

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M-2015-R-17
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
OCTOBER 19, 2015
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pete Saenz led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Pete Saenz,	Mayor
Rudy Gonzalez,	District I
Esteban Rangel,	District II
Alejandro Perez, Jr.,	District III
Juan Narvaez,	Mayor Pro-Tempore, District IV
Roque Vela, Jr.,	District V
George J. Altgelt,	District VII
Roberto Balli,	District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.	City Secretary
Jesus Olivares,	City Manager
Cynthia Collazo,	Deputy City Manager
Horacio De Leon,	Assistant City Manager
Raul Casso,	City Attorney

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of October 5, 2015.

Motion to approve the October 5, 2015 minutes.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Rangel, Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez and Cm. San Miguel were not present.

Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez joined the meeting at 5:42 pm.

Cm. Rangel joined the meeting at 6:08 pm.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Invitations

- a. Invitation to the "Dia de los Muertos Celebracion Cultural" scheduled for November 2, 2015 at the Laredo Center for the Arts from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Rosie Santos invited Mayor Saenz and City Council to the event.

- b. Invitation to Laredoans Against Drunk Driving (LDD) - 2nd Annual Derek R. Trevino SK-8 Comp & Awareness Event for October 24, 2015 at the Blas Castaneda Park from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Alonzo Villarreal stated that her son, Derek, was the victim of a drunk driver four years ago, and so she put together a skateboarding event to reach out to the community and talk to them about the dangers of drinking and driving. She explained that there was an entry fee for the event of \$10 and this money would sponsor scholarships and purchase hospital equipment for victims of drunk driving.

Recognitions

- a. Recognizing Eusebio Benavides, on his selection as the Code Enforcement Officer of the Year. Mr. Benavides is an employee with the Community Development Department.

Mayor and City Council congratulated Eusebio Benavides and presented him with a certificate of recognition.

- b. Recognizing The Laredo Crush Basketball Team for becoming the first team in the City to win the Title at the PrimeTime Sports National Basketball Championships in Dallas Texas.

Mayor and City Council congratulated team members Jesslynn Jalomo, Amberlyn Patiño, Valentina Torres, Regina Hernandez, Karla Zamora, Bethanie Briseño, Ary Garcia, Cristan Rodriguez, and Emily Degollado and presented them with certificates of recognition.

Communiques

- a. Presentation by the Laredo Swarm Organization to introduce coaches, players, mascot, and the Honey Beez cheerleaders.

Javier Villalon, General Manager for the Laredo Energy Arena, reported that they were excited about this venture. He added that this team was involved in the community and introduced the squad.

- b. Presentation by DEA Special Agent, James R. Reed on the harms of K2.

James R. Reed gave a presentation before Mayor Saenz and City Council.

Laredo District Office

Synthetic Drugs

Perceived as 'legal' and "safe" alternatives to marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA.

THE ATTRACTION OF SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS?

"Synthetic vs Real Marijuana"

- Doesn't show up on standard urinalysis testing
- More potent
- "10Xs higher"
- Less expensive
- "10Xs cheaper"

In the U.S., why are synthetic compounds marketed the way they are (i.e., not for "Human Consumption")?

- Synthetic cannabinoids are sold as "potpourri" or "incense" products at retail outlets and on the Internet
- Synthetic cathinones are sold as "bath salts", "jewelry cleaner," and "plant food" at retail outlets and on the Internet

U.S. Controlled Substance Analogue Act

21 USC 813 – A Controlled Substance Analogue, shall, to the extent intended for human consumption, be treated for the purposes for any Federal law as a controlled substance in Schedule I

21 USC 802(32) – chemical structure is substantially similar to a controlled substance in schedule I or II and has a similar pharmacologic effect.

Synthetic Marijuana Facts

Synthetics are extremely dangerous/addictive. Health effects from the drug can be life-threatening and can include:

- Severe agitation and anxiety.
- Fast, racing heartbeat and higher blood pressure.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Muscle spasms, seizures, and tremors.
- Intense hallucinations and psychotic episodes.
- Suicidal and other harmful thoughts and/or actions.

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

Production: mixing leaf material, the chemical compound and acetone

Increased Exposure of Synthetic Marijuana Cases, Texas

US Statistics – Poison Center

A Growing Laredo Problem

Synthetic Cannabinoid Related Activity in Laredo		
	2013	2014
Overdoses	53	78
Arrests	131	161
Raids	4	2

Changing Laws

- Laredo City Ordinance

Texas State Law

- Senate Bill 172 – Broadens Legislative Reach on Designer Psychedelics
- Senate Bill 173 – Broadens Definition of Synthetic Cannabinoid
- Senate Bill 461 – Targets Packaging and Defines “Abusable Synthetic Substance”
- House Bill 1212 – Broadens Rulemaking Authority to Designate Substances as Abusable Synthetics

DEA’s ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

- Disrupt & Dismantle Criminal Organizations
- Federal, State & Local Partnerships
- Cooperation & Information Sharing

DEA National Takedown: 10-15-2015

NATION WIDE RESULTS OF COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Total cash & assets seized (approximately): \$15,013,522.25

Synthetic Cathinones seized:	316 kgs.
Synthetic Cannabinoids:	3,058 kgs.
Treated plant material:	98 kgs.
Synthetic Cannabinoid Packs (filled):	7,314 kgs.
Weapons:	39
Arrests:	151
Search Warrants:	69

COMBINED LAREDO EFFORT FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL

LAREDO RESULTS OF COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Smoke Shop Locations	4
Residences	3
Synthetic Marijuana (approx. 3,520 packages)	43.3 kgs.
Scented Oils	65 bottles
Vapor Liquid	44 bottles
Weapons	
Assault Rifle	1
Shot Guns	2
Hand Gun	1
Bullets	108
Magazines	5

- DEA's Outreach Strategy
- Red Ribbon Week
- National Websites
- Helpful Resources for Parents & Teens

Citizen comments

Sara Rodriguez, representing the residents of Russell Terrace, reported that they were there to speak against its demolition. She added that the houses were in good condition and that the majority of the residents were low-income families. She concluded that they saw no reason for the demolition.

