

4/20/09 Item 2a

**From:** Chester Newland <newland@usc.edu>  
**To:** Shirley Concolino <SConcolino@cityofsacramento.org>  
**Date:** 4/16/2009 1:34 PM  
**Subject:** SCRC item  
**Attachments:** Council-Manager Form-El\_Paso.pdf; Part.002

Dear Shirley:

Attached is an item on El Paso's Council-Manager charter, along with comments by mayors of other Large Cities. It may be of useful interest to CRC members.

Cordially,  
Chet Newland



April 13, 2009

Volume 90, Issue 8

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## El Paso Celebrates Five Years of Council-Manager Government and Professional Management

A roster of distinguished guests descended on the El Paso Museum of Art on February 13 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the city's operation under the council-manager form of government. El Paso citizens voted to change the city's mayor-council charter and to adopt the council-manager form in February 2004. With a population of more than 560,000 at the time (current population is 607,000), it is the largest community in the U.S. to have made the switch.



*Terrell Blodgett, ICMA life member and past board chairman, NCL; Gloria Rubio-Cortes, president, NCL; Joyce Wilson, city manager, El Paso; Mark McDaniel, city manager, Tyler*

ICMA joined the National Civic League (NCL), America's oldest advocate for community democracy, which has endorsed the council-manager form of government through its *Model City Charter* since 1915, to play a leadership role in the anniversary celebration, including presenting a plaque to El Paso Mayor John Cook as part of the festivities.

"El Paso is the third-safest large city, has the sixth-best housing market, and the governor just announced that we have the eighth healthiest economy in the country," said the Mayor in a February 14 *El Paso Times* article. "This didn't happen by accident. It is the type of leadership and government that made it happen."

Much of the credit for the city's success during its first five years as a council-manager community has been given to ICMA member Joyce Wilson, who joined the city as its first manager in September 2004. Susie Byrd, West-Central City Representative observed that "I worked under the strong-mayor form of government when Ray Caballero was here, and I even voted against changing the system to a city manager system. But Joyce has completely changed my mind about this. She is a great asset to the

city.”

In addition to the dozens of dignitaries and guests who participated in the celebration, the city received letters of congratulations from current Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief, former Fort Worth Mayor Bob Bolen, Austin Mayor Will Wynn, San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger and City Manager Sheryl Sculley, and former San Antonio Mayor and CityView Executive Chairman Henry Cisneros, who had this to say about the benefits of the council-manager form and professional local government management:

“I served in San Antonio’s council-manager system for six years as a councilmember and eight years as mayor. I found that it was immensely valuable for me to focus on the policy making function, strategic leadership, and a high-profile role in the community. I worked closely with a city manager who concentrated daily on personnel matters, budget details, and optional concerns. We had a highly productive working relationship and split our responsibilities effectively...In 1986, *City & State* magazine ranked San Antonio as the best city government in the nation . . . and we were selected an All-America City in that period.”

To view copies of the congratulatory letters, go to ICMA’s form of government Web page at <http://icma.org/formofgovt>, and scroll to “El Paso, Texas, Celebrates Five Years As Council-Manager” under “Reports and Articles.” Or go to <http://icma.org/main/ld.asp?ldid=20941&hsid=10&tpid=20>.

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Funding Homebuilders to Develop the American Dream

February 12, 2009

The Honorable John Cook  
Mayor, City of El Paso  
2 Civic Center Plaza  
El Paso, TX 79901-1153

Dear Mayor Cook:

Congratulations on the change to the Council-Manager form of government in El Paso which I am confident will produce great efficiencies and progress over the years. It is a well established fact that the most effective city governments in the nation operate under the Council-Manager form. Such cities as Dallas, San Diego, Phoenix, Austin, and San Antonio enjoy solid financial status, high bond ratings, and overall economic progress. They also are blessed with unusually good labor relations and high productivity of municipal services.

I served in San Antonio's Council-Manager system for six years as a Councilmember and eight years as Mayor. I found that it was immensely valuable for me to focus on the policy making function, strategic leadership, and a high profile role in the community. I worked closely with a City Manager who concentrated daily on personnel matters, budget details, and operational concerns. We had a highly productive working relationship and split our responsibilities effectively. It was essential that we coordinated closely and met almost daily to plan the details of our collaboration. In 1986 City and State Magazine ranked San Antonio as the best City Government in the nation that year and we were selected an All-America City in that period.

I am confident that El Paso will see immense benefits from a system of government that has substantial advantages. It will require constant communications between the leaders, respect for each others roles, and high level professionalism.

Once again, congratulations on the courage to change and on taking the steps which will benefit the citizens of El Paso for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Cisneros".

Henry Cisneros  
Executive Chairman  
CityView



SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE CHANCELLOR

February 5, 2009

The Honorable John F. Cook  
Mayor, City of El Paso  
2 Civic Center Plaza  
El Paso, TX 79901-1153

Dear Mayor Cook,

I regret that I cannot be with you on this auspicious occasion in El Paso. As a former mayor of Fort Worth, the first city in Texas with a population in excess of 100,000 to adopt the council-manager form of government, I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations to you and the citizens of El Paso on the fifth anniversary of council-manager government in El Paso. My understanding is that El Paso is the largest city in the country to ever convert from a mayor-council to a council-manager form of local government.

Fort Worth adopted this most popular form of governing cities in 1924. For more than 80 years, the citizens of Fort Worth have elected mayors and city council to give political and community leadership to the city and entrusted them to appoint a city manager to administer the day to day activities of government.

