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September 9, 2026

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Manuel "Manny" Cruz

Brad Bentsen
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Mission
721 North Bryan Road
Mission, Texas 78572

RE: Request for Complimentary Use of Leo Peña Placita Park – 5th Annual VET Fest

Dear Mr. Bentsen:

On behalf of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), I respectfully request the complimentary use of Leo Peña Placita Park on Thursday, November 12, 2026, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for our 5th Annual VET Fest, hosted by our Health & Human Services Department through the Area Agency on Aging and RIO-Net Aging & Disability Resource Center.

VET Fest is a free community event dedicated to honoring and supporting the men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces. Each year, the event brings together veterans, their families, community members, service organizations, government agencies, healthcare providers, and community partners to connect attendees with benefits assistance, health and wellness information, resources, and other support services.

An important part of VET Fest is recognizing our veterans and their service. The event begins with a formal opening ceremony, including the presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, and recognition of those who have served, followed by the community resource portion of the festival. For this reason, Leo Peña Placita Park is especially meaningful to us because of its recognition of our veterans and the significance it brings to the spirit and purpose of VET Fest.

Last year, VET Fest was held on the grounds of the Iwo Jima Monument and Museum, which provided a meaningful setting for the event and its opening ceremony. We hope to continue that tradition by selecting a venue that reflects the purpose of VET Fest while providing a welcoming environment for veterans, their families, and the community.

Over the past four years, VET Fest has welcomed approximately 200 to 400 attendees annually and has received strong participation and support from organizations throughout the Rio Grande Valley. As we prepare to celebrate our fifth year, we would be honored to bring VET Fest to the City of Mission.

Because VET Fest is offered at no cost to attendees and is centered on honoring veterans and connecting them and their families with valuable services and resources, we respectfully request that the City of Mission consider waiving the rental and use fees for Leo Peña Placita Park for this community event.

We greatly appreciate the City of Mission's consideration and support of our veterans. We would be happy to provide any additional information or documentation needed to coordinate the event.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to host the 5th Annual VET Fest at Leo Peña Placita Park.

Sincerely,

Manuel Cruz
Executive Director
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council