Sid Holden spoke on behalf of Spay It Forward and said that she would like to see a Facebook page or a webpage containing the list of pets to be euthanized.

Michelle Deveze spoke about the euthanization of pets and stated that they needed everyone on board so that the rescue groups may further their adoption programs.

Toni Gamboa announced the SSGT Dolores Gamboa Scholarship Fund Veterans' Bowl-A-Thon set for Thursday, November 12th, 2015 at 5:30 pm at Jett Bowl North.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 2-F, Block 2, Ramirez Business Park Subdivision, Phase I, located at 510 South Creek Drive, from B-4 (Highway Commercial District) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff is in support of the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the zone change. District II

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Fred Guerra, representing the owner, spoke in favor of the zone change.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez, Cm. Vela and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Rangel

2. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 1, Block 1, Riverhill Commercial Subdivision, Unit XVII, located at 4180 S. US Highway 83, from 8-3 (Community Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff is in support of the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the zone change. District III

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Tomas Izaguirre, property owner, stated that everything around him was a B-4 and he asked for his property to be the same so that he may place mini storage units there.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Perez

3. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by authorizing an amendment to Ordinance 2013-0-021 authorizing a Conditional Use Permit for an auto body repair/auto paint shop on Lot 3, Block 1343, Eastern Division, located at 2315 Market Street, amending the site plan to include a portable office building and renew expired Conditional Use Permit (CUP); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff is not in support of the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Conditional Use Permit.
District III

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Jerry O'Brien spoke in favor of the ordinance amendment and conditional use permit.

David Ramirez, property owner, also spoke in favor.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce as amended to make a good faith effort to acquire the property next to the train tracks or another space nearby with capacity for eight spaces and bring it back within the

next eighteen months.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Perez

4. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 4 and 5, Block 470, Eastern Division, located at 317 E. Eistetter Street, from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff is not in support of the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the zone change. District IV

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Perez, Cm. Vela and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

Ordinance Introduction: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

5. Public hearing and introductory ordinance granting of a non-exclusive franchise to Pedro Gonzalez IV DBA Pedro Pete Services, L.L.C. to use the present and future streets, avenues, alleys, roads, highways, sidewalks, easements and other public right-of-way of the City of Laredo, Texas for purposes of constructing, maintaining and operating a commercial container refuse gathering and disposing service, setting forth terms and conditions to govern the franchise; providing a severability clause, a savings clause and an effective date. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

VII. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of Ordinance 2015-O-149.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

7. 2015-O-149 Authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into a continuation contract with the United States Health and Human Services (HHS) Department Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the amount of \$500,000.00 and amending the FY 2015-2016 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Listing by creating one (1) Public Health Technician, R36 position (Licensed Professional Counselor) for the City of Laredo Health Department initiative to integrate HIV prevention and medical care with mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention services through co-location for the term from September 30, 2015 through September 29, 2016. Funding is expected to renew for an additional two (2) years.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-O-149.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VIII. FIRST AND FINAL READINGS

8. 2015-O-150 Ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas Subordinate Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2015A, in the principal amount of \$4,600,000, for the purpose of improving and extending the City's combined Waterworks System and Sewer System, making provisions for the security thereof; authorizing amendment to the city's budget to appropriate such proceeds for purposes authorized herein; awarding sale of the bonds to the Texas Water Development Board, and ordaining other matters relating to the subject.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-O-150.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2015-O-151 Ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Laredo, Texas Subordinate Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 20158, in the principal amount of \$22,075,000, for the purpose of improving and extending the City's combined Waterworks System and Sewer System, making provisions for the security thereof; authorizing amendment to the city's budget to appropriate such proceeds for purposes authorized herein; awarding sale of the bonds to the Texas Water Development Board, and ordaining other matters relating to the subject.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-O-151.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IX. RESOLUTIONS

9. 2015-R-95 Authorizing the City Manager to designate and create Neighborhood Empowerment Zone, Number One, within the City of Laredo, and making the necessary findings of public benefit and public purpose to support the creation of the zone in District III and District VIII for the downtown and heights area in the City of Laredo for the purpose of development. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve Resolution 2015-R-95.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. 2015-R-96 Consideration to grant fee waivers and a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Laredo and Frank Sisters Rental Inc. for the commercial property located at 2111 & 2115 Chihuahua St. respectively, being Lot 3 West 1/2 of 4 & Lot 5 East 1/2 of 4 in Block 1215, Eastern Division. The

construction contract amount is \$755,380. 16. Funding is available in the Slaughter Park Water Feature/Trail Improvements . (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. Authorizing the City Manager to amend the professional services contract in the amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 with MuniCap, Inc., for financial analysis related to evaluating economic incentive tools. Funding is available in General Fund. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a one-year service agreement with SunGard Public Sector, Lake Mary FL, in the amount of \$148,864.44 . The service agreement is for software enhancements and maintenance on the financial applications residing on the City's IBMiSeries computer system for the period of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. Funding is available in the Information Technology Fund. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a contract between Motorola Solutions, Inc. and the City of Laredo for the purchase and installation of Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Telecommunicator Consoles through the Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) Cooperative Purchasing Contract No. RA05-15 in the total amount of \$56,953.52. These consoles will be installed at the Rio Grande Police Department. The consoles will be used as a workspace by all telecommunicators at this PSAP center. Funding is available in the Regional 9-1-1 Fund. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. Consideration to award annual supply contract FY15-048 for the purchase of automotive parts for the Fire Department to the following vendors:

