

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

DEPARTMENT: Mayor & Council

AGENDA DATE: 11.21.23

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Representative Cassandra Hernandez ~ 915.212.0003

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL

Goal 3 - Promote the Visual Image of El Paso

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 to approve a resolution for the City to recognize El Paso County Veteran of the Year, Donna Juarez Sample for her unwavering dedication to the military community and commend her for tireless advocacy of service members, veterans, and their families.

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?

Donna Juarez Sample is a decorated veteran and longtime El Pasoan. She has dedicated her life to the military community and has been a tireless advocate of service members, veterans, and their families. She has garnered many accolades for her various contributions to those who are serving and have served and on November 1, 2023, El Paso County selected Donna Juarez Sample as their 2023 Veteran of the Year, making her the first female veteran to be honored with this award.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

Yes, City Council has recognized outstanding community members and veterans through resolution or proclamation.

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, continuing the military family legacy, Donna Juarez Sample began her service in 1986 with the US Army; and

WHEREAS, she was stationed at various army installations, where she received recognition including an Army Service Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Defense Medal, and two Army Achievement Medals, as well as qualified as an M16 Sharpshooter; and

WHEREAS, Donna transitioned from active duty to reserves in 1989 and later in caring prioritization of her growing family and service as a military spouse, was honorably discharged in 1993; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Donna and her family received Permanent Change of Station orders to Ft. Bliss Air Arterially Defense Brigade and in 1998, they decided to choose the great city of El Paso, Texas to retire; and

WHEREAS, Donna has since dedicated the last 30 years to serving the El Paso community; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2002, Donna spent 8 years at Region 19, Education Service Center serving as the School Health, Safe and Drug Free Program Manager addressing issues affecting youth in military families and later worked with Jennifer Ann's Dating Violence Prevention Group to advocate for bullying prevention; and

WHEREAS, Donna is currently the Director of Military Veteran Affairs for the STAR Military Veteran Program at Rio Vista Behavioral Health, specializing in treatment for service members and veterans for over 100 organizations, over 30 military installations and VA's nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Donna volunteers weekly with the 346th Veterans Treatment Court, as a mentor to veterans in the justice system and was promoted to Veterans Treatment Court, Mentor Coordinator, and additionally works with veterans involved in DWI Academy Drug Court; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her charity work, Donna is a member of several boards such as the American Legion 122, Flags Across America, City of El Paso Veterans Advisory Affairs as the District 3 appointee; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Donna was recognized by Texas State Senator César Blanco and the Daughters of the Revolutionary War for her ample service in attending and supporting over 300 community activities and events through the years; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Donna received the 2023 Elk of the Year Award from the Elks Veterans Outreach Program for her selfless work in aiding veterans and their families going from homeless to homes; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2023, El Paso County selected Donna Juarez Sample as their 2023 Veteran of the Year, making her the first female veteran to be honored with this award; and

WHEREAS, while Donna's accolades are abundant, her most treasured accomplishment is raising four children who are all now college graduates, along with her loving husband, James Sample, and their 7 grandchildren, with one on the way.

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

THAT, City Council recognize the decorated Donna Juarez Sample for her unwavering dedication to the military community and commend her for her tireless advocacy of service members, veterans, and their families, which together with her patriotism, commitment to the cause, and continued service are true contributions to El Paso, the Veterans Capital of the U.S.A.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21st day of November, 2023.


THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Leslie B. Jean-Pierre
Assistant City Attorney