

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Office of the Mayor

AGENDA DATE: June 11, 2024

CONTACT PERSON NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Mayor Oscar Leeser (915) 212-0021

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

SUBJECT: Approve the following Resolution

Discussion and action on a Resolution to appoint a member to the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board of Trustees in the area of expertise of Environmental or Health, as recommended by the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee:

Ranked 1st: Dr. Hector Ocaranza

Ranked 1st: Dr. Andrea Tawney

Ranked 2nd: Dr. Aldo Maspons

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The second term of the Public Service Board member serving in the area of expertise of Environmental or Health, Dr. Ivonne Santiago, expires on July 1, 2024. Dr. Santiago is not eligible to be appointed for another term since board members are eligible to serve a maximum of two terms.

On May 22, 2024, as required by Ordinance Number 017167, the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee (hereinafter "Selection Committee") met and reviewed the applications submitted by the qualified applicants. Mayor Leeser served as Chairperson of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee's membership consists of the Public Service Board members and eight persons appointed by City Council. The Selection Committee now forwards a slate of three qualified candidates in order of their ranking to the City Council for consideration and appointment.

Advertisements for applicants interested in this position were placed in the El Paso, Inc., and on the City of El Paso and El Paso Water websites.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

Yes. The City Council approved a Resolution on February 13, 2024, appointing Dr. Anna Gitter to fill a vacancy of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board of Trustees in the area of expertise of Communications, Public Administration or Education.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board budget.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION:

On May 22, 2024, the Selection Committee approved a Resolution selecting and ranking the qualified the top three qualified applicants in the area of expertise of Environmental or Health. The Committee's Resolution is attached.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board will occur on July 1, 2023 with the expiration of the second term of Dr. Santiago, who filled the position which required expertise in the area of Environmental or Health; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso adopted Ordinance Number 017167 which requires that any vacancy in the membership of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board be filled by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso by Resolution established the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee, to be comprised of the members of the Public Service Board and such additional members as appointed by the City Council to assist City Council in selecting eligible candidates to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, under the Resolution, the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee reviews resumes submitted by persons interested in filling the vacant position and submits to the City Council the names and the ranking of three eligible candidates; and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee met on May 22, 2024, pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act and approved the selection and ranking of the top three eligible candidates for consideration and appointment by City Council.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

THAT, a quorum of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee met on May 22, 2024 pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act and approved the selection and ranking the following eligible candidates for consideration and appointment by the City Council to fill a vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board in the area of Environmental or Health:

Ranked 1st: Dr. Hector Ocaranza

Ranked 1st: Dr. Andrea Tawney

Ranked 2nd: Dr. Aldo Maspons

THAT, the El Paso City Council hereby appoints _____ to fill the vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board in the area of Environmental or Health. The term of appointment shall commence on July 10, 2024, and shall be for a four (4) year term.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____ day of June, 2024.


THE CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leoser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 (for)

Karla M. Nieman
City Attorney

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board will occur on July 1, 2024 with the expiration of the second term of Dr. Ivonne Santiago, who filled the position, which required expertise in the area of Environmental or Health;

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso adopted Ordinance Number 017167 which requires that any vacancy in the membership of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board be filled by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso by Resolution established the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee, to be comprised of the members of the Public Service Board and such additional members as appointed by the City Council to assist City Council in selecting eligible candidates to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, under the Resolution, the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee reviews resumes submitted by qualified persons interested in filling the vacant position and submits to the City Council the names and the ranking of the eligible candidates.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EL PASO WATER UTILITIES PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

THAT, a quorum of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee met on May 22, 2024, pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act and approved the nomination and recommendation to the City Council of the following candidates to fill a vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board:

Ranked 1st (tie) Dr. Hector Ocaranza

Ranked 1st (tie) Dr. Andrea Tawney

Ranked 2nd Dr. Aldo Maspons

THAT, the Chair of the Committee forward the recommendations to the El Paso City Council for their consideration for filling the vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board.

PASSED and APPROVED this 22nd day of May, 2024

El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee:



Mayor Oscar Leeser, Chair

Approved As To Form:



Daniel Ortiz, General Counsel

SCORING OF CANDIDATES

Boeser 5/29/2024
Committee Chairman Date

71 015 May 22, 2024
General Counsel Date

PSB AREAS OF EXPERTISE, EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Environmental or Health:

Professional knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas of expertise: safe drinking water; reclaimed water; toxic chemical exposure; liquid waste disposal, including wastewater treatment plants and disaster preparedness and its effect on health.

Knowledge in environmental factors such as biological, physical and chemical factors that affect the health of a community; and/or the environmental media (air, water and land) and various community exposure concerns. Knowledge of the principles and practices of modern medicine; knowledge of applicable federal, state and local law, regulations, rules and ordinances; knowledge of communicable, chronic, infectious and disease control and surveillance; knowledge of epidemiological methods and techniques and disaster response; knowledge of medical record keeping and reporting practices, community health resources availability, and community health investigations; epidemiology, biological science.