- 1) Gonzalez Auto Parts, Laredo, TX, for an amount up to \$ 73,581.55 (Primary Vendor) ; and
- 2) O'Reilly Auto Parts, Laredo, TX, for an amount up to \$ 69,765.30 (Secondary Vendor) ; and
- 3) Andy's Auto Air, Laredo, TX, for an amount up to \$ 13,524.30 (Secondary Vendor); and
- 4) Napa Auto Parts, Laredo, TX, for an amount up to \$ 12,204.50 (Secondary Vendor); and
- 5) Interstate Battery, Corpus Christi, TX, for an amount up to \$ 7,556.00 (Secondary Vendor).
- 6) Rotex Trucks Auto Parts, Laredo, TX, for an amount up to \$ 4,854.30 (Secondary Vendor) ; and

The replacement parts will be purchased on an as needed basis for all City Fire Department vehicles. This contract for approximately \$182,000.00 includes; oil/fuel filters, front end parts, hoses, clamps, belts, lamp/bulbs service lubricants and brakes as needed throughout the contract period. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. The contract may be extended for two more, additional one (1) year periods each upon mutual agreement of the parties. Funding is available in the Fire Department Budget. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. Consideration to renew supply contract number FY14-089 to Martin Marietta Materials, Raleigh, North Carolina, in an amount up to \$ 450,000.00 for the purchase of Asphalt Cold Laid and Flexible Type A-Grade materials for the Public Works and Utilities Departments. These materials shall be purchased on an as needed basis. These materials are required for all city paving and construction projects. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of

its execution. Funding is available in the Public Works and Utilities Department Budgets.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

21. Consideration to renew supply contract number FY12-092 to Ferguson Waterworks, Newport News, Virginia, in an amount up to \$274,991.81 for the purchase of butterfly valves and mechanical joint iron fittings for the Utilities Department. The cost of iron manufactured items will be increasing by 1% due to an industry wide price increase. These materials shall be purchased on an as needed basis by the Utilities Department-Water Operations for construction and repair projects. The term of this contract shall be for a period of one (1) year beginning as of the date of its execution. This is the last extension period for this contract. Funding is available in the Utilities Department Fund.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to ratify a lease agreement amendment for one month with Santa Maria Real Estate Co. in the amount of \$5,050.00 (total of \$60,600 .00 for 12 months) for the property located on 1403 Seymour in Laredo, Texas 78040 for the City of Laredo Health Department Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Program for term beginning September 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 . Funding is available through the Health Department budget. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Consideration for approval of monthly adjustments to the tax roll. The amounts to be adjusted for the month of September 2015, represent a decrease of \$3,741.64. These adjustments are determined by the Webb County Appraisal District and by court orders.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. STAFF REPORTS

24. Discussion with possible action to consider a first request for an extension of Injury Leave with pay in accordance with 143.073 (b) of the Texas Local Government Code for Police Patrol Officer Sergio Reyes.

Motion to approve 30 days of Injury Leave with pay.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

25. Request for executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate the value of real property pertaining to a potential purchase of real property located at 1415 Chihuahua, legally described as Lots 1 thru 6, Block 792, Eastern Division, Laredo, Webb County, Texas. Acquisition of this tract would be for municipal purposes to include a planned cultural arts and education facility.

Motion to enter into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate the value of real property pertaining to a potential purchase of real property located at 1415 Chihuahua, legally described as Lots 1 thru 6, Block 792, Eastern Division, Laredo, Webb County, Texas. Acquisition of this tract would be for municipal purposes to include a planned cultural arts and education facility.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor Saenz abstained from discussion on item #25.

After Executive Session, Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez announced that no formal action was taken.

Motion to proceed as discussed in Executive Session.

Moved: Cm. Perez
Second: Cm. Balli
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Request for Executive Session pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 551.071 (1)(A) to consult with attorney on pending litigation in Civil Action 5:2014CV00199; Crossett Development I, LLC v. City of Laredo; in the United States District Court for Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division; and return to open session for possible action.

Motion to enter into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (1)(A) to consult with attorney on pending litigation in Civil Action 5:2014CV00199; Crossett Development I, LLC v. City of Laredo; in the United States District Court for Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division; and return to open session for possible action.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

After Executive Session, Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez announced that no formal action was taken.

Motion to direct staff and legal counsel to move forward with the disposition of this case as discussed in Executive Session.

Moved: Cm. Balli
Second: Cm. Rangel
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. RECESS AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD

Motion to recess as the Laredo City Council and convene as the Laredo Mass Transit Board.

