



City of Gonzales



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Dear Gonzales Community,

To the Gonzales Community: where to start, but simply to say Thank You for allowing me to be of service for almost 18 years. I am humbled and honored to call Gonzales home. You helped me raise two great boys and were amazing to my family, and to me professionally. I am truly blessed to have landed here in 2005. You embraced my family and I without questions and made us feel welcomed. The people we have met and the lifelong friendships that we have established, are priceless. It was not an easy decision to pursue other opportunities, but I simply felt it was time to move on to the next chapter of my career. Gonzales is poised for new leadership and more importantly, for what comes next.

With the Community Center Complex Project, the new housing development around the corner (yes, this time it will happen), a deep sense of community engagement, the changes at the school district, continued economic development that will bring more jobs to the town, the increasing access to health and mental health services and programs, and the ever-amazing achievements of our youth; Gonzales is poised for greatness. I could go on, but suffice to say, the future is very bright.

While I am certainly not perfect and have not always gotten it right, I gave it my all. All the successes we have had along the way have been due to an incredible staff, an amazing community, great business and private sector partners, and numerous nonprofit agencies. All four Mayors and City Councils that I have had the privilege to work for, at heart, truly wanted and want what was and is best for Gonzales. When asked why we have had stability for so long, my response is simply that people here in Gonzales run for the right reasons and step up for the betterment of their community. This is an ethos that permeates across the town and is evident in all the Boards and Commissions and countless committees. While we sometimes had differences of opinion, we always figured it out and did what was and is best for our community. This has always been what has, and is guiding the City and will continue to do so.

This is truly a special community with resiliency, a can-do attitude, and more importantly, a Big Heart. How else do you explain a 100% vaccinated community, our incredible youth that continues to accomplish and be great, the economic development that has occurred, the innovation, and stepping up every time it was needed by someone in our community. Beyond the daily responsibility of overseeing a City, Thank You for trusting me with your children whether as the GHS Tennis Coach, Little League Baseball and Travel Ball, and many other activities and events.

As I move on to the next chapter of my career; Gonzales, you are an Amazing Community that embodies the "Gonzales Way" of Love-Care-Connect every day. Thank you for 17 great years, and for the Caring and Love you provided my Family!

Until Later,
René L. Mendez

Gonzales will continue to be a safe, clean, family-friendly community, diverse in heritage, and committed to working collaboratively to preserve and retain its small town charm