



HIDALGO COUNTY IS ON THE MOVE

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Hidalgo County is on the move!

Relocation to the “Old K-Mart building,” located at 2802 S. Business Hwy 281 (corner of Canton and Business 281), has already begun. On Thursday, Tax Assessor-Collector Armando Barrera saw his first customer, Julie Kracht, who said she once shopped at the old K-mart building. It was interesting to see it renovated into the new Hidalgo County Administration Offices, she told Mr. Barrera.

The motor vehicle registration division was the first county department to make the move. Next week (Aug. 13-Aug. 17), the main tax office, currently located at 100 E. Cano, will be relocating. The main office will be closed during this time, but people can still pay their taxes at the following substations:

722 Breyfogle Rd., Mission: 205-7050
1902 Joe Stephens Dr., Weslaco: 973-7825
501 Earling Rd., San Juan: 283-1645

“I think people are going to like the new building,” Mr. Barrera said. “There is more lobby space, and it is much brighter.”

The new Hidalgo County offices span 55,552 sq. ft. and sit on 6.24 acres of land, with 280 parking spaces. They will house about 180 employees among the tax and auto licensing divisions, the Hidalgo County Treasurer’s Office, Auditor’s Office, Veterans’ Services, Fire Marshall, Purchasing Department, and the Office of Budget and Management (which includes Safety Division, Risk

Management, Worker's Comp, Litigation, Health Insurance and agenda coordinator). Each department has allowed for future growth, and compared with the current facilities, it is a major step up.

The county acquired the K-Mart building in 2005 at a cost of \$1,635,000. The renovations of the building began late in 2006 and have cost approximately \$3.1 million. The money comes from certificates of obligation.

The County Judge's Office will remain at the current administration building, along with Hidalgo County Department of Human Resources, the Court of Appeals, Hidalgo County Auxiliary Court B, Child Protective Services court, public defenders program and adult probation court services. Adult probation court services will likely move at a later date, but the location is to be determined, according to supervisor Rick Guerrero.

The moving schedule is as follows:

Aug. 13 through Aug. 17: Tax Office

Aug. 20 through 24: Veterans' Services and Fire Marshall

Aug. 27 through Aug. 31: Auditor's Office and Treasurer's Office

Sept. 3 through Sept. 7: Buffer Week

Sept. 10 through Sept. 14: Purchasing

Sept. 17 through Sept. 21: Budget and Management

Sept. 24 through Sept. 28: Finish the move

Those interested in scheduling a tour of the new administration building can do so by contacting the public information office.

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