Moved: Cm. Rangel
Second: Cm. Vela
For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Consideration of approval on the selection of consultant, Public Solutions Group (PSG), and authorization to negotiate a professional services contract to provide consulting services for the design and engineering of an upgrade to the El Metro Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station (FY15-055), located at 401 Scott Street. Funding is available from

the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant TX-04-0055-00 .
(Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

28. Amending the Transit Department FTEs by creating one (1) additional position for a Transit Procurement Specialist for El Metro Operating Fund. Funding is available in the El Metro Operating Fund. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel
Second: Cm. Gonzalez
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XIV. RECESS AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO PUBLIC FACILITY CORPORATION

Motion to adjourn as the Laredo Mass Transit Board and convene as the Laredo Public Facility Corporation.

Moved: Cm. Rangel
Second: Cm. Vela
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

29. Appointment of Officers for the Position of President, Vice President, Secretary and Executive Director for the Laredo Public Facility Corporation. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve Officers as follows: President Roque Vela, Jr.; Vice-President Juan Narvaez; Executive Director Jesus Olivares; Secretary Gustavo Guevara, Jr.; and Treasurer Rosario Cabello.

Moved: Cm. Rangel
Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

30. Authorizing the award of \$20,000.00 (twenty thousand dollars) to Habitat for Humanity of Laredo, Inc. for the purpose of promoting and implementing affordable housing opportunities and initiatives within the community. Funding is available in the Laredo Public Facilities

Corporation. (Approved by Operations Committee).

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion to adjourn as the Laredo Public Facility Corporation and reconvene as the Laredo City Council.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XV. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

31. A. Request by Mayor Pete Saenz

1. Discussion with possible action on the City of Laredo's Procurement Policy.

Purchasing Manager Miguel Pescador and Finance Director Rosario Cabello gave a presentation before Mayor Saenz and City Council.

CITY OF LAREDO FINANCE DEPARTMENT -- PURCHASING DIVISION

Procurement Process, October 2015

Purchasing Mission

The Purchasing Division is responsible for the acquisition of all materials, supplies, and/or services for all city departments and vendors. A purchase order is subsequently issued when federal, state, local laws and policies have been met. The City buys on the basis of competitive bids, definitive specifications, quality of products and services, advantageous price, and delivery practices.

PURCHASING LAWS

- City follows Chapters 252 and 271 of the Texas Local Government Code and Chapter 2254 of the Texas Government Code
- Comply with the City of Laredo Procurement Policy

PURCHASING LAWS and Compliance

- Conflict of Interest Law

- Ethics Ordinance No. 2012-O-126
- Insurance / Bonding Requirements
- Accountability – electronic approval process
- City Council Approval – for all items over \$50,000

Purchasing Objectives

- Best quality for the lowest price
- Bid will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who provides the best value to the City

Purchasing Thresholds & Guidelines

Formal Bids

- Goods/Services exceed \$50,000
- Published in LMT/City Website; Bids are publically opened at the City Secretary's Office
- Recommendation submitted after evaluations process for City Council approval

Informal Bids

- Purchases under \$1,000 – 1 written quote
- Purchases under \$2,500 – 3 written quotes
- Purchases under \$50,000 – 3 written price quotes plus written specs

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • \$0 – 2,500 | Purchasing Agent (Quotes) |
| • \$2,501 -- \$7,000 | Finance Director |
| • \$7,001 -- \$49,999 | City Manager |
| • \$50,000 and over | City Council (Formal Bids/Proposals) |

Types of Purchase Contracts

- Sole Source
- State approved Contracts
- Request for Proposals
- Request for Qualifications
- Emergency Purchases

REQUISITION APPROVAL PROCESS

- Requisition Entry
- Division/Department Approval
- Accountant Review
- Buyer Processing
- Purchasing Agent Approval
- Finance Director Approval
- City Manager Approval

- Purchase Order Issued (if under \$50K)

Where to find City Purchasing contracts?
City Website Home page under “Bids and RFP’s”
<http://cityoflaredo.com>

City of Laredo is recognized for Leadership Transparency Award

- Platinum Award
- Vendor payments are updated monthly for Public Viewing

PURCHASING STAFF

Miguel A. Pescador, Purchasing Agent
Leticia Saldana, Buyer II
Enrique Aldape III, Administrative Assistant II
Gerardo Pina, Buyer II
Margarita Bosquez, Buyer I
Horacio Lopez, Administrative Assistant II
Mario Maldonado III, Buyer I

- B. Request by Council Member Rudy Gonzalez, Jr.
 1. Status report on the multipurpose field project at El Eden Park and the soccer field project at Independence Hills Regional Park, with possible action.

Diana Fullerton, Coordinator at the Parks and Leisure Services Department, reported that the El Eden soccer field was 97% complete, and Independence would be starting within the next month with the volleyball as well as the soccer.

- C. Request by Council Member Esteban Rangel
 1. Discussion with possible action on the presentation by the Emergency Assistance Team (EAT).

Com. Rangel explained that he knew that this organization helped a lot during Thanksgiving and that is was like another type of food bank.

Selma Ganche explained that they had started off trying to help at least a hundred people. She went on to say that school counselors were aware of families in need. She further stated that if they received enough donations, they could feed 400 families with \$24,000 by their 80-pound box with staple food.

Motion to revisit this issue and see how the city may help this

organization with any funding.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action to rename Dryden Park Soccer Field to Coach Julian Rodriguez Field.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Balli

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Cm. Vela and Cm. Altgelt were not present.