Work experience: a public or private healthcare practitioner, public healthcare administrator.

Bachelor's degree preferable. A minimum of four years experience in environmental, sanitary, chemical or civil engineering, environmental science, natural or physical science, health science, biological science, health education, public health, environmental health or related field; community involvement experience that accents demonstrated leadership; no conflicts of interest; abide by a specified code of ethics; and no current political office held. Experience could be public and/or private, such as a health worker, teacher, or practicing nurse/doctor, or engineer.

HECTOR I. OCARANZA, MD, MPH, FAAP



May 1st, 2024

El Paso Water
PSB Selection Committee
1154 Hawkins Blvd.
El Paso, TX 79925

Dear PSB Selection Committee:

My Name is Hector I. Ocaranza, MD and I am writing this letter to apply for the vacant Health Public Service Board position. I am a board-certified pediatrician with over 25 years of experience in general pediatrics caring for underserved children of our community, as young as newborns and up to 21 years of age. Also, I am a passionate Public Health professional with a master's in public health and over 16 years of experience. I have served my community as the Health Authority and have successfully led our community through different public health threats and challenges such as the H1N1 pandemic, Tuberculosis exposure of infants, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic.

The knowledge and experience I have as a practicing pediatrician and public health professional gives me the expertise and necessary perspective into our community's health and its needs. On one side, as a pediatrician I screen, diagnose, and treat a myriad of illnesses affecting children and families alike, from infectious diseases to environmental exposures and mental health conditions. On the other side, as a public health professional, I have a leading role identifying priority health needs, planning, executing, and evaluating programs aimed at preventing diseases and its complications, with the goal of improving the health and well-being of my community.

I appreciate your time and consideration. I look forward to being able to serve my community as part of the public service board, bringing expertise and innovative solutions to health-related issues and concerns that may be brought up to El Paso Water and its public service board. I see a brighter future for El Paso Water following their mission and vision.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Ocaranza'.

Hector I. Ocaranza, MD, MPH, FAAP

Hector Ignacio Ocaranza, M D, MPH, FAAP

Address: **Office:** St. Anthony Pediatrics **Mailing:** P.O. Box 4530
1265 Anthony Dr. Anthony, TX 79821
Anthony, NM 88021

Home: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephones: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Licenses: New Mexico State License No. 98-357
Texas State License No. K8807

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

Interim Director	2022 to Present
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Leading one of the 35 largest Public Health Departments in the nation. Serving the El Paso City/County community with a population of about 870,000 people providing preventive services on Communicable Diseases, Food-borne pathogens, HIV/DIS, Laboratory services, etc.

Medical Director **2019 to Present**

Responsible for guidance and supervision of clinical services and operations.
City of El Paso Dept. of Public Health

Medical Director	2016 to Present
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Responsible for guidance and supervision at Sexually Transmitted Disease clinic.
City of El Paso Dept. of Public Health

St. Anthony Pediatrics **2000 to Present**

Responsible for patient care and administration of a busy general pediatrics clinic located in a rural and underserved area of Dona Ana County, New Mexico.
Providing acute, chronic and Preventive services. Guidance and supervision of several clinical providers.

EDUCATION:

Master in Public Health

University of Texas HSC-Houston, School of Public Health

Aug 2010 - Dec 2014

Pediatric Residency Program

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso, Texas

Jul 1996 - Jul 1999

Medical Doctor Degree

Universidad Autónoma de Cd. Juárez School of Medicine

Sep 1988 - Jun 1993

Undergraduate Rotating Internship
Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, Mexico

Jul 1993 - Jun 1994

Social Service
Medical Director and Administrator
IMSS-Solidaridad Rural Clinic, Chihuahua, México

Aug 1994 - Aug 1995

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Pediatrics

Fellow and Active Member

- TX and NM Chapter member

Texas Medical Association

Active Member

- Council on Science and Public Health

New Mexico Medical Society

Active Member

El Paso County Medical Society

Active Member

Texas Pediatric Society

Active Member

- Infectious Diseases Committee

CERTIFICATIONS / TRAINING

Family Planning

Sep 2019

Nexplanon Insertion and Removal
Gender and Sexuality

American Board of Pediatrics

Oct 1999- Present

Recertification 2006-2013
Recertification 2013-2018
Recertification 2018-Present

APPOINTMENTS

Local Health Authority
City-County of El Paso, TX

Apr-2007 - Present

Alternate Health Authority
City-County of El Paso, TX

2003 - 2006

Clinical Instructor
Texas Tech University H.S.C. El Paso, TX

Apr 2003 - Present

Clinical Instructor
University of New Mexico

2007 - Present

Chair Pediatrics Department
Las Palmas Medical Center

2002 - 2006

LANGUAGES:

Spanish: Native Language

English: Fluent, written and spoken

May 17, 2024

El Paso Water: Public Service Board

My name is **Aldo Maspóns, MD**. I am an El Pasoan, born and raised, and a practicing pediatric gastroenterologist in private practice. I am also CEO of a health tech start company with the aim of improving medical outcomes in medically underserved communities. I want to be a member of the public water board because I want to be a part of this forward thinking board that wants El Paso to thrive now and in the future.

