

Leal announces candidacy for Dist. 5 city commissioner

Valley Morning Star

HARLINGEN — Victor Leal on Thursday formally announced his candidacy for Harlingen city commissioner for District 5.

Leal said he is ready to bring a better, more trustworthy voice to District 5 as city commissioner.

As a member of The Chamber and The Harlingen Chamber Ambassadors, Leal has an active role in the community and is knowledgeable on many of the city's needs, he said in a press release announcing his candidacy.

He is challenging incumbent Joey Treviño, who is seeking a second term.

"District 5 deserves strong leadership. I want to provide that leadership and bring more of a team approach to service on the commission. I do see areas in need of improvement and I want to see Harlingen grow while continuing to enhance our current quality of life," Leal said.

He said safety and sense of community are another focus of his.

"The police force has done a terrific job improving our security by reducing crime. I would like to see the city combine the efforts of some of the other departments to have more feet on the street," he said.

Leal said he feels there are employees throughout the city that service similar routes day in and day out and have an increased perspective. He said the police have been successful at improving police-community partnerships, and he feels that Harlingen should

extend that to improving government-community partnerships.

Leal also encourages residents to set up neighborhood watches.

Leal said he wants Harlingen's citizens to be able to take pride in their city, which is on the grow. He said he believes that the entryways into the city, especially the interchange of the two major highways, need to be more attractive to visitors, many of whom are potential business owners.

"I believe that the city needs to have an appearance that is desirable to work and live in. We need to work with property owners, especially along our major roads, to rid these areas of retail garbage. We need to attract investors with our safety record, clean appear-

ance and the full cooperation of all the departments within our city," Leal said.

"Continuing to improve streets, top notch fire protection, good sound economic development and educational opportunities for all our residents will be my focus," he said.

Leal is a Rio Grande Valley native. He was born in Brownsville in 1954 and has been a Harlingen resident since 1979. He managed several businesses for more than 20 years before starting his own business, CyberNation, which has been his full-time job since 2005, he said. He is married to Sylvia Garza.

"I hope to serve my community and honor my faith by being a better voice and a better choice for District 5 and all of Harlingen," Leal said.

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