



JUDGE MARIO E. RAMIREZ, JR. JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

JUVENILE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Luis M. Singleterry
Judge, 92nd D.C.

Fernando Mancias
Juvenile Overseer
Judge, 93rd D.C.

J.R. "Bobby" Flores
Judge, 139th D.C.

Rose Guerra Reyna
Judge, 206th D.C.

Marla Cuellar
Judge, 275th D.C.

Juan R. Alvarez
Judge, 332nd D.C.

Noe Gonzalez
Administrative
Judge, 370th D.C.

Letty Lopez
Judge, 389th D.C.

Keno Vasquez
Judge, 398th D.C.

Orlando J. Esquivel
Judge, 430th D.C.

Renee Rodriguez-
Betancourt
Judge, 449th D.C.

Joe Ramirez
Judge, 464th D.C.

Nereida Lopez-Singleterry
Judge, 476th D.C.

Richard Cortez
County Judge

Maryann Denner, MSCJ
Director/Chief Juvenile
Probation Officer

Ricardo "Rick" Guerrero, Jr.
Budget Manager II

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A meeting of the Hidalgo County Juvenile Board was held on October 9, 2025, via video conferencing.

The following Judges were present and established the quorum for the Juvenile Board.

Honorable Judge Luis M. Singleterry 92nd D.C.
Honorable Judge Fernando Mancias, 93rd D.C.
Honorable Judge J.R. "Bobby" Flores, 139th D.C.
Honorable Judge Rose Guerra Reyna, 206th D.C.
Honorable Judge Noe Gonzalez, 370th D.C. (Judge Keno Vasquez, Proxy)
Honorable Judge Letty Lopez 389th D.C.
Honorable Judge Orlando J. Esquivel, 430th D.C.
Honorable Judge Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt 449th D.C.(Judge Marla Cuellar, Proxy)
Honorable Judge Nereida Lopez-Singleterry, 476th D.C.
County Judge Richard Cortez

Judge Gonzalez called meeting to order at 11:31 and started with the Juvenile Department.

We have a quorum for everything on the agenda, let me start off with the Juvenile Department real quick we normally would go with the Juvenile Department. I'm going to at this time ask Maryann, you are the Chief over there and my understanding is that Judge Mancias you're real small on my screen but you're the one on that one and Renee Betancourt. Mancias!

Judge Mancias: Yes sir, I'll pass it on to Ms., I did review the minutes from the last meeting, and they seem to be in order and I'll pass on the rest of the items to Ms. Denner.

Judge Gonzalez: Ms. Denner

Chief Denner: did you want to approve the minutes, or

Judge Betancourt: I'll make a motion



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Judge Gonzalez: Let's take up, let me ask you this are there any of them out of, I know one of them is on discussion but anything.

Judge Mancias: the only one that is different judge is item number 7, 8, and 9 maybe number 10 otherwise the rest of them are pretty much routine items.

Chief Denner: yes sir.

Judge Betancourt: I reviewed all Judge Mancias, I reviewed it all the agenda and the items inside the agenda. The only item I think we would pull for discussion will be item 7 and I know that the rest 8, 9 just correlate with item 7 or they're part of item 7 but other than that in reviewing I think, I would make the motion that we would approve all the other matters except for 7.

Judge Mancias: oh ok

Judge Gonzalez: All right, so what we'll do

Judge Mancias: I'll second it.

Judge Gonzalez: so there's a motion a second to approve everything other than number 7 and at this time there's a second all those in favor

All Judges: Aye

Judge Gonzalez: that passes, and let's take up number 7.

Judge Mancias: Ms. Denner

Chief Denner: yes, 7 we met to discuss opening up our detention beds for use by other entities. Juvenile Probation Departments, who lack space or need somewhere to put, to place a juvenile, and so this is to allow us to contract with Juvenile Probation entities for beds at our facility, to set it at 15 beds and at \$200.00 a day.

