

City of Laredo



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

February 23, 2024 / Vol 8

BRANDON CROSBY-REYES I.S.T. DEPARTMENT



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BRANDON CROSBY-REYES

Name you like to go by: Brandon

Department you work in: I.S.T.

Department

Job title: Bridge Data Officer

Office number: 956-727-6500

Email: breyes@ci.laredo.tx.us

Tell us about your career journey

For over fifteen years, in different jobs, I've found myself gravitating toward working with data again and again. A few years back, I had the opportunity to join the I.S.T. team as nothing other than "Data Officer." What a privilege!

What inspired you to work for the City of Laredo?

Since I naturally love data, spreadsheets, and business intelligence, that helped propel me to do what I'm doing now.

Who is your role model?

Jesus, my wife Brenda, John Maxwell, Donald Miller, Andy Stanley, Marco Russo, Alberto Ferrari, and Zig Ziglar. They've taught me to love God, to love others, and to strive for excellence.

What is a "guilty pleasure" that you enjoy whenever you have time for yourself?

Playing the piano and singing.

What is a quote that you find yourself using or referring to often?

"When opportunity comes, it's too late to prepare" - John R. Wooden

What is one thing that you wish you were "brave" enough to do?

To communicate in front of large audiences.

What are three things still on your bucket list?

To get a custom bass guitar made by luthier Roger Sadowsky.
To get a Steinway and Sons Grand Piano made in the early 1900's.
To learn to play jazz improvisation

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ELENA R. MARTINEZ

Name you like to go by: Elena

Department you work in: HR

Department

Job title: Sr. Retirement Service Analyst

Office number: 956-791-7488

Email: emartinez9@ci.laredo.tx.us

ELENA R. MARTINEZ **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Tell us about your family

I've been married for 16 years and I have three amazing sons that I refer to as "Los Tres Bros" who keep me on my toes. Our home is oddly balanced with humor, adventure and sometimes total chaos.

What do you love most about your job?

What I love most about my job is the opportunity to engage with employees from different departments on a personal level while assisting them with offboarding and retirement information. It's a true privilege to be part of their retirement journey.

What inspired you to work for the City of Laredo?

I was inspired by my father and grandfather, both of whom worked for the City of Laredo for over 30 years. You can say I'm a 3rd generation City of Laredo Employee! Their passion for their work instilled in me a profound sense of pride.

What is a "guilty pleasure" that you enjoy whenever you have time for yourself?

Romantic comedies, I can watch rom coms from the 80's, 90's, and 2000s and waste an entire day.

What is a quote that you find yourself using or referring to often?

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind."

What's something surprising that not many people know about you?

I like to pick up odd hobby's go all out and then completely stop them once I've lost interest. I've taking up cake decorating, painting, embroidering, and my most current hobby. . crocheting!

What are three things still on your bucket list?

Travel to Europe
Earning a master's degree
Perfect driving a manual car without giving my passengers whiplash

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ALFREDO "FREDDY" CASTILLO BRIDGE DEPARTMENT



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ALFREDO CASTILLO

Name you like to go by: Freddy

Department you work in: Bridge
Department

Job title: Bridge Finance Analyst

Office number: 956-721-2070

Email: ajcastillo@ci.laredo.tx.us

What do you love most about your job?

I love the freedom and support that my department director gives me to perform my duties as the auditor of the Bridge Department. At times, my methods and research may seem unorthodox, but this department instills their trust in me, and I could not be more thankful for that. Ideas that I may have for improvements in any aspect are well respected and heard by my superiors.

What's something surprising that not many people know about you?

I'm a woodworker. My brother and I have a woodworking business where we make and sell everything from cutting boards to full size bars. I also listen to various kinds of metal music genres.

What advice would you give to a new City of Laredo employee?

Learn to accept and take responsibility for mistakes. We're human we make mistakes, but I believe owning them, correcting them, and learning from them are what makes a true leader. Also, for whatever it is you do, never stop learning and always strive to improve yourself.

What's your favorite sports team to root for?

The Dallas Cowboys, c'mon! I know that's too common of an answer, so I'll throw in a curve ball. If you ask anyone who knows me, they'd tell you that I am a diehard Atlanta Braves fan.

What are three things still on your bucket list?

To visit every MLB stadium before I die. To hunt and fish in the mountain ranges of Alaska. To play a round of golf at Pebble Beach.

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ERIKA ALCORTA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT



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ERIKA ALCORTA

Name you like to go by: Erika

Department you work in: Traffic
Department

Job title: Senior Administrative
Assistant

Office number: 956-795-1283

Email: ealcorta@ci.laredo.tx.us

What inspired you to work for the City of Laredo?

After researching I knew it would be a great company to work for. I learned about the services, mission and workplace culture. I was able to bloom into a position I enjoy working for.

What's do you love most about your job?

Employee Morale. We have a great team and always looking forward to working with each employee.

Who is your role model and what have you learned from them?

My mother is my role model. As a single mother raising 4 children, she taught me to never give up and always work hard for what I want. To always be honest, dedicated, hardworking and to always have God present in my life.

If you had a "magic wond", unlimited time and endless money, what is the vacation of your dreams?

Dubai

What is a "guilty pleasure" that you enjoy whenever you have time for yourself?

Maxing out credit cards. Lol!

What are three things still on your bucket list?

Obtain a master's in business administration, Travel to Paris, and become a mother.

What was your favorite thing to do as a child that you wish you could still do?

Watch cartoons with my father.

What three words would your friends use to describe you?

Hardworking
Dedicated
Reliable