

School Site Committee



To: *Mayor and City Council*

From: *Robert L. Garza, PE, City Manager*



Subject: *Joint Work Session City of Las Cruces/Las Cruces Public Schools –
December 3, 2013*

Date: *November 22, 2013*

The Las Cruces City Council and the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education will meet for a joint work session Tuesday, December 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall. Three items are slated for presentation and discussion at this meeting. There will be no policy decisions or action items but rather discussion around the following issues of joint interest and concern:

1. **School Siting** – the City Council and Las Cruces Public School’s Board of Directors have had general discussions at the last couple of their joint meetings where consensus was reached to pursue the development of a school siting committee of some sort, which would include elected officials and professional staff members from multiple agencies. Preliminary meetings have been held and initial discussions have commenced. The discussions to date have yielded alternative approaches to coordinating and collaborating across areas of responsibility to ensure both the City Council and School Board have the best information at hand when making planning decisions that may affect the other agency. Staff will present suggestions on methods to undertake this work as part of a collaborative regional planning concept where staff from respective agencies will be tasked with reporting to the elected officials periodically on regional planning initiatives.
2. **Safe Routes to Schools** – the City and school district have worked together for several years on the Safe Routes to Schools program. Previous efforts have been staffed by the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPO) and coordinated with school administration to undertake improvements in neighborhoods adjacent to schools where pedestrian movement and safe access were deemed to need improvement. The MPO applied for a grant last year from the New Mexico Department of Transportation and received \$500,000 to complete work in areas surrounding several local schools. The State has changed their grant program and now seek to sponsor school districts directly for future funding. The City, MPO, and LCPS will continue to work together to coordinate this program and continue with the improvements.

3. **Court Youth/Charter Center** – Charter schools occupy public facilities where, in some cases, the City and LCPS have joint interests and responsibilities. This is particularly true for the Court Youth Center where the City is leasing the facility from LCPS and sub-leasing it to Court Youth Center. Superintendent Rounds would like to openly discuss issues relating to these relationships and opportunities.