



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

A. C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bobby Villarreal appointed County Executive Director

EDINBURG – Hidalgo County Judge Ramon Garcia announced today the appointment of staff member Bobby Villarreal to a new position approved at the August 4th Commissioners Court meeting.

Villarreal, who previously served as the county's Economic Development Director, is credited with spearheading projects that have either resulted in significant savings or which will generate millions in new revenue. The new position will allow him to focus on strategic planning and relationship-building as the county continues to grow and prosper, said Garcia.

"Currently, we have two executive officers serving Hidalgo County. As County Judge I am the elected executive officer; the non-elected administrator is Commissioners Court Executive Officer Valde Guerra and he handles the day-to-day operations," Garcia said. "Mr. Villarreal will handle the big-picture projects as well as serve as the liaison to the Executive Office, County Commissioners, and to federal, state and local officials on my behalf."

As the 7th largest county in the state, Garcia said the new position, which pays \$92,000 annually, is needed and that Villarreal is the right person for it. The county has approximately 3,800 employees working in 42 elected offices, 16 county departments, and in federally funded programs that are supervised by Commissioners Court such as Head Start, Community Service Agency, Urban County and Women, Infants and Children.

"Mr. Villarreal has a proven track record of strategic projects that generate revenue and/or save the county money. We need more of that," Garcia said. "The projects he spearheaded went above and beyond his duties as Economic Development Director. The Commissioners and I fully expect that he will help grow our county and that his work will more than pay for his salary."

Some of the projects credited to Villarreal include:

- Suggesting a peer review of the architectural designs for the proposed courthouse, that resulted in \$50 million in savings and a more efficient design.
- Working with State Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and State Representatives Armando "Mando" Martinez and Terry Canales to pass a filing assessment bill through the legislature that will generate a minimum of \$60 million of the next 30 years – funds that will be dedicated to help cover the cost of a new courthouse.
- Helping to negotiate an agreement with Cameron County to house Hidalgo County prisoners at a savings of \$800,000.

Garcia said there are two other projects that are expected to generate another \$500,000 to \$800,000 and create new opportunities for county residents.

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Photos: Bobby Villarreal (center) with OWLS leader Virginia Townsend and County Judge Ramon Garcia at a presentation on revised schematic designs for the courthouse. Villarreal portrait.

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the 800,000 residents of our county as well as a variety of services to residents who live outside city limits. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility.