

News From The City of Harlingen



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Media Contact: Irma Garza, City of Harlingen, Public Relations Officer, (956) 216-5030 office or (956) 226-1673 cell

Harlingen Competes for All-America City Designation



Harlingen, Texas—The City of Harlingen this week was one of 18 cities in the United States to vie for the All-America City Award given by the National Civic League.

Harlingen was the only city in the Rio Grande Valley and one of two in Texas selected as finalists for the designation. The award is given to 10 communities each year and celebrates and recognizes villages, towns, cities, counties, tribes, and regions that engage residents in innovative, inclusive, and effective efforts to tackle critical challenges.

This year's highlight was Enhancing Health & Well Being Through Civic Engagement. Harlingen's presentation was titled One Vision/One Harlingen and focused on Inclusive Opportunities such as leading the way in South Texas with five All-Inclusive Parks; Healthy Eating and Exercising by offering programs to tackle obesity and promote healthy lifestyles, and Lifelong and Quality Education by forming strong partnerships with community members, local school district, and institutes of higher learning to improve graduation rates and job placement.

Mayor Chris Boswell says being named as a finalist confirms the many great things happening in our community and serves as an example of what can be achieved through partnerships. "This reflects Harlingen's spirit of cooperation and support for each other working in partnership with

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the HCISD, UTRGV, the Housing Authority, Legacy Foundation, the Parks Board, and Wellness Council along with local businesses and each and every citizen of our great City.”

This year’s finalist presentations were done virtually via Zoom instead of live in Denver, Colorado because of the COVID-19 Pandemic that has gripped the nation.

Each city had ten minutes to tell their story and bring their written application to life and demonstrate the positive effects of using equitable engagement strategies to address the issues highlighted in the application.

Harlingen was the last city to compete and presenters included Mayor Chris Boswell, Commissioner Ruben De La Rosa, City Manager Dan Serna, HCISD Superintendent Art Cavazos, UTRGV Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Veronica Gonzalez, TSTC Provost, Cledia Hernandez, and many members of the community.

This the 71st year The National Civic League has held this awards event and conference and this is the second time Harlingen has applied. Harlingen was previously awarded the designation in 1992 and although we didn’t receive it this year we’re very proud to have represented the Rio Grande Valley in this event.

(Pictured L-R Back row-Shane Strubhart, Dalia Anzaldua, Dan Serna, Dr. Art Cavazos, Avery Alexander, Caroline Grannum, Commissioner Ruben De La Rosa, Sgt. Major Ford Kinsley, Alberto Espinoza, Sandra Flinn, Carlos Sanchez, Mayor Chris Boswell, Front Row L-R Hilda Benavidez, Cledia Hernandez, Alexis Alaniz, Erin Smith, Irma Garza, Captain Jack Resendez, Apolonia Coronado, Kristen Resendez, Angie Rodriguez, Veronica Gonzales, & Javier Mendez)

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