Judge Mancias: we had a meeting with some juvenile Chiefs about, I don't know about six weeks ago and there's a great need from other counties for juvenile beds. Do we have some juvenile beds available? So that what this issue is all about.

Judge Gonzalez: well did you include Maryann what I had asked you to include which was the number of beds. The facility is a 96-bed facility is that correct.



JUDGE MARIO E. RAMIREZ, JR. JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

Chief Denner: yes, sir

Luis M. Singleterry
Judge, 92nd D.C.

Judge Gonzalez: and we're required by the state, this is just information for all the judges that are not aware of it but also for the public. The 96-bed facility is required to be fully funded and it's fully staffed, so we are not allowed to have a 96-bed facility without having staff and funding for 96 beds. So, we're actually paying for those 96 beds but the majority of the time we have a range, that ranges from where Ms. Denner, of beds that are utilized by the county.

Fernando Mancias
Juvenile Overseer
Judge, 93rd D.C.

J.R. "Bobby" Flores
Judge, 139th D.C.

Rose Guerra Reyna
Judge, 206th D.C.

Chief Denner: up to about 55, recently we've had higher numbers but normally we're between 30 to 40.

Marla Cuellar
Judge, 275th D.C.

Juan R. Alvarez
Judge, 332nd D.C.

Judge Gonzalez: ok so if we assume that it is 55 or 60. That means that we have the remainder of those beds that are free and we're already paying to staff them, the only thing that we are not paying for is food for the extra beds right

Noe Gonzalez
Administrative
Judge, 370th D.C.

Chief Denner: that's correct, yes, sir.

Letty Lopez
Judge, 389th D.C.

Judge Gonzalez: but as far as supervision and all those things, we're already paying for that. The county is having to pay,

Keno Vasquez
Judge, 398th D.C.

Chief Denner: yes, sir

Orlando J. Esquivel
Judge, 430th D.C.

Judge Gonzalez: what this would do is free up, and you're only aiming for 15 beds which really keeps it way under where we could probably have any problems. Right!

Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt
Judge, 449th D.C.

Chief Denner: exactly, 15 beds actually is a good amount

Joe Ramirez
Judge, 464th D.C.

Judge Gonzalez: 15 beds assuming that we were to for lack of a better term, make those beds available for what we would say is rental right, they're basically using the facility but we're providing supervision, food, education, (Chief Denner: yes, sir) all those things that we provide. We will be providing that at \$200.00 bucks a day. (Chief Denner: yes sir). Now that would translate a reimbursement of some type, and that a reimbursement to county, and I say reimbursement because the county is already paying for most of these things anyways (Chief Denner: yes, sir.) So, it will be a reimbursement at 15 beds of how much, mas o menos.

Nereida Lopez-Singleterry
Judge, 476th D.C.

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Chief Denner: well it depends on, you know detention beds is a little hard to gauge because you never know how long they are gonna be here. So

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Judge Gonzalez: I'm asking you, I'm asking you to calculate 15 beds for a year, what would that translate to, I know that, that's not

Judge Betancourt: I believe that Rick Guerrero did send out a document that kinda calculated all, calculated all that information, and he submitted it to us for review. But, it's a good amount I wouldn't know off the top of my head, but it's a very good amount.

Judge Cortez: it's a little over a million dollars,

Judge Betancourt: a million dollars

Judge Gonzalez: so what we would, what have the opportunity to do is basically recoup some of that money that we're already spending to maintain the facility.

Chief Denner: yes, sir

Judge Gonzalez: ok, and so I know that Judge Betancourt had reached out to me and I told her that I would get those things to her through you. Judge Betancourt any further discussion.