My vision and objectives:

1. Promote water consumption. Sugary beverages lead to several diseases which can be eliminated if water, instead of sugary drinks were consumed.
2. Enteric pathogen detection
 - Work with UTEP/Texas Tech/UMC/ El Paso County to create a surveillance system of enteric pathogens (disease causing pathogens that can lead to diarrhea, vomiting, etc), putting our community at risk of increased and often avoidable emergency room visits/hospitalizations.
3. Antibiotic resistance surveillance.
 - As the amount of antibiotic use rises, so does the resistance of bacteria to those antibiotics. Understanding the presence of antibiotic resistance can help clinicians and health systems, prepare and treat their patients more appropriately. ¹
4. Understand our tap water's role in shaping our region's microbiome. An unhealthy microbiome can lead to cardiovascular disease, cancer, intestinal disease, etc. Working with area researchers can help us understand our region's microbiome, help with its surveillance, and understand impact on our health. ^{1,2}
5. Work with Juarez. We share a water supply. Collaborating with Juarez to protect and grow our water resource is vital to our region's future.
6. Desalinating water: I would like to explore desalinating water for other counties, Texas, and Cd. Juarez as a method of revenue for El Paso Water. This includes understanding the potential for setting up desalinating plants for other counties, states, countries.
7. Evaluating methods of in-home recycling water.
8. Evaluating method of residential rain water capture.
9. Understanding responsible water usage for businesses that the city is attempting to attract to El Paso. Some industries are bigger water consumers than others.
10. Responsible urban/suburban growth and water's role in such growth.

Professional Experience

1. Pediatric Gastroenterologist at Maspóns Pediatric Gastro
100 E Schuster, AVE, El Paso, TX 79902
 - Owner and physician
 - I have a large patient panel that I tend to in the office setting, hospital setting, and procedure setting.
 - I work with multiple sub-specialists, general practitioners, mostly pediatricians, hospitals, insurances, and health systems.
 - Strategic planning, regulatory compliance, financial management
 - Years at Maspons Pediatric Gastro: 7, Years as a Pediatric Gastroenterologist: 13

2. VeMiDoc, Inc: a local health tech start up company. VeMiDoc is an in-between office visit patient engagement and health management app whose goal is to improve medical outcomes and lower the barriers to health equity. VeMiDoc is a physician lead company that uses disease know-how, combined with cultural competency, patient engagement and data sets/data analytics to help manage and prevent disease.
 - CEO/Cofounder, Years: 7
 - As the CEO/Co-Founder, my job is to set the vision for the company and execute the plan. I frequently meet with health executives and their team. In addition, I have raised funds by pitching to several angel investors, VC funds. VeMiDoc has participated in internationally/nationally/Regionally acclaimed accelerators: Mass Challenge, Capital Factory, Health Ignitor, MCA: Medical Center of the Americas, LBAN (Latino Business Action Network: Stanford University.

Education

Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California: 09/1997-06/2001; B.S. Biology, B.A. Studio Art

UTSouthwestern Medical School at Dallas, Dallas, Texas: 08/2002-06/2006; Medical Doctorate

Training

Pediatric Internship: University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 6/2006-6/2007

Pediatric Residency: University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 6/2007-6/2009

Fellowship Training: Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas Pediatric Gastroenterology: 7/2009-7/2012

Conclusion

I believe the El Paso Water Public Service board is the city's desert bloom: understands the times, protects resources, prepares for the future, and flourishes when the time is right. As a native El Pasoan and practicing pediatric gastroenterologist, I help care the city's most vulnerable population and its most precious resource: children. I work to help them stamp out their disease to better ready them for their future. Please consider me to be a part of this board, a part of forward thinking doers of El Paso.

References

1. Lugli GA, et al Tap water as a natural vehicle for microorganisms shaping the human gut microbiome. Environ Microbiol. 2022 Sep;24(9):3912-3923.
2. Ogunrinola GA, et al. The Human Microbiome and Its Impacts on Health. Int J Microbiol. 2020 Jun 12;2020:8045646.
3. Liguori K, et al. Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring of Water Environments: A Framework for Standardized Methods and Quality Control. Environ Sci Technol. 2022 Jul 5;56(13):9149-9160.