D. Request by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez

1. Presentation by Jerry Garza on Teledoc Services, with possible action.

Cm. Perez stated that they would forego the presentation; however, he agreed that it was a good product. He was interested in taking this out for an RFQ.

Assistant City Manager Horacio De Leon reported that Teledoc was an ancillary service that could be provided to employees as an added benefit. He added that they had briefly heard a presentation already.

Motion to instruct staff to go out on Request for Proposals as soon as possible.

Moved: Cm. Perez

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

E. Mayor Pro-Tempore Juan Narvaez

1. Discussion with possible action to allow the Laredo Crime Stoppers, Inc. to amend their Third Party Application beyond the deadline to increase the amount allocated from \$4,000.00 to \$14,000.00 to cover unforeseen expenses due to the relocation of their offices.

Motion to approve as amended to reflect that the City be the sponsor

of this particular program.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Narvaez

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

F. Request by Council Member Roque Vela, Jr.

1. Status report on Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Bond Counsel and any related matters, with possible action.

Finance Director Rosario Cabello reported that on the Friday packet, they would have received a carbon copy of the draft proposal so that they could ask questions prior to submittal to Legal for review.

Motion to instruct staff to put out an RFQ for a five-year agreement, to put together a brand-new team with no co-bond counsel, and to go out for RFQ's for a new financial advisor as amended to reflect that upon selection of bond counsel, they be directly answerable to City Council as opposed to the financial advisor.

Moved: Cm. Vela

Second: Cm. Altgelt

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

G. Request by Council Member George Altgelt

1. Discussion with possible action to require staff to maintain records of how many animals are euthanized daily and to promote a "Adopt Don't Shop" & "Spay and Neuter Program" for all animals that are up for adoption.

Cm. Altgelt asked if those records could be made public and posted on their Facebook site and linked to the City's Health Department page. He added that they could post pictures of the animals with the clock ticking on how many days they had left to go to encourage their adoption and fostering.

Motion to post records of animals pending euthanasia and available for adoption on the city's Facebook site and to link the list to the City's Health Department page.

Moved: Cm. Altgelt

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVI. RECESS AS THE LAREDO FACILITY CORPORATION AND RECONVENE AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL AND ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Balli

Second: Cm. Gonzalez

For: 7

Against: 0

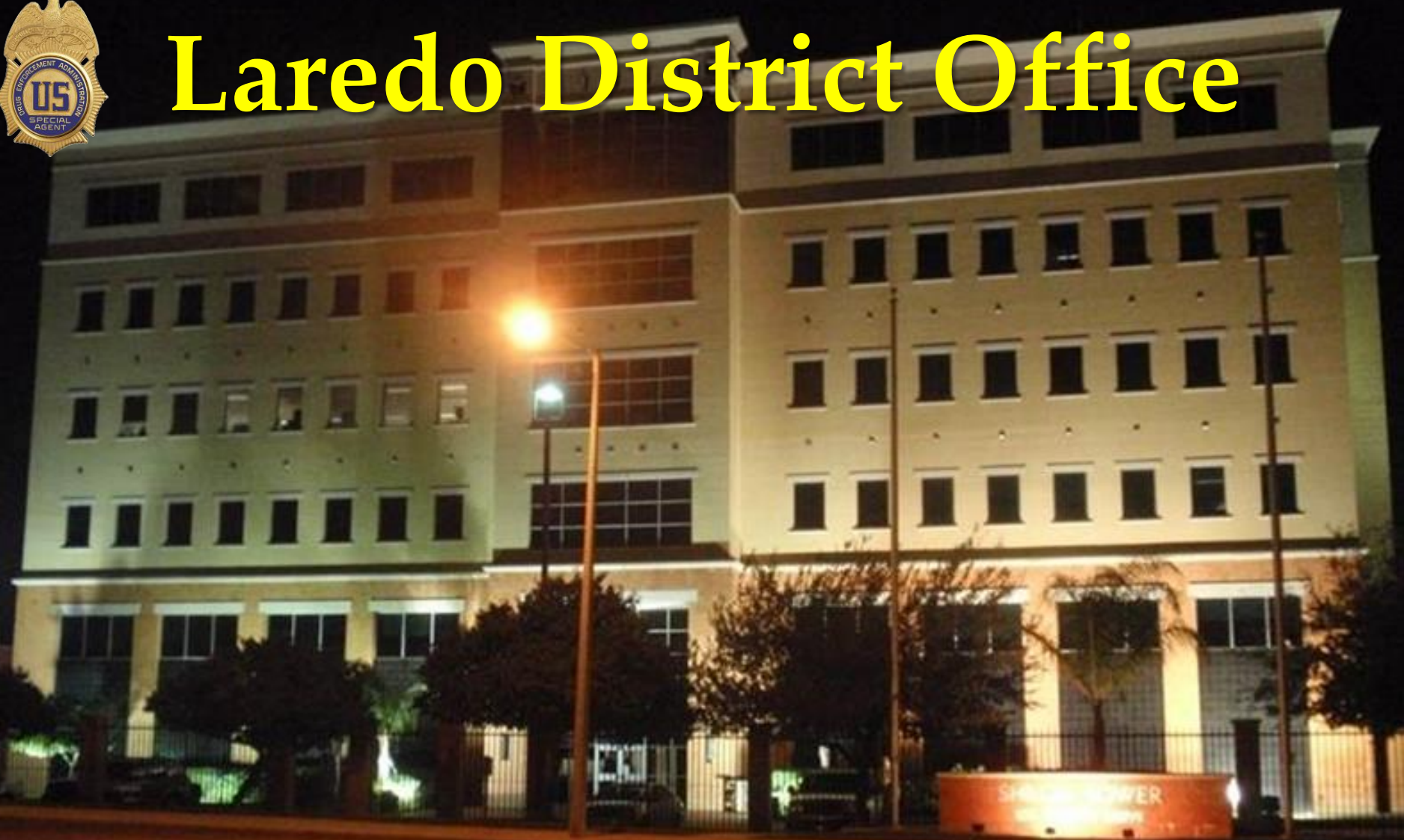
Abstain: 0

I, Gustavo Guevara, Jr., City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes contained in pages 01 to 25 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on October 19, 2015.

