



Odessa Civic Engagement Project

Dear Participant,

Civic Training is meant to be a pleasant, rewarding, learning experience. “Issues” or “Hot Topics” should not be discussed in this setting. Each leader will give you a background of themselves and their role within the City of Odessa. The following questions are provided as a guide for your participation. The leaders may or may not address these questions so it is up to you to ask.

Questions for Planning and Zoning – Marwan Khoury

1. Businesses considering development in Odessa generally contact your office at some point. What information do they ask for and how does your office help?
2. What are EJT’s? (extraterritorial jurisdictions)
3. How are EJT (extraterritorial jurisdictions) determined?
4. How do city’s annex?
5. How can the community help you and your office?

Questions for Asst. City Manager – Community Development – Michael Marrero

1. What programs does Odessa Community Development office manage?
2. How are partner contractors determined?
3. Are there incentives to contractors to participate in affordable housing program?
4. How can the community help you and your office?

Questions for Asst City Manager – Administration – James Zentner

1. How is sales tax determined?
2. What determines the amount of sales tax the city receives?
3. How are net assets affected by government activities?
4. What are business activities?
5. How can the community help you and your office?

Question for City Manager – Richard Morton – Asst. or substitute

1. What is included in the City’s tax base?
2. When should a city consider annexation?
3. What are user fees?
4. How can the community help you and your office?