

John Cowen, Jr.
Mayor



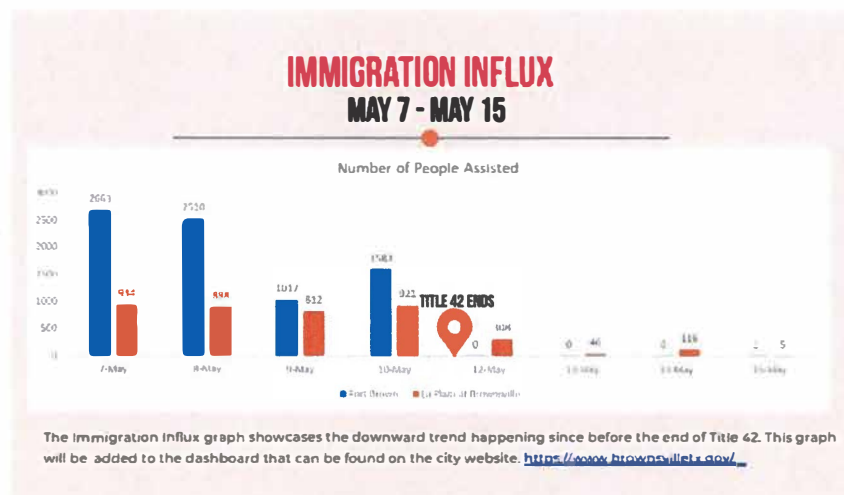
May 16, 2023

Mr. Mark Lord
Executive Director
Texas Amateur Athletic Federation
407 N. Water Street
Burnet, Texas 78611

Subject: Hosting the Summer Games of Texas in Brownsville

Dear Mr. Lord & Members of the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Brownsville to affirm our commitment, preparedness, and excitement in hosting the 2023 & 2024 Summer Games of Texas for amateur athletes. As you may be aware from recent news outlets, the ending of Title 42 has not resulted in the anticipated high numbers of migrant crossings, which is the case in Brownsville. In fact, daily reports from federal officials, here, on the ground show that as of last Friday (05/12), we have seen 1.62% in crossings at our Ports of Entry. Our City has experienced a substantial reduction in crossings of nearly 99% with the ending of Title 42. As per the following graphic, on May 14th a total of 118 migrants crossed through our Ports of Entry and on May 15th six migrants crossed, which is significantly lower from what was seen earlier this month. The migrant influx is being managed effectively and efficiently, and while this issue is indeed a humanitarian concern, it has not impacted the safety, peace, or operations of our City.



I want to reassure you that Brownsville continues to be a safe, viable, and family-friendly community. As a border community, we have effectively and safely been managing migrant influx since 2019. This is an event that is not new to us and has been managed proactively and efficiently by the City. Our safety and security is proactive and well-coordinated to ensure that our residents and visitors alike are free to enjoy all that Brownsville has to offer. In fact, since 2019, our community has consistently received distinguished recognition for maintaining Safety, Quality of Life, and community. These recognitions include:

- Top 5 Best Place to Live for Quality of Life in the U.S. per U.S. News and World Report
- Top 10 Safest Place to Live in Texas per U.S. News and World Report
- Top 20 Safest Place to Live in the U.S. per U.S. News and World Report
- The 16th Safest City in the United States per SmartAsset

What is also to be noted is that despite the migrant crossings, our City's economy continues to experience rapid and significant growth. Our City's building permits have an estimated annual value of \$232,596,473; an increase of 162.3% from Fiscal Year 2021 to Fiscal Year 2022. Private commercial investment has almost doubled between 2021 and 2022 to an estimated \$160M. Furthermore, residential investment has also doubled from 2021 to 2022 to an estimated \$265M with substantial increase in residential building permits from 634 permits in 2021 to 2,337 permits in 2022.

One of our largest City employers is SpaceX with more than 1,900 employees, here and at SpaceX Starbase, located at Boca Chica Beach in Cameron County. In fact, they are now hiring for more than 100 positions:

<https://www.spacex.com/careers/jobs/index.html?program=starship&location=starbase%252C%2520tx>.

Recently, the launch of SpaceX's Starship, the largest rocket in the world, at Starbase drew in visitors (<https://www.expressnews.com/business/article/spacex-starship-launch-draws-visitors-south-texas-17898002.php>) and aerospace fans alike by the thousands. Many of them stayed more than a week in our local hotels and regional hotels, including our neighboring beach resort town, South Padre Island.

The City of Brownsville continues coordination with local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies and continues to maintain comprehensive security measures throughout the City. Please note that the areas where migrants are utilizing as they pass through Brownsville are not adjacent to the Games of Texas competition venues. Therefore, this matter is contained in an area of the City, the southernmost point. Our proactive and responsive measures have proven effective over the years, ensuring that our community's safety remains intact.

The sports facilities in Brownsville are among the best in the state. We have numerous well-maintained venues that will be utilized for the various Games of Texas sporting events. We have even secured approximately 700-hotel rooms

(<https://gamesoftexas.com/where-to-stay/>) to date, all at a discounted rate, and are ready to welcome our Games of Texas visitors and athletes.

Our team of dedicated professionals is experienced in hosting large-scale events and is prepared to provide exceptional support for the Summer Games. So far, we have engaged the following:

- Dozens of financial and in-kind sponsorships from local business owners
- Dozens of agreements with local supporting agencies of this event
- More than 100 volunteers, and counting
- More than \$40,000 in Marketing collateral
- More than \$40,000 in Marketing campaigns + staff labor to secure earned media

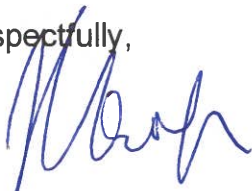
Brownsville is a City known for its hospitality and authenticity. Our community is united, and we wholeheartedly welcome guests from across the state and country. Our City offers

a variety of family-friendly activities and attractions, including the internationally famous Gladys Porter Zoo, SpaceX Starbase, and the nearby beaches of South Padre Island, making our City an excellent choice for athletes and their families who will be visiting for the Summer Games.

In conclusion, despite our recent challenges at the border, we want to reassure you that the City of Brownsville remains a safe, vibrant, and welcoming City. Our recent emergency declaration was instated, so that municipal funds can be reimbursed for managing a federal issue. The declaration is a formality, and it does not equate to an unsafe City or community. We are fully prepared and excited about hosting the Summer Games of Texas, promising an unforgettable experience for all amateur athletes and their families.

Should you require any further information or have any concerns, please feel free to contact Helen Ramirez, City Manager by email at Helen.Ramirez@Brownsvilletx.gov or by phone at (956) 548-6007. We appreciate your confidence and support and look forward to an exciting, fun-filled and safe, Summer Games of Texas in our beautiful city.

Respectfully,



John Cowen, Jr.
Honorable Mayor
City of Brownsville, Texas

City of Brownsville, Texas

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