



March 26, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Council:

I write in full support of the proposal to name the library that is part of the new community combo center at 7600 Alameda after Enrique Moreno.

Mr. Moreno, who passed on Oct. 10, was a trailblazing lawyer and fierce defender of civil rights. He practiced at the U.S. Supreme Court, and in 1999 he was nominated by President Clinton to serve on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Senate Republicans held up his nomination, which was later withdrawn by President Bush.

It was a mark of his character that when he was asked to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee to discuss the process, he said in testimony: *"I am often asked if I am personally disappointed or bitter about my experience. Let me say that I am not. You see, I have received so much encouragement, support, good will, and kindness from so many sources. It would be an act of selfishness for anyone who has experienced what I have experienced to say that they have a right to be personally disappointed."*

Mr. Moreno, a true *fronterizo*, was born in Chihuahua and moved to El Paso at a young age. He attended Harvard for his undergraduate and law degree, and returned to serve the city that raised him. Throughout his legal career, he represented the disenfranchised, taking on a landmark racial profiling case and representing migrants. For a man who spent so much of his time reading and writing, naming the library after Enrique Moreno is a fitting reminder of his contributions to law, social justice, and the community.

Enrique Moreno was a friend and mentor to many, including myself, and no honor in his memory is too great. I look forward to visiting the Enrique Moreno Library in the near future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José Rodríguez". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

José Rodríguez

CC: Ms. Norma Martinez, Interim Director, El Paso Public Libraries