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary



Laredo District Office



Assistant Special Agent in Charge James R. Reed

Video



SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Perceived as 'legal' and "safe" alternatives to marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA.





THE ATTRACTION OF SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS?

“Synthetic vs Real Marijuana”

- Doesn't show up on standard urinalysis testing
- More potent
 - “10Xs higher”
- Less expensive
 - “10Xs cheaper”



In the U.S., why are synthetic compounds marketed the way they are (i.e., not for “Human Consumption”)?

- Synthetic cannabinoids are sold as “potpourri” or “incense” products at retail outlets and on the Internet
- Synthetic cathinones are sold as “bath salts”, “jewelry cleaner,” and “plant food” at retail outlets and on the Internet



U.S. Controlled Substance Analogue Act

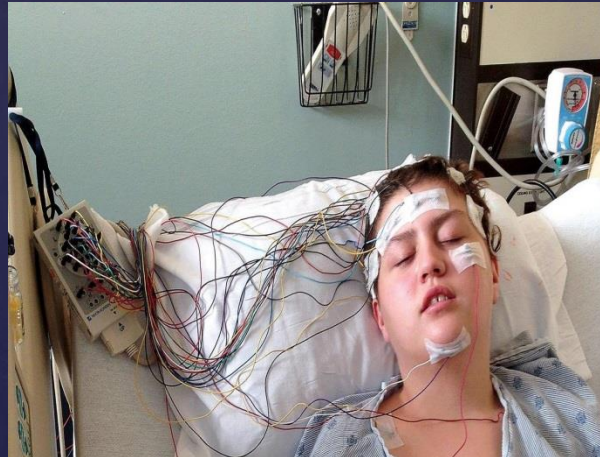
21 USC 813 – A Controlled Substance Analogue, shall, to the extent intended for human consumption, be treated for the purposes for any Federal law as a controlled substance in Schedule I

21 USC 802(32) – chemical structure is substantially similar to a controlled substance in schedule I or II and has a similar pharmacologic effect.



Synthetic Marijuana Facts

- Synthetic's are extremely dangerous/addictive. Health effects from the drug can be life-threatening and can include:
 - Severe agitation and anxiety.
 - Fast, racing heartbeat and higher blood pressure.
 - Nausea and vomiting.
 - Muscle spasms, seizures, and tremors.
 - Intense hallucinations and psychotic episodes.
 - Suicidal and other harmful thoughts and/or actions.





SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

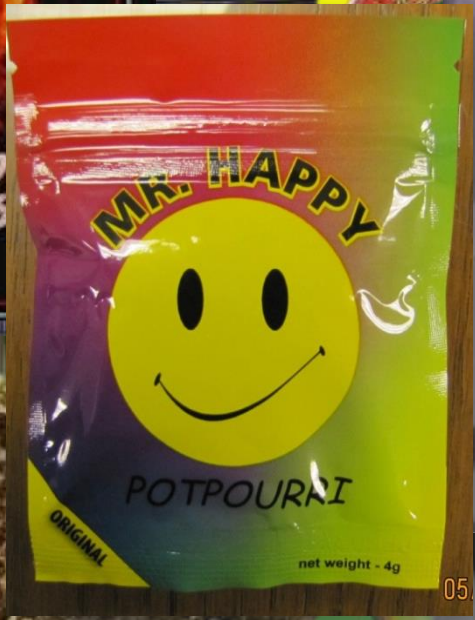
Production: mixing leaf material, the chemical compound and acetone.



