

Performance Evaluation of
Economic Development/CAA Director

James Flores

James Flores oversees Economic Development and the Community Action Agency (CAA), both which I have classified as our **Health & Welfare Departments**

The **Economic Development Dept.** leads the county efforts in obtaining grant funding for several county departments and agencies that promote Public Safety and the general Health and Welfare of the community at large.

Mr. Flores has quality staff members in place to help oversee the process of initiating a grant application and working through to final completion. There is a lengthy process involved in applying and obtaining grant funds. This department is very diligent in its efforts and methods to seek out and draw down available monies for the county.

The department also handles assigned tasks designated by the commissioner's court such as taking the lead in the Single Point of Contact method of applying for county grants. This has helped improve the transparency and consistency of the county grant process requiring all departments and elected officials to initiate a grant application through the economic development. Mr. Flores and his staff have been very diligent in working with all departments and officials.

They are also directly involved in reviewing and qualifying all 3rd party funding application requests made to the county on a yearly basis as well as reviewing the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ) and Tax Abatement applications received for county consideration.

The **Community Action Agency (CAA)** oversees what I have classified as a very important Health & Welfare Department which incorporates and utilizes available local, state, private, and federal resources to promote programs geared to assist low-income individuals and families to acquire useful skills and knowledge, gain access to new opportunities, and achieve self-sufficiency.

Programs under his department include:

Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), Community Services Block Grant, El Aguila Rural Transit System, The Elderly Nutrition Program, Meals on Wheels Program and the Self-Help Center.

Mr. Flores seems to be balancing out and carrying both department's programs well. He has improved in working well with staff and program participants. I am continuously working with him to address items of concern, questions and other issues with projects/programs in an effort to provide guidance and support.

Through his leadership both departments have been doing a good job in carrying out the programs in place which provide vital services benefiting the community in need.

The updated project reports for both Economic Development and CAA are included in this summary will illustrate the millions of dollars in grant funding that this department has obtained over the last several years.