

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

DEPARTMENT: Community and Human Development
AGENDA DATE: 01/27/14
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Verónica R. Soto, AICP, Director (212-0138)
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

SUBJECT:

Discussion and action on a Resolution to sunset the Empowerment Zone Advisory Board due to the completion and close-out of the Empowerment Zone Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

In April 1999, the City received an Empowerment Zone designation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The geographic boundaries include sections of Districts 1, 3, 6, 7 and 8.

Grant funding was initially managed by the nonprofit Empowerment Zone Corporation through a Memorandum of Agreement authorized by the El Paso City Council in May 1999. The Memorandum of Agreement was terminated effective June 25, 2007.

The City assumed administrative control of the El Paso Empowerment Zone grant. In accordance with federal regulations (24 CFR Part 598), the implementation of remaining grant funds required the establishment of a governance structure in order to ensure continued community and grass roots participation and community performance assessment in the implementation of the Strategic Plan related to the grant funds, thus the Advisory Board.

On February 6, 2014, HUD notified the City of it having satisfactorily met the requirements of 24 CFR 85.50 "Closeout" for the Empowerment Zone grant, which ended on September 30, 2010. As an element of the closeout process, the City committed to HUD that Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program Income will continue to remain locally for the purpose of continuing the Empowerment Zone RLF administered by the Community and Human Development Department.

Each advisory board appointee has fulfilled his/her most recent term.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

August 14, 2007: Establish Board
December 23, 2008: Amendment

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

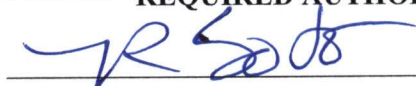
none

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

none

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD:



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted a Resolution on August 14, 2007, to establish the Empowerment Zone Advisory Board (the "Board") as part of the Implementation Plan for the City's Round II United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Empowerment Zone Grant, and incorporated into the Strategic Plan, as amended, in order to ensure continued community and grass roots participation and community performance assessment in the governance of Zone Area activities; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2014, HUD notified the City of it having satisfactorily met the requirements of 24 CFR Section 85.50 "Closeout" for Empowerment Zone grants; and

WHEREAS, the Board is no longer needed as a standing board of the City holding regular meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to abolish the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the Empowerment Zone Advisory Board, established August 14, 2007 by Resolution, as amended by Resolution on December 23, 2008, be abolished.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____ 2015.


THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:


Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Lauren Ferris
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Verónica R. Soto, AICP, Director
Community and Human Development



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

FEB 6 2014

The Honorable Oscar Leeser
Office of the Mayor
City of El Paso
P.O. Box 1890
El Paso, Texas 79950-1890

Dear Mayor Leeser:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is pleased to notify the City of El Paso of the completion and closeout of your Round II Empowerment Zone Grant, No. EZ-99-TX-0013 that ended on September 30, 2010.

HUD has determined that the El Paso Empowerment Zone (EZ) has satisfactorily met the requirements of 24 CFR §85.50 "Closeout" for Empowerment Zone grants. However, consistent with 24 CFR §85.51, the closeout of your grant does not affect:

- (a) HUD's right to disallow costs and recover funds on the basis of a later audit or other review;
- (b) The grantee's obligation to return any funds due as a result of later refunds, corrections, or other transactions;
- (c) Records retention as required in sections 84.53 and 85.42; and
- (d) Property management and disposition requirements in sections 84.34 and 85.32.

Please refer to sections 84.53 and 85.42 for specific recordkeeping requirements that apply to you and your nonprofit subrecipients. In general, records pertinent to the EZ program must be retained for three years after the date you submitted your final EZ expenditure report to HUD.

If any litigation claim, negotiation, audit or other actions involving the records have been started before the expiration of the 3-year period, the records must be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the regular 3-year period, whichever is later. Records for equipment acquired with EZ funds must be retained for three years after it no longer meets the definition of "Equipment" under 24 CFR §84.2 or after disposition and payment to HUD under section 85.32(e)(2).

HUD, the Inspector General, the Comptroller General of the United States or any of their authorized representatives, shall have the right of access to any pertinent books, documents, papers, or other records of grantees and subgrantees that are pertinent to the EZ program, in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts and transcripts. These rights of access shall last as long as the records are retained.

In closing, I want to thank you for your efforts in assisting with the closeout process and want to express HUD's appreciation for your exemplary patience and cooperation in responding to our closeout inquires and informational requests.

Sincerely,

Valerie G. Piper
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Economic Development

f14

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CITY OF EL PASO OPERATIONAL HOURS:
Mon-Thurs, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Closed Fridays



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EMPOWERMENT ZONE ADVISORY BOARD

Duties: Serve as a liaison between the City and the Community at-large, stakeholders, and Recognized Neighborhood Associations and/or Civic Associations within the Zone Area to ensure community and grass roots participation and input in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Review quarterly and annual program and project progress reports and formulate recommendations thereon for City personnel, to include identification and assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each program or project, areas for technical assistance, and consistency with the vision, goals, and implementation plan of the Strategic Plan. Provide recommendations on all expenditures, loans, and funding of projects and programs related to the Zone area. Provide recommendations on policy and strategy, to Mayor and City Council, the City Manager, and City personnel, including advice on policy decisions regarding the Implementation Plan and Strategic Plan and any amendments thereto. Review and provide written comments on the annual performance and evaluation report of the Zone Area, in conjunction with the City's established performance measurement system for evaluating the progress made in implementing the Strategic Plan. Support and participate in the City's annual strategic planning session(s) for purposes of reviewing and/or revising of the Strategic Plan. See Resolution dated August 14, 2007 and December 23, 2008.

Qualifications: The total nine (9) members, five (5) of the individuals must be owners of or employed by a for-profit organization or faith-based organization that is located in the Zone area, two (2) must be leaders in non-profit organization or faith-based organization located in the Zone area; and two (2) of the individuals must be members of a City Recognized Neighborhood Association within the Zone area.

Seats: 9 Members: (1 per District, 1 by Mayor).

Term: Two, 2 year terms

Term Limits: Two Term Limit

Contact: Isela Robison, EZ Coordinator

Contact Office: Community Development

Contact Email: robisonie@elpasotexas.gov

Contact Phone: 212-1675

Meeting times: Thursday, January 26, 2012, Thursday, April 26, 2012, Thursday, July 26, 2012. Thursday, October 25, 2012 postponed to November 2012.

Enabling Ordinance(s)/Resolution(s): [08-14-07](#) [12-23-08](#)

[Current agenda with Attachments](#) [Meeting Agendas](#) [Meeting Minutes](#)

MEMBER LIST (Reflects City appointments only)

Name	Date Appointed	Date Expires	Appointed By	Type
Armendariz II, Armando	10/4/2011	9/4/2013	District 2	R
Brewer, Jason Lee	10/18/2011	1/22/2014	District 6	R
Brock, Wayne	4/3/2012	9/25/2013	District 5	R
Galicia, Hector Homero	10/4/2011	10/7/2014	District 1	R
Guillen, Gilbert	3/23/2010	9/18/2013	District 4	R
VACANT			District 8	R
VACANT			Mayor	R
VACANT			District 3	R
Veith, Joseph R.	3/20/2012	10/2/2013	District 7	R

CITY DEPARTMENTS ON THE WEB