

EDITORIAL:

PRECINCT 1 FIELD OFFICE MAKES COUNTY HISTORY!

JUNE 4, 2009

Since I was elected in 2004 to represent Precinct 1, the largest precinct in Bexar County, Precinct 1, one of the most common complaints I have always heard and continue to hear from my constituents is about their inability to easily come downtown to my office to meet with me and my staff. Reasons I hear regarding dissatisfaction to downtown travel is lack of parking, far driving distance from the Southside, and traffic congestion. I knew I needed to address these problems but I also knew it would not be a quick fix.

After many more complaints that led to brainstorming, I knew my first step would be to work with County staff to identify the needs of my constituents. Once their many needs were identified, I knew it would not be quite so difficult to respond.

My next step was to gather my fellow colleagues together on Commissioners Court so I could be the voice of Precinct 1 residents to their ears. Not only were they eager to listen, they gave me 100% complete support. After consensus that there definitely were needs that required resolutions, we worked diligently to strategize on the most time sensitive and financially responsible way to construct a Precinct 1 satellite office. My Court members and I collaborated and found a sensible location.

The building location that pleased everyone involved in this process was that which used to house the former Winn's Department Store. This vacant building was a perfect match to our needs. The building is located at 3505 Pleasanton Road just south of Military Drive, easily accessed from the southern part of Loop 410, and serviced by VIA Metropolitan Transit with bus stops adjacent to the building location. I carefully worked with the design concept to ensure this newly designed facility will accommodate all visitors, their needs, and have plenty of free parking.

The soon to be opened Precinct 1 satellite office will be a 32,000 square foot home to county offices for the Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector, Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, Bexar County Constable for Precinct 1, and my office. Now residents can come to the conveniently located office building to purchase their vehicle registration, make property tax payments, pay court fines, request law enforcement services, and constituent services for County Commissioner Precinct 1.

Sometimes issues can be handled over the telephone, but on occasion, there is a need to travel to the office that provides the needed service. Meeting with constituents face to face is also a pleasant experience for me and staff. As Bexar County's Southside continues to develop and grow so will the need for continued, efficient, and convenient Bexar County services.

Accessibility for my constituents has always been a priority for me. One of my first visions for the Southside when I took office was to create a Precinct 1 satellite office to allow my constituents better access and convenience to all the services our county has to offer. I am happy we will all see this vision become a reality in the upcoming months and am proud to see it happen on the Southside! Thank you all for the inspiration.