

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Mayor and Council

AGENDA DATE: Tuesday, April 12, 2022

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

City Representative Henry Rivera, District 7- 915.212.0007

City Representative Isabel Salcido, District 5- 915.212.0005

City Representative Peter Svarzbein, District 1- 915.212.1002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL: All Goals

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Recognition of City Manager Tommy Gonzalez for being named the 2022 E. David Spong Lifetime Achievement Award recipient by the Malcolm Baldrige Foundation.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

El Paso City Manager, Tommy Gonzalez, has been named the 2022 E. David Spong Lifetime Achievement Award recipient by the Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

The award recognizes exceptional leadership and management values and principles that inspire others and improve communities.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer? N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****



MAYOR
Oscar Leoser

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexandra Anello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

**NEWS
RELEASE**

01 / 28 / 2022

City Manager Receives Malcolm Baldrige Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award

National Award Recognizes Extraordinary Leadership, Service, Commitment to Excellence

El Paso, Texas— El Paso City Manager, Tommy Gonzalez, has been named the 2022 E. David Spong Lifetime Achievement Award recipient by the Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

The award recognizes exceptional leadership and management values and principles that inspire others and improve communities.

"This award is an opportunity to recognize, at the national level, the extraordinary work our City employees and our community partners are delivering for our residents and our region," said Gonzalez, who was appointed City Manager in June 2014. "This award brings well-deserved national recognition to our region, reflecting the work of our entire organization, which is made up of more than 6,000 team members. It also speaks to Council's undaunted commitment to provide exceptional services to the residents of El Paso."

For the City of El Paso, the national award is a notable recognition that further affirms the ongoing positive accolades El Paso has and continues to receive.

The Baldrige business model, which the City has been following for more than seven years, develops leaders and enables the City to save millions of taxpayer dollars and provide exceptional service for the citizens of El Paso.

The award is named in honor of the former President of Boeing Airlift and Tanker Programs, aerospace industry expert, Dr. E. David Spong. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made sustained contributions of leadership excellence with exceptional and far-reaching positive impact in organizations and communities, applying the Baldrige framework, in a manner worthy of recognition at the national level.

"Tommy has long been a proponent of the Baldrige framework and has applied its principles with great success, bringing excellence in service and improving the lives of people in El Paso and throughout Texas," said Al Faber, President and CEO of the Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Under Gonzalez's leadership, the City of El Paso has so far achieved \$227 million in cost savings. He has further strengthened El Paso's financial stability by eliminating a \$7.8 million General Fund deficit in 2014; eliminating a \$27 million operating deficit in the mass transit department; eliminating an annual \$1 million operating deficit at the City golf course; tripling the fund balance by increasing it by more than \$73 million; captured State sales taxes for downtown hotels revitalization; and led the City of El Paso team to achieve zero audit findings for five consecutive years.

The City now provides year-end reporting to the City Council and has had seven consecutive years of General Fund surplus—all leading to maintaining the city's double AA financial rating.

—more—



Media contact: Laura Cruz-Acosta
Strategic Communications Director
(915) 212-1071



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Oscar Leaser

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

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In 2019 and again in 2020, Gonzalez led his team in making national history, as the City of El Paso became the only municipality to earn the Texas Award for Performance Excellence from the Texas Quality Foundation for two consecutive years. The City also won the All-America City (AAC) Award in 2018 and 2020, and 2021; and was named an AAC finalist four years in a row.

Gonzalez continues working with community partners by sharing best practices, the Baldrige-based framework, and public engagement strategies with local school districts, the county hospital, a private hospital, county administration, the housing authority, and other nonprofit groups through the Communities of Excellence (COE) framework. The Communities of Excellence program is designed to serve multiple organizations by improving El Paso's quality of life, healthcare, and education. During fiscal year 2022, students from across the County of El Paso were trained on the City's budget resulting in a final presentation by a team of students to the City Council on the City's budget of approximately \$1 billion in operations and \$1 billion in capital expenditures.

Gonzalez was awarded the 2019 Baldrige Foundation Leadership Excellence Award in the Government sector by the Malcom Baldrige Foundation and the 2019 United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Border City Leadership Award. In June 2021, Gonzalez again made history, receiving an unprecedented and history-making invitation to serve a third term as chair of the Quality Texas Foundation Board of Directors.

Prior to working in El Paso, Gonzalez served as City Manager for the City of Irving, Texas. Under his leadership, the City of Irving earned the Texas Award for Performance Excellence from the Texas Quality Foundation. The City of Irving also won the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest Presidential honor for performance excellence.

Gonzalez retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after serving 22 years in the U.S. Army. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico. He is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt from the University of Texas in Austin.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication** Among All Members of the Community