

Open Forum
11/17/15



November 14, 2015

What happens to a juvenile that does not have a strong family unit and makes some poor life choices? If he is a non-violent at risk individual between the ages of 13 and 17 years old, a State District Judge may assign him to the Hidalgo County Boot Camp in Weslaco (Judge Mario E Ramirez, Jr. Juvenile Justice Center Transitional Program). While in the military style discipline environment, the cadet is helped with addiction problems and mental health issues. He attends classes continuing his education. Then there is a three month transition program to address his re-integration into main stream society.

I had the opportunity to attend the graduation ceremony of the latest class of these transitioning youths on Friday November 13th. Some of their life stories are horrific. One young man was sent to the program and his best friend was killed soon after. His father said he would have probably been with his friend and may have also lost his life. If not, in a few years he would be in District Court receiving a prison sentence for a more serious crime.

This program is vital to helping young men stabilize their lives and learn to make better life choices. Hidalgo County must provide the funds needed and prevent later issues in adult courts and prison sentences. It is cost effective and saves young men to become productive members of our society.

Jim Barnes The O.W.L.S.



HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Public Participation Form

Please print legibly:

Date	Time
First & Last Name	
(Optional) Home Address	
(Optional) City, Zip Code <i>(to help us determine if you reside outside city limits and which Precinct serves you)</i>	
(Optional) Phone # <i>(please indicate if it's a day, work, home or mobile number)</i>	

Do you represent a group or organization? yes If yes, please state the name, address and telephone number of the group or organization: OWHS 1801 N. M^cColl
Edley TX 78541

Which agenda item/s do you wish to address? 20 C 2

In general are you for or against such agenda item/s? ? question

If you are not addressing a particular agenda item, what is your specific topic? _____

This Public Participation Form must be presented to the Court Administrator prior to the start of Commissioners Court Open Forum on today's agenda.

NOTICE: Commissioners Court welcomes individuals or delegations who wish to participate in the meeting during Open Forum.

- No presentation shall exceed three (3) minutes.
- Delegations of five (5) or more shall appoint one person to present their views before Commissioners Court.
- Presiding Officer may limit the time when there are more than ten (10) registered speakers to allow for more participants during the allotted thirty (30) minutes for Open Forum.
- Should the speaker drift from the stated subject, or become disruptive or abusive, he or she shall be given one warning and, if the conduct continues, may forfeit the remaining time and/or be escorted from the proceedings.

Audience participation is limited to the Open Forum portion of the meeting. At all other times during a Commissioners Court meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by Commissioners Court, unless requested by the presiding officer.

The Hidalgo County Commissioners Court is a Constitutional Court and possesses the power to issue a Contempt of Court Citation under Section 81.024 of the Texas Local Government Code. Accordingly, members of the public in attendance at any Regular, Special, and/or Emergency meeting of the Court shall conduct themselves with proper respect and decorum in speaking to, and/or addressing the Court.

I have read and understand the notice and rules of decorum:

Sean McLaughlin Signature:



**HIDALGO COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING**

OPEN FORUM SIGN-IN

DATE: 12/1/15 - 9:30 Am

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TOPIC
1. <i>Opal Billman</i>	<i>JUSTICE</i>
2. <i>Lern McLaugherty</i>	<i>Christmas/20C.2</i>
3. <i>Julia Sullivan</i>	<i>Christmas Party</i>
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

***Please sign in before Commissioners Court meeting begins.**

PLEASE NOTE: 3 MINUTES TIME LIMIT