



# Parks and Recreation Department

**MAYOR**  
Oscar Leeser

To: Ms. Maria Elena Sarmiento, Senior participant at Jessie Moreno Happiness Senior Center

From: Enrique Valadez, Recreation Programs Manager El Paso Parks and Recreation Department

**CITY COUNCIL**

**District 1**  
Bran Kennedy

Date: December 20, 2024

Subject: Warning Letter

**District 2**  
Dr. Josh Acevedo

Ms. Sarmiento:

**District 3**  
Cassandra Hernandez

This letter shall serve as a formal warning letter, for disrespecting and challenging the authority of the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation staff.

**District 4**  
Joe Molinar

You (Ms. Maria Elena Sarmiento) disrespected and challenged the authority of the staff from the Parks and Recreation Department in the following occasions:

**District 5**  
Isabel Salcido

- a. On December 11, 2024, you decided to deliver promotion for your candidature as President of the Advisory Board at Jessie Moreno Happiness Senior Center. At the same time, a play called "Pastorela" was taking place. You were approached by Mr. Carlos Rivas and Mr. Angel Juarez, and asked to cease the distribution of promotion, since it was distracting the audience and disrespecting the efforts made by the peer seniors impersonating the characters of the "Pastorela". Blatantly, you ignored the staff request and, raising your voice, challenged the staff to make her to stop and demanded to see a policy where she could not distribute promotion.

**District 6**  
Art Fierro

- b. On September 11, 2024, we (Enrique Valadez, Recreation Programs Manager, Angel Juarez, yourself and other participant) held a meeting at the Jessie M. Happiness Senior Center office, to discuss the changes for volunteers giving the meals tickets. I informed you, in several occasions, that the changes occurred since we needed to give volunteering opportunities to other participants, and that the order was given to be applied at all Seniors Centers, not only for Happiness or especially for you. You insisted in accusing Mr. Angel Juarez and myself of implementing a complot to remove you from the tickets distribution. After repeating the same accusation in several occasions, and demanding an explanation for being removed from the ticket's distribution, I decided to end the meeting since your attitude was disrespectful and you were not accepting the reasons for the change. Three (3) days later, at another visit I made to the center, you confronted me again, in the middle of the main hall, stating that you wanted to discuss your reinstatement on the meal tickets distribution. I asked you to go to the office to have a conversation in private, and you stated, in loud voice volume, that you wanted all the other participants to hear the discussion. After hearing the same accusations and demands, I stated again that the rule and changes for volunteers distributing the

**District 7**  
Henry Rivera

**District 8**  
Chris Canales

**INTERIM CITY  
MANAGER**  
Cary Weston

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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



# Parks and Recreation Department

**MAYOR**  
Oscar Leeser

County Nutrition Meals, would stay and that you were going to be scheduled, as well as other participants, once or twice per week, in a schedule that may change monthly. I finished the discussion and left the facility.

**CITY COUNCIL**

**District 1**  
Brian Kennedy

**District 2**  
Dr. Josh Acevedo

**District 3**  
Cassandra Hernandez

**District 4**  
Joe Molinar

**District 5**  
Isabel Salcido

**District 6**  
Art Fierro

**District 7**  
Henry Rivera

**District 8**  
Chris Canales

Our priority is to maintain our Senior Centers safe, clean, supervised and pleasant, creating programs and activities that promote an environment full of harmony and respect, improving the quality of life of our Seniors participants. You are welcome to enjoy our center, as well as any other participants. Please help us to maintain the Center environment pleasant for you and other.

This warning letter will serve as reference for any future situation and will be taken in consideration if any new deviation from the Code of Conduct occurs, resulting in disciplinary actions that may include temporary or permanent suspension.

If a situation deviates from the code of conduct, based on the Advisory Board By-Laws, you will immediately be removed from your position as President of the 2025 Advisory Board at Jessie Moreno Happiness Senior Center.

Sincerely,

Enrique Valadez,  
Recreation Programs Manager

Nicolas Valdes  
Recreation and Sports Coordinator

**INTERIM CITY  
MANAGER**  
Cary Westin

*MANIA ELENA SARMIENTO  
REFUSED TO SIGN ON  
12-27-24*

*WITNESS  
Carmelita Rivas  
Cary Westin  
12/27/24*

*WITNESS  
Angel Lopez*

Pablo Caballero – Director, Parks & Recreation Department  
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