amended the membership requirements for the Screening Committee, which is now appointed by the City Manager. The Screening Committee currently is composed of the following members: Senior Assistant City Attorney Elaine Hengen; Senior Grants Planner Tom Serrano of the Department of Community and Human Development (DCHD); Nancy Melendez-Forbes, City Grants Services Division Coordinator/Project Manager of the Project FOCUS Senior Peer Counseling Program; David Gillooly, Director of TVP Enterprises; and Nathalie Prise, Director of DCHD.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

NA

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

Enter appropriate comments or N/A

NA

*******REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*******

LEGAL: (if required) Elaine Hengen **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Nathalie Prise Date 10/9/06

(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____