



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) OF THE TOWN OF MESILLA

REGULAR MEETING
AT THE MESILLA TOWN HALL,
2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

TRUSTEES: Russell Hernandez, Mayor
Adrianna Merrick, Mayor Pro Tem
Biviana Cadena, Trustee
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee (Absent)
Gerard Nevarez, Trustee

STAFF: Lorenzo Astorga, Public Works Dire
Cole Morris, Fire Captain
Edward Salazar, Econ & Com Development Director
Greg Whited, Fire Chief
Gloria S Maya, Town Clerk/Recorder

PUBLIC: Lorenzo Alba Kenny Coppedge
Andrea Bryan Rafael Ruiz
Greg Lester Crystal Whited
Ken Mag... Selena Mendoza
Libbin Underwood Sammy Johnson
Catharine Walkinshaw Eric Walkinshaw
Nancy Ryan

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Hernandez, Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Trustee Cadena, Trustee Nevarez.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL

Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.

Motion passed unanimously

4. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** (The Board will be asked to approve by one motion the following items of recurring or routine business)
- a) **BOT MINUTES** – September 8, 2025 - BOT Regular Meeting *Approved by consent agenda*
 - b) **PURCHASE REQUISITION** – Mesilla Marshal Vehicle Purchase/Equipment (Final Payment) - \$28,910.86. *Approved by consent agenda*
 - c) **PURCHASE REQUISITION** – Power Center UTV Purchase - \$32,385.96. *Approved by consent agenda*
 - d) **PZHAC CASE #062048** – 2825 Boldt St., submitted by Brad Shuster. Resident is asking permission to install roof mounted Solar Panels on his home. ZONE: Historic Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda*
 - e) **PZHAC CASE #062052** – 2488 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Irma Chavez, Historic Enterprises, LLC. Request approval to replace front yard gravel and replace with pavers. ZONE: Historical Commercial (HC). *Approved by consent agenda*

Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Motion passed unanimously

5. **PUBLIC INPUT ON CASES** – The public is invited to address the Board as allowed by the chair.

No Public Input

6. **PRESENTATION:**

- a) **Proclamation: Declaring October 1, 2025 as International Walk to School Day**

Mr. Coppedge and students read the Proclamation Declaring October 1, 2025 as International Walk to School Day.

- b) **Presentation: Casa de Peregrinos Food Program**

Mr. Alba made a presentation on the Casa de Peregrino Food Program.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick commented

Trustee Nevarez commented

7. **ACTION AND CONSIDERATION**
NEW BUSINESS

- a) **DISCUSSION** – Casa Peregrinos Food Program

Mayor Hernandez gave an overview of how the town would be able to give the donation of \$10,000.

Trustee Nevarez commented

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick commented

- b) **SUBDIVISION CASE #062053** – 1560 Calle de El Paso, submitted by Raul & Maria Rodriguez. Requesting approval to subdivide their property. ZONE: Residential Agricultural (RA).

Mr. Salazar gave an overview of Subdivision Case #062053.

Motion: To approve Subdivision Case #062053 – 1560 Calle de El Paso, submitted by Raul & Maria Rodriguez. Requesting approval to subdivide their property. ZONE: Residential Agricultural (RA), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Nevarez Yes

c) **APPROVAL** – Resolution 2025-58 – Budget Adjustment Quarter 1

Motion: To approve Resolution 2025-58 – Budget Adjustment Quarter 1, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Nevarez Yes

d) **APPROVAL** – Resolution 2025-59 – Capital Outlay Program Participation Cooperative Agreement (Road Improvements)

Motion: To approve Resolution 2025-59 – Capital Outlay Program Participation Cooperative Agreement (Road Improvements), Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Nevarez Yes

e) **APPROVAL** – Resolution 2025-60 - Capital Outlay Program Participation Cooperative Agreement (Signage)

Motion: To approve Resolution 2025-60 – Capital Outlay Program Participation Cooperative Agreement (Signage), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Nevarez Yes

f) **APPROVAL** – Resolution 2025-61 – DOT Grant Agreement Local Road Project (Paisano)

Motion: To approve Resolution 2025-61 – DOT Grant Agreement Local Road Project (Paisano), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Nevarez Yes

8. PUBLIC INPUT – The public is invited to address the Board as allowed by the chair.

Mr. Lester commented

9. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) **Discussion concerning attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant; pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7)**

Motion: To enter Closed Executive Session, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Nevarez Yes

Entered into Closed Executive Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Meeting, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Nevarez Yes

Entered into Regular Meeting at 6:54 p.m.

10. Any Actions that may arise as a result of Closed Executive Session. *No action needed*

11. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS & LIASION UPDATES

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: SCCOG meeting cancelled, MPO meeting, NMML Conference

Trustee Cadena: NMML Conference

Mayor Hernandez: SCCOG meeting cancelled, SRTD District meeting Wednesday, CES meeting Thursday, MPO meeting, NMML Conference.

12. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

a) *Ongoing Projects Listing*

b) *Calendar of Events*

Fire Chief Whited gave a department (Fire) update.

Mr. Astorga gave a department (Public Works) update.

Mr. Salazar gave a department (Com/Economic Development) update.

Trustee Nevarez commented.

Ms. Maya gave a department (Finance) update.

Trustee Cadena commented

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick commented.

Mayor Hernandez commented.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-3).

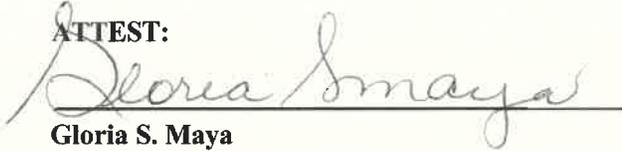
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:25 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.

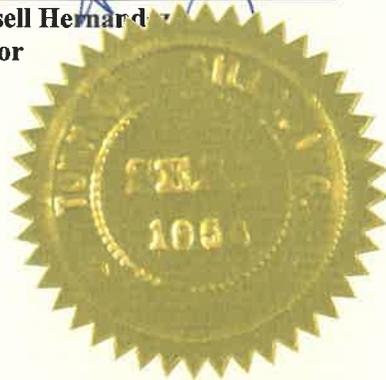


Russell Hernandez
Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria S. Maya
Town Clerk/Treasurer



****BOT MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE LIVE ON TOWN OF MESILLA'S YOUTUBE PAGE****



Casa de Peregrinos

food for today...hope for tomorrow

Proposal to the Town of Mesilla Submitted by Casa de Peregrinos Food Program August, 2025

Casa de Peregrinos is requesting a grant from the Town of Mesilla to support the services we provide to residents of the town and its surrounding areas, and enhance our ability to bring healthy, nutritious food into this community.

The mission of CdP is to ***“alleviate hunger in Doña Ana County one person at a time, by compassionately serving those in need through the efforts of our partners, donors, staff, and volunteers.”*** We know that food insecurity does not have a one-size-fits-all solution. We have unique food programs to address unique needs and we provide food in sites throughout the county. Our work is rooted in the belief that without adequate nutrition, families are restricted in their options. We know children are harmed by food insecurity in their academic development, their health, and their success as adults. Our motto **“food for today, hope for tomorrow”** has always been our guide -- expressing our conviction that by providing nutrition, hope and opportunity will grow.

Any investment now is extremely important to allow CdP to continue meeting the demand for food. We have seen an increase in the number of clients served by 7.5% from the previous fiscal year: growing from 37,000 to 40,000, stretching our resources thin. Over 18% of the total population of Doña Ana County now receives services from CdP.

Our financial uncertainty is compounded by the federal tax and spending bill. While we do not receive direct federal funding, we are in serious jeopardy from federal funding cuts. One in four families in Doña Ana County depend on SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Federal budget proposals will reduce SNAP by up to one third. When these cuts happen, the pantry will be the only place some people can turn. We could see an increase of hundreds of families each week.

Casa de Peregrinos' fundamental purpose is to provide monthly distributions of nutritious food to families in need. During the most recent fiscal year, ending June 30, 2025, we:

- Distributed over 76,000 baskets of food
- Served almost 40,000 unique unduplicated clients
- Distributed almost 7.5 million pounds of food
- Provided services in 21 different locations in Doña Ana County

- Provided food baskets averaging 138 pounds, representing 115 meals
- Received volunteer contributions of 21,000 hours, the equivalent of more than 10 full-time employees

We served 242 unique, unduplicated clients in Mesilla (zip codes 88046, and 88047) with an additional 503 clients served in the neighboring zip code of 88005, part of which falls into the township of Mesilla. The families in zip codes 88046 and 88047 received a total of 1,197 baskets of food, with another 8,595 being distributed in zip code 88005.

Casa de Peregrinos' per-distribution cost of each basket of food is \$25.21, which includes the cost of food, staffing, transportation, supplies and overhead. The value of each basket is, based on the USDA standard of \$1.72 per pound for donated food, more than \$240.

Our proposal to the Town of Mesilla has two elements:

1. **We are requesting assistance in underwriting the services that CdP provides to the residents of the town.**

Our cost of providing approximately 1,500 baskets per year to residents of the town is \$37,000, based on a per basket cost of \$25.21.

2. **We are requesting that the Town help us enhance food distribution to your community by supporting our Pop Up Produce Markets**

Pop Up Produce Markets are a recent and incredibly successful innovation by CdP designed to enhance the food provided in monthly baskets and reach people who may not be aware of current resources. They are organized and conducted in locations that draw people together, such as community centers, town squares, churches, schools and community events. We provide about 25 lbs. of fresh produce to each family and serve 100 families at each event. No registration or qualifying information is needed. Pop Up's also provide opportunities to distribute information about current food resources and let people know how they can receive consistent food support. Our cost for one Pop Up Markets is \$1,500, based on the smaller amount of food, and the decrease in staff time because no registration or intake is conducted. CdP would like to conduct 6 Pop Up Markets in Mesilla over the course of the next fiscal year, for a total cost of \$7,500.

