



CORPUS CHRISTI HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
A NEW WAVE OF OPPORTUNITY

October 24, 2012

Honorable Judge Loyd Neal
901 Leopard Street, Room 303
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Dear Judge Neal,

The Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (CCHCC) is greatly appreciative Nueces County's continued support of our 74 year old organization. The CCHCC's mission mandates that we promote the small business community through active participation in business opportunities, education, leadership, and the public affairs for our members in Nueces County and the Corpus Christi Coastal Bend region.

For 2012, the CCHCC continued to promote and build community awareness of Nueces County and the many small businesses that play an integral role in spurring growth in our County.

We are committed to support small business entrepreneurship by stimulating, encouraging and promoting business owners to locate their commercial activities within the County. We believe that with the growth of Nueces County, our small business owners will be provided with greater opportunities to increase their wealth and improve the quality of life for us all.

The attached report provides further information as required by the Nueces County Commissioner's Court.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Briones
Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber
Interim President/CEO

Enclosures: 2 Pages



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Report: Nueces County Commissioner's 2012 Report

From: Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

This report summarizes the activities by the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (CCHCC) in performance of its obligations pursuant to its agreement with Nueces County. The CCHCC, whose mission is to serve the business community by developing positive changes through active participation in education, leadership, public affairs and creating business opportunities for our members, focuses its economic development initiatives in Nueces County.

As the official Hispanic liaison between the business community and the community at large, the CCHCC has highlighted Nueces County at its premier events including 2012 State of the County, 2012 Mano a Mano Scholarship Luncheon, A Conversation with Senator John Cornyn, and will continue to do so at the upcoming CCHCC 74th Annual Gala and Awards Banquet.

The CCHCC continues to promote Nueces County at smaller events focused on assisting small business owners with the tools and resources needed to grow their businesses. In addition, when recruiting new business owners to join its membership, the CCHCC notes the value of attending the State of the County so as to keep members apprised of current news and activities in Nueces County. Furthermore, CCHCC continues to promote Nueces County on our website with a video of the 2012 State of the County Address by Judge Loyd Neal. The Nueces County Seal and name are listed as "Community Partner" on the Hispanic Chamber's website, every bi-monthly VISION newsletter publication (distributed to an estimated 600 businesses throughout Nueces County), the electronic version of the bi-monthly magazine (distributed to over 1200 contacts), the weekly e-calendar of events (distributed to over 1200 contacts), and the weekly e-newsletter (distributed to over 1200 contacts).

The CCHCC held its annual State of the County on March 27, 2012 attended by an estimated 800 elected officials, community and business leaders. The State of the County address featured Nueces County Judge Loyd Neal as its guest speaker, and highlighted the County's progress during the past year in the areas of public health, education, law enforcement and economic development.

The CCHCC continues to partner with agencies including SBA, SCORE, ACCION Texas and the Small Business Development Center so as to provide members with the resources and tools needed to grow their businesses and create jobs in Nueces County. Events including Power Networking Breakfasts and the BIG EVENT were hosted by the Hispanic Chamber primarily to stimulate awareness in Nueces County and create networking opportunities that spur interest for entrepreneurs. Agencies such as the SBA provide information on HUB certification, and this year CCHCC committed to working closer with the SBA as to increase the number of HUB certifications. In 2012, a signed the Strategic Alliance Memorandum was implemented between the Hispanic Chamber and SBA. The CCHCC links interested members to these Federal agencies through referrals.

The CCHCC believes that through education, students and community residents are the future business leaders of Nueces County. It is for that reason that the Mano A Mano Scholarship Foundation, which requires that recipients intend to stay in the Coastal Bend region, is held to such high regard. The Mano A Mano program is administered through the Coastal Bend Community Foundation, and was initially established in partnership with Flint Hills Resources and has grown to include Del Mar College, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, and Texas A&M University Kingsville. The Mano a Mano Scholarship Awards Luncheon was held in Nueces County on August 30, 2012, and Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa attended as the keynote speaker. At the event, CCHCC, in partnership with local universities, awarded a total of fourteen (14) \$2,000 scholarships to deserving students from Del Mar College, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Previous Mano a Mano Scholarship recipient, Mrs. Lori Garcia, made an informative and inspiring presentation on her success after graduating with help from the Mano a Mano Scholarship Foundation.

In addition to promoting economic development opportunities in Nueces County and the City of Corpus Christi locally, a select CCHCC Staff and Board Members traveled to San Antonio, TX for the Texas Association of Mexican American Chamber of Commerce's (TAMACC) 37th Annual Convention and Business Exposition in August of 2012 to lobby for Nueces County and the City of Corpus Christi. As a result, a dedicated member of the CCHCC was selected to serve on the TAMACC Executive Board, and Corpus Christi was selected as the host city with CCHCC as the host chamber for the TAMACC 2014 State Convention. In addition, TAMACC has decided to hold their quarterly Board of Directors meeting in Corpus Christi/Nueces County. TAMACC is comprised of 28 Hispanic Chambers in Texas with a membership in excess of 27,000, which makes outreach to this key organization critical for promoting Nueces County and the amenities it offers such as tourism, education and business opportunities.

The CCHCC has also been successful in developing relationships with the Eagle Ford Shale Consortium, comprised of a 24 South Texas county coalition in attempts to bring a focus to Nueces County and our involvement in the Eagle Ford Shale activity. We will continue to make further progress in this endeavor as to continue to benefit our community.

The Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber looks forward to a very active 2013 year and beyond!