While serving as mayor, I was privileged to also serve as president of the Texas Municipal League and later as president of the National League of Cities. In my travels around Texas and the United States, I was always proud to cite our city's form of governance and continue to believe that the citizens of Fort Worth are the beneficiaries of this combination of elective and appointive officials.

Again, my congratulations to all of you on this memorable occasion!

Sincerely,

Bob Bolen  
Mayor of Fort Worth  
1982-1991

**RECEIVED**

FEB 09 2009

**MAYOR'S OFFICE**



# City of Austin

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**Will Wynn, Mayor**

P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767  
(512) 974-2250, Fax (512) 974-2337  
[will.wynn@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:will.wynn@ci.austin.tx.us)

February 10, 2009

Honorable John F. Cook  
Mayor, City of El Paso  
2 Civic Center Plaza  
El Paso, Texas 79901-1153

Dear Mayor Cook,

I regret that I cannot be with you at your celebration on February 13. On behalf of the Austin City Council and the citizens of Austin, I wish to extend our heartiest congratulations to you and the citizens of El Paso on the fifth anniversary of the City's adoption of the council-manager plan of government. I understand that El Paso is the largest city in the country to convert from the mayor-council to the council-manager plan.

The voters in Austin adopted the council-manager plan of local government in 1924 but litigation delayed the actual start of the new government until 1926. Now, for over 80 years, a succession of Mayors, Council Members, and City Managers have given their best efforts to making our city a progressive community with consideration for all of our citizenry.

We believe that with the political and community leadership of the Mayor and Council, combined with skilled administration by the city manager and our 10,000 employees, our municipal government continues to enjoy the widespread support of our citizens.

Again, I congratulate El Paso on its anniversary and wish for your city many more years of excellent governance.

Regards,

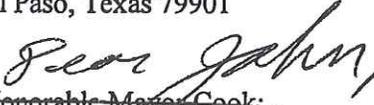
Will Wynn  
Mayor



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
PHIL HARDBERGER  
MAYOR

February 4, 2009

Honorable John Cook  
Mayor  
City of El Paso  
2 Civic Center Plaza  
10th Floor of City Hall  
El Paso, Texas 79901

  
~~Honorable Mayor Cook:~~

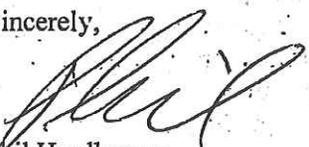
Congratulations to you and the City of El Paso in celebration of the 5-Year anniversary of the Council-Manager form of government for the City of El Paso. The Council-Manager form of government is utilized in hundreds of cities and communities across the United States and recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2008.

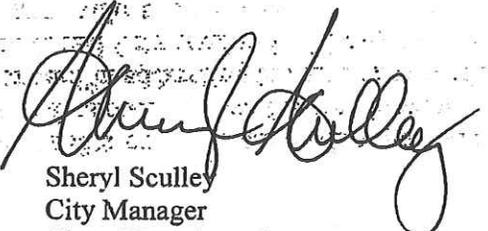
Since 1951, the City of San Antonio has enjoyed the benefits of the Council-Manager form of government and its ability to promote local government professionalism over the past 50 years. The City of San Antonio continues to progressively move forward in addressing the many needs of our local community working in tandem with the City Council and City staff and critically evaluating efficient delivery of City services and operations. This was evident in our recent announcement in obtaining "AAA" Bond rating from Standard & Poor's rating service – a first for San Antonio!

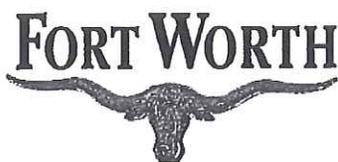
With the adoption of the Council-Manager form of government in 2004, the City of El Paso continues to move forward in meeting the needs of a growing community while also ensuring a positive quality of life for residents and guests to your city. Your hard work and dedication has also been recognized by the Texas City Management Association (TCMA) in bestowing the TCMA City Council of the Year Award in 2006. We look forward to hearing of the continued achievements from the City of El Paso and its goal of improving service delivery and recognition as a high-performance local government entity.

Again, our congratulations to you and we wish you the best in your future successes with the City of El Paso.

Sincerely,

  
Phil Hardberger  
Mayor  
City of San Antonio

  
Sheryl Sculley  
City Manager  
City of San Antonio



February 10, 2009

The Honorable John F. Cook  
Mayor, City of El Paso  
2 Civic Center Plaza  
El Paso, TX 79901-1153

Dear John,

Thank you for the gracious invitation to the fifth anniversary celebration of the council-manager form of government adopted by El Paso to be commemorated on February 13, 2009. Regretfully, due to a previous engagement I am unable to be with you and the city to pay tribute to this momentous occasion.

The City of Fort Worth adopted a council-manager form of government in 1924 and has been well-served by a succession of mayors, council members, and city managers dedicated to serving the citizens of Fort Worth. It is very impressive and notable for El Paso to be the largest city in the country to ever convert from the mayor-council form of government to the council-manager arrangement.

Once again, I am sorry I cannot attend especially considering your new leadership position with the Texas Municipal League and the respect I have for that organization. Please accept this letter of best wishes for continued success and prosperity brought to you by our City Manager Dale Fisseler in place of my absence.

Thank you again for the invitation and congratulations on this special anniversary.

God bless you and our Cities.

Sincerely,

Mike Moncrief  
Mayor

*John - It was good to see you in Dallas. Again I am sorry about your recent loss.*

**MIKE MONCRIEF, MAYOR**

THE CITY OF FORT WORTH \* 1000 THROCKMORTON STREET \* FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102  
817-392-6118 \* FAX 817-392-2409