A grant of \$10,000 from the Town of Mesilla would:

- Provide 3 Pop Up Markets in Mesilla for a cost of \$4,500
- Provide 220 food baskets to Mesilla residents for a cost of \$5,500

This would support 22% of the cost of service to the Town of Mesilla

A grant of \$15,000 would:

- Provide 3 Pop Up Markets in Mesilla for a cost of \$4,500
- Provide 420 food baskets to Mesilla residents for a cost of \$10,500

This would support 33% of the cost of service to the Town of Mesilla

A grant of \$20,000 would:

- Provide 3 Pop Up Markets in Mesilla for a cost of \$4,500
- Provide 620 food baskets to Mesilla residents for a cost of \$15,500

This would support 44% of the cost of service to the Town of Mesilla

Your contribution would provide a large return on investment, and a huge benefit to the community. Every \$25 spent to purchase a basket of food has a return of over \$240 to a family. We acquire food through wholesale sources, food rescue, and food donation drives, (the Food Rescue Program brought in 1.7 million pounds of usable food in 2024 that was destined for

landfills), and through our partnership with Roadrunner Food Bank, we can distribute food for just a shared cost of transportation and handling.

CdP's services have been proven to improve lives. We have been trained in evaluation methods at the University of New Mexico, and our surveys show that, with CdP services, clients can **purchase other necessities, save money and pay other bills, miss fewer meals, and worry less about food.**

Casa de Peregrinos appreciates the consideration of this request by the Town of Mesilla. Any contribution that can be made will allow us to continue to strive towards our goal of "no one goes hungry in Doña Ana County." If there is any additional information that is needed to inform your decision, please do not hesitate to contact Lorenzo Alba, Jr. CdP Executive Director, at 575-533-5542, or cdped@casadeperegrinos.org.

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Text for slides, Proposal to Town of Mesilla

Slide 1

Request to the Town of Mesilla from Casa de Peregrinos

- Support the services we provide to Mesilla residents
 - 242 individuals received food in FY 2025
 - 1197 baskets of food at an average of 130 lbs each were distributed, valued at over \$240
- Bring more healthy, nutritious food into this community.
 - Organize Pop Up Produce Markets to distribute an additional 25 lbs of fresh produce 6 times per year.

Slide 2

POP UP PRODUCE MARKETS



- serve 100 families at each event
- provide about 25 lbs. of fresh produce to each family
- No registration or qualifying information is needed.
- Provide opportunities to distribute information about food resources

Slide 3

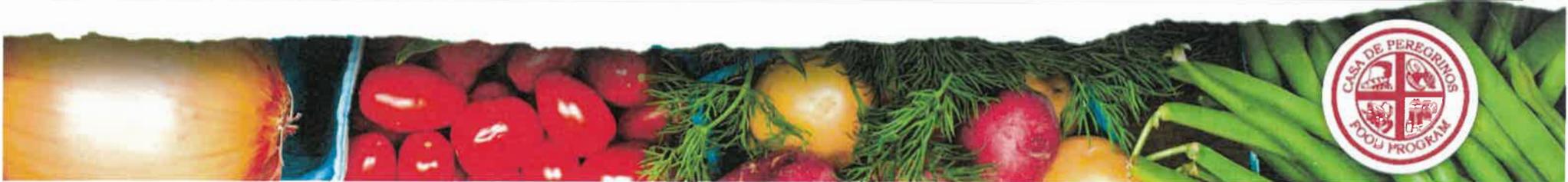
Return on investment

- Each food basket contains an average of 130 pounds of food, or the equivalent of 110 meals
- Each food basket is valued at \$240 (the USDA values donated food at \$1.72 per pound)
- At a cost of \$25 each, food baskets have almost a 10 to 1 return on investment



Request for Financial Support: Town of Mesilla

- **Support the services we provide to Mesilla residents**
 - **242 individual received food in FY 2025**
 - **1197 baskets of food averaging 130 lbs. valued at over \$240**
- **Bring more healthy, nutritious food into the community**
- **Organize Pop-Up Produce Markets to distribute an additional 25 lbs. of fresh produce 6 times a year**





Pop-Up Produce Markets

- **Serve 100 families at each event**
- **Provide about 25 lbs. of fresh produce per family**
- **Provide Opportunities to distribute information about nearby food resources**
- **Volunteer opportunities for Mesilla residents**



Return on Investment

- Each food basket contains an average of 130 lbs. or equivalent of 110 meals
- Each food basket is valued at \$240 (USDA Values donated food at \$1.72 per lb.)
- Our retail partners value each basket at almost double that or \$400 a basket
- At the cost of \$25 each, food baskets have almost a 10 to 1 return on investment. Stewardship is important to us.



Thank you Mesilla

Questions and/or Comments?

www.casadeperegrinos.org

Lorenzo Alba, Jr. – Executive Director

lorenzo.a@cdp=inc.org

575-523-5542

