



# COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE: June 11, 2012

CONSENT OR REGULAR: Regular

CONTRACT REFERENCE NO  
(IF APPLICABLE): N/A

**SUBJECT:** Discuss and take appropriate action to allow the acceptance of donations and contributions for the Colonia Self Help Center Program which is helping construct (9) new homes for low income colonia families. Allow Precinct 3 to solicit donations from local and retail stores for household goods, cleaning supplies, and furniture.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION OF TOPIC:** The program name is the Colonia Self Help Center Program. The program is funded through a grant administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). As part of the grant the County must meet several performance goals. We refer to this performance goal as the El Paso County Colonia Self Help Center Program-Reconstruction of nine (9) colonia homes.

Self-help centers were established during the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislature under Senate Bill 1509 in Cameron/Willacy, Hidalgo, Starr, Webb and El Paso counties. The Self Help Center Program is administered by TDHCA'S Office of Colonia Initiatives with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-Texas Community Development Block Program (CDBG).

Five colonias in each county are identified to receive concentrated attention from its respective self-help center. The El Paso County Colonia Self Help Center has received \$1.2 million each program cycle since it was established to provide assistance to low and very low income families in housing, community development activities, infrastructure improvements and outreach and education.

We serve the Agua Dulce Subdivision Units 1-5, Lakeway Estates Units 1-3, El Paso Hills Units 1-4, Horizon View Estates Units 17, 20, 21, 22 and Horizon City Units 90, 91 and 94. The population of this area is 10, 163 individuals with a median family income of \$21,250 and 1, 996 housing units. Many of these housing units are substandard. Our goal is to improve the status of colonia families by extending basic infrastructure, improving existing housing stock, replacing substandard housing and increasing the overall well being of families through education and connections to other community resources.

**PRIOR COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION (IF ANY):**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

My recommendation is to approve the solicitation of donations to local and retail stores for household goods, cleaning supplies and furniture for the (9) homes being constructed by the Colonia Self Help Center Program.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY APPROVAL**

The attached document has been given legal review by the El Paso County Attorney's Office on behalf of the County of El Paso, its officers, and employees. Said legal review should not be relied upon by any person or entity other than the County of El Paso, its officers, and employees.

COUNTY ATTORNEY: N/A

LEGAL REVIEW:

LEGAL REVIEW NOTES (If Applicable):

DATE:

SUBMITTED BY: Tania Chozet (915)546-2144