

Sent: Wed 6/10/2009 11:08AM

For the benefit of LTC Kukkola, the following El Paso County officials are being included as recipients of this message:

*Commissioner Dan Haggerty, Precinct 4, Northeast/Upper Valley (precinct covers Northeast County Annex);
Gerald McTernan, Commissioner Haggerty's Executive Assistant;
County Judge Anthony Cobos, who presides over Commissioners Court and acts as County CEO;
Commissioner Anna Perez, Precinct 1, whose precinct includes a small portion of Northeast El Paso;
Commissioner Veronica Escobar, Precinct 2; and
Commissioner Willie Gandara, Jr., Precinct 3*

As I briefly explained this morning, Lieutenant Colonel David Kukkola visited my office yesterday afternoon, to assist him in seeking Commissioners Court approval for the use of the Northeast Annex Parking Lot on Sunday, July 5, 2009. The following information was provided by LTC Kukkola:

1. The purpose of the request is to facilitate a Tailgate Party for soldiers currently deployed and assigned to Ft. Bliss prior to overseas assignments who will be special guests at an El Paso Diablos Game that night;
2. Due to the soldiers being on deployment orders, they cannot consume alcohol, and thus no alcoholic beverages will be on premises;
3. LTC Kukkola and his staff will ensure that all trash created by this event will be picked up prior to the soldiers' departure;
4. LTC Kukkola will arrange, at no cost to the county, the temporary placement of Porta-Johns, so that County offices do not have to be opened for the purpose of restroom use;
5. LTC Kukkola advises that Fuddruckers will be catering the event for the soldiers, and will have a catering/cooking trailer on premises. I did not think to discuss with LTC Kukkola whether the Fuddruckers trailer would be self-contained in terms of power and water;
6. The soldiers would be coming in on several shuttle buses provided by Ft. Bliss. Recommend that the buses station either in the eastern end of the Annex Lot, or perhaps even at the new Thomason Clinic parking lot, nearest the Cohen Avenue entrance to that lot.

Security was not discussed; however, given that no alcohol will be involved, and the event will be attended and monitored by Brigade Command Staff as well as line unit Officers and NCO's, I feel there is little to no risk of damage to Annex property. And, as an Army Veteran who is classified as a Disabled Veteran, I also want to assist with this event. I will volunteer to monitor the event, particularly to close the lot to other citizens who commonly attempt to park at the Annex for games.

Thus, my recommendation is that Commissioners Court support these soldiers who very soon will be defending our nation in overseas assignments by approving the use of the Northeast Annex parking lot on July 5th, 2009 by the Fort Bliss Mobilization and Deployment Brigade. I would recommend that Commissioner Haggerty's Office submit the agenda item, and consider the following wording in whole or part: "Approve and authorize the Fort Bliss Mobilization and Deployment Brigade to utilize the Northeast Annex Parking Lot on July 5, 2009, to host a Tailgate Party for deploying soldiers attending the El Paso Diablos Game. Further, order that the

Northeast Annex Parking Lot be reserved for exclusive use by the Fort Bliss Mobilization Brigade on that date. The Precinct 2 Constable will provide security for the event."

Most importantly, might I suggest that the County Judge and Commissioners stop by this event as well, to show support for these brave men and women of the United States Army.

I have copied this message to LTC Kukkola, who will better be able to fill in points that are left out, such as the approximately timeline regarding this event (start time/end time, etc.). I suggest that any further questions regarding this event be addressed to LTC Kukkola, and if each of the recipients would be so kind, keep me in the loop on this, and let me know if it will be necessary for me to appear in Commissioners Court in support of this request.

Respectfully,

Rick

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