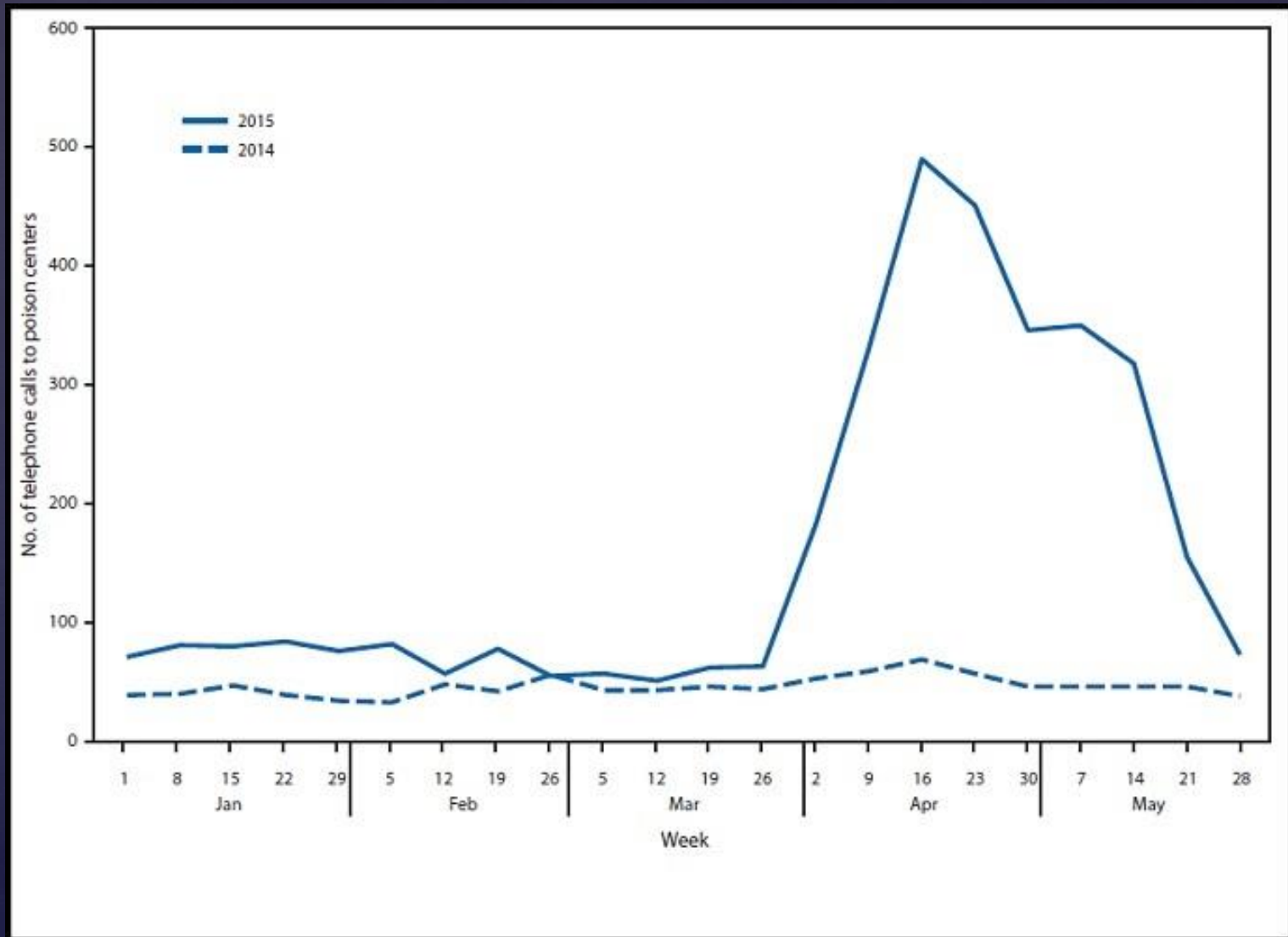
**Drying
Tables**



Synthetic Cannabinoids Packaging and Marketing (Spice, K2, legal weed)



Increased Exposure of Synthetic Marijuana Cases Texas



A Growing Laredo Problem

Synthetic Cannabinoid Related Activity in Laredo

	2013	2014
Overdoses	53	78
Arrests	131	161
Raids	4	2



Changing Laws

➤ Laredo City Ordinance

➤ Texas State Law

- **Senate Bill 172** – Broadens Legislative Reach on Designer Psychedelics
- **Senate Bill 173** – Broadens Definition of Synthetic Cannabinoid
- **Senate Bill 461** – Targets Packaging and Defines “Abusable Synthetic Substance”
- **House Bill 1212** – Broadens Rulemaking Authority to Designate Substances as Abusable Synthetics

➤ McFadden v. United States

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-0-132

ADDING SECTION ENTITLED "ILLEGAL SMOKING MATERIALS", OF THE CITY OF LAREDO CODE OF ORDINANCES; ADDING A SECTION ENTITLED "RETAILERS OF ILLEG SMOKING MATERIALS", OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND, DECLARING OF AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Syllabus

McFADDEN *v.* UNITED STATES

CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR
THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 14–378. Argued April 21, 2015—Decided June 18, 2015



DEA's ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

- Disrupt & Dismantle Criminal Organizations
- Federal, State & Local Partnerships
- Cooperation & Information Sharing



DEA National Takedown

10-15-2015



NATION WIDE RESULTS OF COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

- Total cash & assets seized (approximately): \$15,013,522.25
- Synthetic Cathinones seized: 316 kgs.
- Synthetic Cannabinoids: 3,058 kgs.
- Treated plant material: 98 kgs.
- Synthetic Cannabinoid Packs (filled): 7,314 kgs.
- Weapons: 39
- Arrests: 151
- Search Warrants: 69

COMBINED LAREDO EFFORT FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL





Aromatherapy Prices!
Houseblend - \$5.00 gram bag
Any Kind of aromatherapy \$10.00
Packages:
Kush 10gm pk. \$40.00
Any Kind of Flavor 10gm pk. \$40.00
Brain Freeze > \$55.00 10gm pk. each
Deathgrip
Keep Calm
Mario Zombie > \$35.00 5gm pk. each
All gram & houseblend gram bags should have initials
If not please ask employee to call mgr. Thanks





LAREDO RESULTS OF COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

▪ Smoke Shop Locations	4
▪ Residences	3
▪ Synthetic Marijuana (approx. 3,520 packages)	43.3 kgs.
▪ Scented Oils	65 bottles
▪ Vapor Liquid	44 bottles
▪ Weapons	
Assault Rifle	1
Shot Guns	2
Hand Gun	1
Bullets	108
Magazines	5





DEA's Outreach Strategy

Red Ribbon Week





DEA's Outreach Strategy

National Websites

www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com



www.JustThinkTwice.com



Helpful Resources for Parents & Teens



LAREDO DISTRICT OFFICE



QUESTIONS ?

