

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

DEPARTMENT: Mayor and Council

AGENDA DATE: Tuesday, September 27, 2022

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

City Representative Henry Rivera, District 7- 915.212.0007

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Goal 1 - Cultivate an Environment Conducive to Strong, Economic Development

Goal 4 - Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life Through Recreational, Cultural & Educational Environments

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.

Discussion and action on a resolution recognizing Dr. Sylvia Acosta for her years of service as the CEO of the YWCA Paso del Norte Region and congratulating her on her new position as Senior Vice President and Chief Growth Officer for the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

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? N/A

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*****

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dr. Sylvia Acosta is an El Paso native, a Bel Air High School graduate, and has a doctorate in Educational Leadership from New Mexico State University. She was named a Woman of Impact by El Paso Inc. in 2021 and an Outstanding Texas Child Advocate by Children at Risk, a national advocacy organization; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acosta became CEO of the YWCA in 2017. She was previously a higher education administrator, serving as assistant Vice Chancellor at the University of California-Irvine for four years before returning to her hometown of El Paso; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acosta guided the YWCA's response to the pandemic, secured more than \$40 million in donations and launched the renovation of three YWCA centers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acosta led the nonprofit's response to several crises in the region, to include the refugee surge in 2019, the mass shooting on Aug. 3, 2019, and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. She spoke out against the separation of migrant children from their families, and the nonprofit helped to raise support for refugees. Dr. Acosta also testified before Congress after the mass shooting.

WHEREAS, the YWCA, which is El Paso's largest child-care provider, faced a significant challenge after COVID-19 began affecting El Paso on March 2020. Many child-care facilities had to close in efforts to slow the pandemic's spread, but under Dr. Acosta's leadership, the YWCA offered child-care services to first responders and medical providers so they could provide health services. During Dr. Acosta's tenure, the YWCA also expanded its after-school programs and provided no-cost child care to families impacted financially by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sylvia Acosta, who led the YWCA Paso del Norte Region through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and brought in the biggest gift in the history of the organization, resigned as Chief Executive Officer on Monday, June 27, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on July 2022, Dr. Acosta embarked on a new journey and started a new job as Senior Vice President and Chief Growth Officer for the National Minority Supplier Development Council; and

WHEREAS, the National Minority Supplier Development Council ("NMSDC") is a national organization, founded in 1972, that works nationally to help minorities advance into the corporate supply chain, scale their businesses and build wealth; and

WHEREAS, NMSDC works with 23 regional affiliates across the country. There are three NMSDC affiliates in Texas. El Paso is part of the Southwest MSDC affiliate in Austin, which also serves New Mexico, Oklahoma and Southwest Texas; and

WHEREAS, one of Dr. Acosta's conditions for a new job was being able to stay in El Paso and her new position allows her to stay in the Sun City; and

WHEREAS, in her new position, Dr. Acosta is in charge of Hispanic outreach and fundraising, and has expressed her goal is to raise \$50 million over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acosta's position is new and she will be building her department from the ground up. Part of her responsibility is to strengthen the organization through philanthropy. Dr. Acosta is also tasked with bringing in more Hispanic-owned businesses to the organization to connect them with opportunities for corporate supply chain contracts; and

WHEREAS, El Paso has many minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs that could benefit from the offerings of the organization; and

WHEREAS, her new position gives her a momentous opportunity to work with an organization that is perfectly aligned with her personal values in social, racial and economic equity and at the same time gives her the opportunity to continue to do what she did at the YWCA, now on a more national level, and support minority-owned businesses in their ability to scale.

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

1. Recognizes Dr. Sylvia Acosta for her years of service as the CEO of the YWCA Paso del Norte Region; and
2. Congratulates her on her new position as Senior Vice President and Chief Growth Officer for the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 20____.


THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser, Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Joyce Garcia
Assistant City Attorney