

Cultural Center / Old City Hall



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MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Members
FROM: Santiago Soto, Vice President (President Elect)
SUBJECT: **Unsolicited proposal to obtain the historic city hall building,
200 N. Church St.**
DATE: January 5, 2012
CC: John Muñoz, Board President

The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces (HCCLC) needs a permanent home for our offices in Las Cruces and the downtown area is an ideal location. We respectfully submit this unsolicited proposal to obtain the former City Hall building, 200 N. Church Street, and convert it to the Southern New Mexico Intercultural Trade Center. It will be a multi-purpose facility used for office space, a Centennial Museum and Multicultural Art Gallery, a small business incubator, training center, provide virtual offices for global investors, and also conference/meeting spaces will be available to the community. The Southern New Mexico Intercultural Trade Center aligns with the ongoing downtown revitalization efforts, will provide a variety of services in a central location close to the main post office, the new City Hall, and the Federal building, and will continue to promote our mission of serving the community.

Santiago Soto and John Muñoz will address City Council at the next work session scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.



Southern New Mexico Intercultural Trade Center

Presented by
The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces

Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces Mission Statement:

- Since it's inception in 1992, our mission remains to promote Hispanic business growth, education, cultural awareness, and community service.

This is an unsolicited proposal to obtain the historic city hall building to preserve it, bring value to the downtown area, find a permanent home for the HCCLC, & provide an opportunity for the creation and development of new business and international investments.

Project Overview:

- HCCLC needs a permanent home
- HCCLC is reviewing different options in the downtown area
- The vacant former City Hall building is of strong interest to the HCCLC
 - Historic ties to the Hispanic community
 - Ideal downtown location & visibility for residents, existing business
 - Having ownership of the building provides greater flexibility for new business development

Site Description:

- Located on 200 N. Church Street, Las Cruces, NM
- Approximately 40,000 square feet of space
- Built in 1969
- Estimated Property Value: \$1.38 Million
- Estimated property taxes: \$11,000
- Estimated utility expense: \$7,000



Intent:

- Occupy the building and preserve it's historic presence
- Utilize it as a multi-use facility:
 - Office space
 - Small business development incubation (New Business)
 - Training center
 - Meeting & conference rooms
 - Centennial Museum
 - Multicultural Art Gallery
- Provide historic memorabilia for community members, decorated with authentic historical items and a unique museum type presence

Operational Structure:

- HCCLC will operate & manage the building
- Prospective tenants: NGOs, non-profits such as:
 - LULAC,
 - Chihuahua Trade Office,
 - NM CAFÉ, etc...
 - Sister Cities
- Other International NGO's such as: Border Mayors Alliance, Mimbres Paquime Connection, Camino Real Economic Alliance, Historic Camino Real Trail, etc...
- Host other New Mexico organizations currently working with border region development.
- Provide Virtual Office Options to Global Entrepreneurs.

Milestones:

- Obtain funding for restoration and remodeling
- Develop a strategic sustainability plan to foster economic growth and attract foreign investment.
- Seek border region development grant funding

Questions?

