

To: Sunset Advisory Committee
From: City of McAllen Health and Code Compliance Dept.
Date: June 24, 2014
Re: Code Enforcement Officer Programs

Dear Chairman and Commission Members,

This letter serves as the express statement of the City of McAllen, Texas ("McAllen"): The City of McAllen *opposes* the recommendation to discontinue the State's regulation of "Code Enforcement Officers."

McAllen takes pride in protecting the health and safety of its residents during this time of rapid commercial development and residential expansion. McAllen's Code Enforcement Officers are the front-line of that effort. McAllen's Code Enforcement Officers are licensed and trained to identify health and safety hazards, mitigate or abate said hazards, and enforce other local requirements as permitted by Texas law. During 2013, McAllen Code Enforcement Officers responded to over 7,700 unique complaints. McAllen's Code Enforcement Officers address local regulations, including but not limited to: targeting of breeding grounds for disease carrying hosts (stagnant water), illegal waste dumping, zoning and building standards, weedy lots, and abandoned buildings. The residents of McAllen depend on the code enforcement officers to protect their health and safety.

Further, McAllen Code Enforcement Officers also assist neighboring cities and counties. For example, during 2012, McAllen Code Enforcement Officers assisted Dallas County reduce the number of West Nile cases and prevent further outbreak.

As discussed, code enforcement officers are (1) educated on local and state regulations and (2) charged with preserving the health and safety of local residents. Therefore, discontinuation of this program will have a significant negative impact on residents' health and safety.

Again, the City of McAllen *opposes* the recommendation to discontinue the State's regulation of code enforcement officers. Such a decision will have a negative impact on the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Respectfully Submitted,



Earl Lane