



# Perris News

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## Perris City Manager Shares Measure C Info With TODEC

Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez this week took the City's educational efforts about the upcoming Measure C ballot measure to one of the largest and most influential Latino community groups in town.

Belmudez, Fire Chief Justin McGough and Redevelopment Project Coordinator Veronica Arana discussed the Measure during a meeting of the group TODEC—which stands for Training Occupational Development Educating Communities—Monday night at the organization's headquarters on D Street.

They spent more than an hour answering questions from the audience of more than 60 and going over specifics about the proposal, which would impose an \$11-per-month property assessment to pay for police, fire and paramedic services.

Measure C replaces a \$289-annual assessment now paid by residents living in selected neighborhoods on the City's north and south sides.

Should Measure C fail, Perris will lose five police officers and an undetermined number of firefighters and paramedics.

The discussion was only educational, and City staff did not advocate voting in favor of the measure, which will go to Perris registered voters Tuesday.

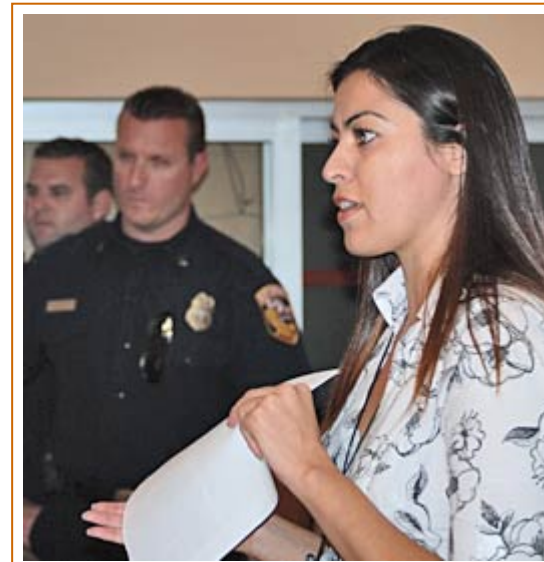
"We felt it was really important to get the word out about the importance of our public services," Belmudez said. "TODEC is an important part of our community and we wanted to inform them about the sorts of public safety services we provide and why we feel it is important to keep them at current levels. The fact that they were willing to participate in this public discussion is a great help. It shows their willingness to support community services."

The crowd was particularly enthralled by a story about the recent rescue by paramedics of a 2-year-old child who had nearly drowned. The rescue was particularly compelling as most of the people in the audience came with their infants and children.

Luz Gallegos, a TODEC official who helped organize the forum, called the evening a success because it served to educate the crowd.



Belmudez presents a certificate of appreciation to a volunteer who helped make the City's multi-cultural festival a success.



Veronica Arana, a Perris Redevelopment Project Coordinator, answers questions from the audience during a public forum with the community group TODEC. Perris Fire Chief Justin McGough looks on in the background.



City Manager Richard Belmudez and Arana address the crowd of more than 60 people.

"We just inform the people, and they make their own choice," Gallegos said. "But now they know what the Measure is all about and they can make an informed choice. They have the information. Now they can vote their conscience." Belmudez also handed out certificates of appreciation to more than 20 TODEC members who helped make the City's multi-cultural festival earlier this month a rousing success. The festival featured musical artists from Mexico and Latin America and a visit from representatives of Perris' sister city, Cotija, in the Mexican state of Michoacan.

TODEC's mission, according to the organization's website, is to empower disenfranchised immigrant communities to become economically, socially, educationally, and civically self-sufficient while enhancing individual self-esteem. The overall purpose of TODEC is to ensure equitable access to information and services for limited and non-English speaking people including immigrants and migrant workers throughout Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial counties.