CITY OF LAREDO FINANCE DEPARTMENT PURCHASING DIVISION

Procurement Process
October 2015



Rosario C. Cabello, Finance Director
Jose F. Castillo, Assistant Finance Director
Miguel A. Pescador, Purchasing Agent

Purchasing Mission



The Purchasing Division is responsible for the acquisition of all materials, supplies, and/or services for all city departments and vendors. A purchase order is subsequently issued when federal, state, local laws and policies have been met. The City buys on the basis of competitive bids, definitive specifications, quality of products and services, advantageous price, and delivery practices.

PURCHASING LAWS



- ▶ City follows Chapters 252 and 271 of the Texas Local Government Code and Chapter 2254 of the Texas Government Code
- ▶ Comply with the City of Laredo Procurement Policy



PURCHASING LAWS and Compliance



- ▶ Conflict of Interest Law
- ▶ Ethics Ordinance No. 2012-O-126
- ▶ Insurance / Bonding Requirements
- ▶ Accountability – electronic approval process
- ▶ City Council Approval – for all items over \$50,000

Purchasing Objectives



- ▶ Best quality for the lowest price
- ▶ Bid will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who provides the best value to the City



Purchasing Thresholds & Guidelines

Formal Bids

Goods / Services exceed \$50,000

Published in LMT / City Website;
Bids are publically opened at the
City Secretary's Office

Recommendation submitted after
evaluations process for City
Council approval

Informal Bids

Purchases under \$1,000 -
1 written quote

Purchases under \$2,500 -
3 written quotes

Purchases under \$50,000 -
3 written price quotes plus
written specs

Purchasing Thresholds & Guidelines

\$0 – \$2,500

\$2,501 – \$7,000

\$7,001 – \$49,999

\$50,000 and Over

Purchasing Agent –(Quotes)

Finance Director

City Manager

City Council
(Formal Bids / Proposals)



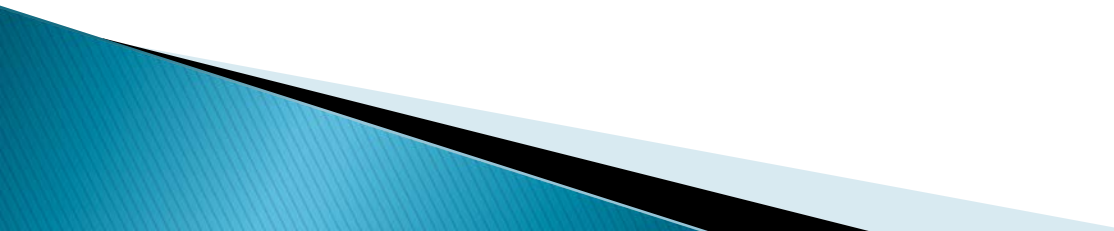
Types of Purchase Contracts

- ▶ Sole Source
- ▶ State approved Contracts
- ▶ Request for Proposals
- ▶ Request for Qualifications
- ▶ Emergency Purchases



REQUISITION APPROVAL PROCESS

- ▶ Requisition Entry
- ▶ Division/Department Approval
- ▶ Accountant Review
- ▶ Buyer Processing
- ▶ Purchasing Agent Approval
- ▶ Finance Director Approval
- ▶ City Manager Approval
- ▶ Purchase Order Issued (if under \$50K)



Where to find City Purchasing contracts?



- ▶ City Website Home page under “Bids and RFP’s”

<http://cityofflaredo.com>



City of Laredo is recognized for Leadership Transparency Award

▶ Platinum Award

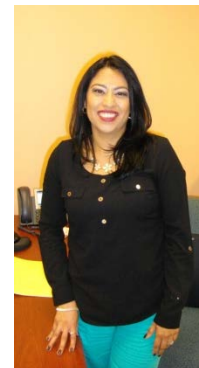
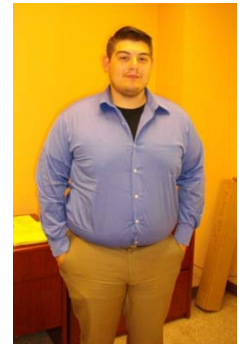
- Vendor payments are updated monthly for Public Viewing



Texas Comptroller
Leadership Circle

PURCHASING STAFF

- ▶ Miguel A. Pescador, Purchasing Agent
- ▶ Leticia Saldana, Buyer II
- ▶ Enrique Aldape III, Administrative Assistant II
- ▶ Gerardo Pina, Buyer II
- ▶ Margarita Bosquez, Buyer I
- ▶ Horacio Lopez, Administrative Assistant II
- ▶ Mario Maldonado III, Buyer I



QUESTIONS?

Types of Contracts

Cooperative Purchasing Contracts

- ▶ State of Texas - Office of the Controller Texas Procurement and Support Services Division (TPSS) Cooperative Purchasing Contracts

Term Contracts

TxDOT

DIR

TxMAS

- ▶ Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC)
- ▶ BuyBoard
- ▶ Texas Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN)
- ▶ U. S. Communities Cooperative Network
- ▶ Harris County Dept of Education