

# EDINBURG 2040

**BUILDING FOR TOMORROW'S FUTURE, TODAY!**

## **2040 Economic Development/Innovation Entrepreneurship/Workforce COMMITTEE**

City Hall-Community Room  
415 West University Dr.  
Edinburg, Texas 78541  
December 7, 2022, 2022  
Time: 6:00 P.M.

**Committee Members Present:** Pedro Salazar, Chair; Jennifer Yoder, Vice Chair, Bill Carlson, Dulce M. Cortina, Rick Carrera, and Alcinda Luna Pardo

**Staff Present:** Eddie Velarde, Director of Aviation; Raudiel Garza, Director of Edinburg Economic Development, Maria E. Ortiz, Administrative Assistant, City Secretary Department

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.

### **Discussion:**

Meeting started with the discussion on Types of Disruptive technologies suitable for the Edinburg Community and how to produce them. Renewable energy was considered as a good source but the question on where and how would it be stored and does it last long enough to justify the cost? Drone manufacturing and training would be good by the airport. The committee talked about the proposed highway connectivity out by the Edinburg International Airport and what great benefit it would be. The committee went on to discuss ways to entice young college graduates to stay in Edinburg. They would consider workforce training and getting the right companies/industries suitable for the Rio Grande Valley. They considered having more call centers in the city, starting the base rate at \$12 to \$14 an hour. Another idea to consider would be a fiber optic headquarters, hear in the City of Edinburg.

### **Action Items:**

Many topic and ideas were discussed but the entire committee agreed that the common goal is making Edinburg a Smart City with the following key goals: keeping graduates home, broadband deployment, alternative battery energy/renewable energy, mobile internet, aeronautical industry, and finding a way to preserve water.

For the next meeting they would like to invite Arminda Lozano, Director of CTE. The committee did not set a date for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

By:  \_\_\_\_\_