Judge Betancourt: I mean no. Everything you said Judge Gonzalez is correct. I mean our facility, the facility there is a 98 bed facility we, and when I say we myself, Judge Mancias, Judge Singleterry and Judge Alvarez have worked to make sure that it's never over 50, 60 occupied with the detention hearings and so forth. Mixing in these kids of course there's always a social concerns of, we are bringing them out of counties, I mean usually the counties that do this type of agreement, contract they're usually smaller counties none that have a bigger budget like ours. I know the bigger counties don't do it. I've asked but it's more of the smaller ones but, it's a good amount the concern that I have is mainly not even a concern maybe a question or a proposal is obviously that money goes back into the general fund. That doesn't mean it's allocated specifically for juvenile probation and that's, you know we're taking a risk of bringing kids in mixing them in with our own kids who are gonna go back out to the community and again, I mean. Do I think it's a good amount of money that we're going to be reimbursed? Yes, I do and I agree I'm just concerned of those funds are not coming specifically back to juvenile probation. Now if those funds were coming back to juvenile probation for resources, for services, for you know other things within detention center even for the Juvenile Probation Department then I would say let's do it but, I mean again, and I'm just, I'm not understanding if it goes to general fund. That was the only concern I have, I mean



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but the money is, it's a good amount and if we keep it at 15 I think that's a good amount as well. Those, those were just some of the concerns that I had.

Judge Cortez: Judge, I was somewhat little concerned with those comments because there is a need for juvenile center and there's funding needed I mean that's why you come to commissioner's court and we usually give you that money, you know to me. I would like to have, to hear about the terms of the agreement. How long are we, we'll be committed that kind of stuff.

Judge Gonzalez: well, Judge actually, it's a really sweet deal for us and let me tell you why I say that, because it gives our county full discretion at any day Maryann Denner as the director of the facility can tell county, county a, b, c" you know what there's been some issues

Judge Cortez: That is a major decision for me because if there are problems we won't know what problems we have until we try. And, if we have the flexibility to cancel at any time then I think that's official precaution in the event that, that should happen then we just simply stop it.

Chief Denner: yes, we do, with the intake we'll be able to choose the kids that we want in here as well, so we're prepared for, we know that there's probably going to be issues but there nothing I don't think that we can't handle.

Judge Gonzalez: so what I would like to do is also now that the County Judge has chimed in I think that the County Judge is, is echoing what or we're gonna echo what he said. This is, it's a good opportunity for us to recoup some money that we're already spending and Judge Betancourt, I, I think that the County Judge listening to what we're doing here will understand and share with the Commissioner's that we're doing everything we can to help with funding and we would hope that anytime we need any additional funding, for example we'll a little bit more food and things like that. That if we need any additional funding that they're gonna be, it's gonna be easier to go to the pot and say, "hey listen we're, we're recouping some of this already" and is that correct judge.

Judge Cortez: absolutely, I mean this is an important function and we certainly wanna provide all the resources that you need to do what

Judge Betancourt: and we are you know in talking to a lot of other jurisdiction around the state, Judge Cortez we are very lucky to have a great relationship with our Commissioner Court, and so that's why I was saying give me the numbers, I



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wanna see because if it's lucrative which it is and Chief Denner gave me those numbers it is a good amount of money we're gonna get reimbursed and so yes I'm glad you are on here because that was something that again Judge Noe and I spoke about utilizing that money to be brought, not so much for personnel in juvenile but you know for resources and so forth any services for those there in the juvenile justice system.

Judge Gonzalez: By the way, Judge Cortez, it was amazing to hear some of these other jurisdictions. They're actually funding of both of their budget for juvenile straight from the sharing of the beds some of these places actually that's one of their main sources. So, we think that this will help the county move us along and help us financially. At this time, Judge are you, are you making a motion, Judge Mancias and Judge Betancourt to

Judge Betancourt: I'll make a motion to approve the 7, 8 is it 7, 8, 9 and 10 I believe that correlate with 7

Judge Mancias: I'll second the motion

Judge Gonzalez: there's a motion a second, all those in favor

All Judges: Aye

Judge Gonzalez: Fantastic, Maryann have at it.

Chief Denner: Thank you all

Judge Gonzalez: All right, I think that takes care of Juvenile.

Judge Gonzalez proceeded to take up his matters.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.



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Respectfully Submitted,

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Approved:


Maryann Denner
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