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AGENDA STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 14, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Esperanza Colio Warren, City Manager
Best Best & Krieger LLP, City Attorney

APPROVED BY: Esperanza Colio Warren, City Manager 

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding to Establish the Calexico-Mexicali Border Health Commission

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Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Calexico and the City of Mexicali to create the Calexico-Mexicali Border Health Commission.

Background:

In addition to sharing a border, Calexico and Mexicali also share mutual localized public health concerns.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for collaboration and a coordinated response to the shared health vulnerabilities along the US-Mexico border.

Discussion:

The proposed MOU represents a commitment by both cities to enhance cooperation and promote enhanced conditions of health and well-being for the community.

The purpose of the MOU is for the cities of Calexico and Mexicali to work together to establish a Calexico-Mexicali Border Health Commission ("Commission"), which will collaborate to identify and evaluate current and future health problems affecting the population in the Calexico-Mexicali Border Area, and to encourage and facilitate actions to address these problems.

The Commission would include representatives from both jurisdictions

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and would review local public health needs; support studies to identify and monitor public health issues; provide support to health-related government agencies and community nonprofits; support health promotion/disease prevention events at city facilities; coordinate gathering community health-related data; and facilitate distribution of health resources and educational materials.

Attachment:

1. Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Calexico and the City of Mexicali to Establish a Calexico-Mexicali Border Health Commission.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF CALEXICO
AND THE CITY OF MEXICALI TO ESTABLISH A CALEXICO-MEXICALI BORDER
HEALTH COMMISSION**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ESTABLISH A CALEXICO-MEXICALI BORDER HEALTH COMMISSION is entered into and effective this _____ day of _____, 2022, by and between the City of Calexico and the City of Mexicali (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties").

RECITALS

A. The cities of Calexico and Mexicali share a common border and similar concerns regarding public health issues in the community;

B. It is increasingly important that these cities work together to address common health problems and public health issues of mutual concern;

C. The Parties recognize the historical relationship and shared commitments to improving the health status of people, particularly those in vulnerable high-risk groups, in the Calexico-Mexicali Border Area;

D. The Parties support health initiatives that result from collaboration, shared responsibility, and sensitivity to the health and well-being of the populations of the border region; and

E. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the Parties have experienced first-hand what happens when a virus spreads to vulnerable populations and are committed to international solidarity beyond borders to ensure healthy communities; and

F. The Parties wish to enter into this MOU to enhance their cooperation in the promotion of better conditions of health and well-being for people on both sides of the border.

ARTICLE 1

PURPOSE

The Parties agree to work together to establish the Calexico-Mexicali Border Health Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to identify and evaluate current and future health problems affecting the population in the Calexico-Mexicali Border Area, and to encourage and facilitate actions to address these problems.

ARTICLE 2

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this MOU:

2.1 "Commission" means the Calexico-Mexicali Border Health Commission;

2.2 "Health Problem" means a disease or a public health condition that poses a public health risk to the population residing in the Calexico-Mexicali Border Area, particularly those in vulnerable high-risk groups;

2.3 "Calexico-Mexicali Border Area" includes the cities of Calexico and Mexicali and their shared border.

ARTICLE 3

FUNCTIONS

3.1 In order to achieve its purpose, the Commission may undertake the following activities:

3.1.1 Review public health needs in the Calexico-Mexicali Border Area, and support investigations, research, or studies designed to identify and monitor Health Problems;

3.1.2 Provide support to assist the efforts of public and private nonprofit entities to prevent and resolve Health Problems;

3.1.3 Conduct or support health promotion and disease prevention activities in the Calexico-Mexicali Border Area;

3.1.4 Support the establishment of a coordinated system for gathering health-related data and monitoring Health Problems in the Calexico-Mexicali Border Area.

3.1.5 Make city facilities and non-clinical staff available for health related events;

3.1.6 Make skilled staff (investigators, emergency personnel, etc.) available for certain tasks, such as case investigation, during emergency situations; and

3.1.7 Facilitate the distribution of health resources and educational materials throughout the city facilities.

3.2 The Commission may, as appropriate, consult and collaborate with non-governmental bodies and other entities involved in public health activities in the Calexico-Mexicali Border Area.

ARTICLE 4

COMPOSITION

4.1 The Commission will include a Calexico Section and a Mexicali Section.

4.2 The Calexico Section of the Commission shall include the City Manager or designee and other members as designated by the Calexico City Council.

4.3 The Mexicali Section of the Commission shall include the City Manager or designee and other members as designated by the Mexicali Municipal Council.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective cities, have signed this MOU.

Javier Moreno, Mayor
City of Calexico

Norma Alicia Bustamante Martinez, Mayor
City of Mexicali