



For Immediate Release

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Harlingen to Serve as Finish Line for Multi-County Marathon

HARLINGEN, Texas– The City of Harlingen is working with the Cities of Donna and Weslaco to bring to the Rio Grande Valley the first annual Mid Valley Marathon that will serve as a Boston Qualifier. This new 26.2-mile race will start in the City of Donna and finish in Harlingen covering two counties. It will be held in December of 2023 and Race Director, Coach Basilio Mendoza says it will be the only certified point-to-point road race in Texas.

The participating Cities met with Mendoza and Start Directors Andy Deschenes and Matt Auger who were in Harlingen recently to discuss the new race and look at the proposed route.



Deschenes will be the Starting Line Director while Auger will serve as the Finishing Line Director for the Mid Valley Marathon.

Deschenes and Auger bring 40+ years of combined experience serving in the same capacity in the Boston Marathon, the New York City Marathon, and other marathons throughout the country.

Harlingen City Commissioner Frank Morales says this is a great opportunity to showcase the Rio Grande Valley from Donna to Harlingen as we work together to provide an opportunity for runners of all age groups to compete and qualify for such a significant marathon.

The Boston Marathon is the oldest annual marathon attracting hundreds of thousands of runners yearly who must meet qualifying standards based on gender and age.

News From The City of Harlingen

Coach Mendoza says this race will be ideal for athletes and runners of all levels because the certified route will have very few turns providing mostly a straight shot from the starting line in Donna through six cities, two counties, and finishing in Harlingen.

Coach Mendoza is a lifetime runner who has run the Boston Marathon and numerous other marathons throughout the United States and abroad.

The Mid Valley Marathon is tentatively scheduled for December of 2023 and is endorsed by Deschenes and Auger both elite race directors in the country.

More information about the Mid Valley Marathon and how to register will be available soon.

(Pictured above L-R: Javier Mendez, City of Harlingen; Matt Auger, Start Director; Andy Deschenes, Boston Start Director; and Coach Basilio Mendoza, Mid-Valley Marathon Race Director)

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