

RE: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Cruz-Acosta, Laura A. <Cruz-AcostaLA@elpasotexas.gov>

Tue 7/28/2020 3:49 PM

To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>; John Gerard <John.Gerard@openthebooks.com>

Hello:

Here is the City's response. As background, Tommy Gonzalez was appointed City Manager of El Paso, Texas, in June 2014. El Paso is the 20th largest city in the United States.

Comment from Laura Cruz Acosta, Strategic Communications Director for the City of El Paso: "Mr. Gonzalez, a retired Lieutenant Colonel, is a results-oriented, strategic leader with approximately three decades of management experience in the public sector. He oversees a budget of \$1 billion in operations and \$1 billion in capital expenditures; while leading more than 6,000 employees. By comparison area school district and county health leadership oversee budgets ranging from \$464 million to about \$600 million and report compensation packages ranging from \$360,000 to \$533,000.

Earlier this spring, Mr. Gonzalez led the City of El Paso Team in making history, by becoming the largest municipality in the nation to earn the Texas Award for Performance Excellence from the Texas Quality Foundation for the second year in a row. He also serves as a role model for leaders in municipal government, having been awarded the 2019 Baldrige Foundation Leadership Excellence Award in the Government sector by the Malcom Baldrige Foundation in Washington, D.C. Under his leadership, the City has been able to achieve \$90 million in cost savings, eliminated a \$7.8 million deficit, increased the City's fund balance by over \$20 million, maintained a double AA financial rating by improving accuracy in revenue and expenditure estimates, and lead a team that inherited 21 external audit findings and zeroed out those findings to zero for three years in a row. Additionally, under Mr. Gonzalez's tenure, the City has providing year-end reporting to the City Council, and five consecutive years of General Fund surplus."

From: Cruz-Acosta, Laura A.

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:13 PM

To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>; John Gerard <John.Gerard@openthebooks.com>

Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Ok, let me get something to you.

From: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:00 PM

To: Cruz-Acosta, Laura A. <Cruz-AcostaLA@elpasotexas.gov>; John Gerard <John.Gerard@openthebooks.com>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Any context, feedback, comment that you seek to provide regarding the pay of Tomas Gonzalez (\$340,746).

Adam

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)

CEO & Founder | OpenTheBooks.com | 312.320.1867

Senior Policy Contributor | *Forbes*

Read Adam's '*Latest*' & '*Most Popular*' editorials at *Forbes* - [Click here](#) and scroll down

Adam

From: Cruz-Acosta, Laura A. <Cruz-AcostaLA@elpasotexas.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:57 PM

To: John Gerard <John.Gerard@openthebooks.com>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Good afternoon:

What kind of comment are you seeking?

Laura Cruz Acosta

Strategic Communications Director

cruz-acostala@elpasotexas.gov

o: 915.212.1071

c: 915.491.0758

From: John Gerard <John.Gerard@openthebooks.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:11 AM

To: ElPasoPIO <elpasopio@elpasotexas.gov>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Subject: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

To whomever it may concern,

My name is John Gerard on behalf of Adam Andrzejewski, a senior policy contributor at Forbes. We are working on a piece exploring six-figure public employee compensation across the local and state Texas governments. The deadline for comment is tomorrow, Tuesday, July 28th, 2020 at 5pm EST.

If you miss our deadline, **we will do our best to update the piece after you respond. WHEN RESPONDING TO THIS EMAIL, MAKE SURE YOU 'REPLY ALL.'**

In these times of national crisis, please provide us with an on-the-record justification, comment, or context.

Here is the section(s) where your entity is mentioned:

Tomas Gonzalez	El Paso	
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	\$340,746
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Any context, feedback, or comment would be important to our readers at Forbes.

Sincerely,

John Gerard, on behalf of...

Adam Andrzejewski (say: Angie-eff-ski)
CEO & Founder | OpenTheBooks.com | 312.320.1867

Senior Policy Contributor | *Forbes*
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