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City of Carlsbad Receives Rising Star Award

CARLSBAD, NM – Accountant Sandy Gonzalez and the City of Carlsbad have received a Rising Star Award from the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway has announced.

The Rising Star Award is given by DFA to recognize achievements in the improved quality of budget and financial reporting of local governments who are making significant progress. Gonzalez and the City's ability to capably manage finances during a period of rapid growth was one of the factors considered. Gonzalez has worked with the City of Carlsbad for the past 17 years.

"We would not have such an amazing city government without employees like Sandy Gonzalez and the financial team, who are all excellent and dedicated public servants," Mayor Janway said. "While Sandy played a pivotal role in this process, it truly was a team effort."

According to Brenda L. Suazo-Giles, the DFA's Budget and Finance Bureau Chief, Gonzalez and Carlsbad were selected from among six municipal nominations made across New Mexico this year. The DFA also honored one county and one special district at its Nov. 15 ceremony.

The City of Carlsbad, under the direction of Director of Finance and Investments Wendy Austin, received the award due to competent managing of reporting to the Budget and Finance Bureau, as well as high quality reports in every instance, according to nomination materials.

In addition to good management, audits of the City have served as another way to see the significant improvement over past years. In 2016 there were zero violations found, reflecting a higher fiscal standard which is the result of continuous improvement. This is accompanied by extremely responsive communication with the Budget and Finance Bureau.

The City of Carlsbad's strong fiscal planning was also praised, with the work and coordination between department heads, administrators, and all employees being extremely well done. Monthly financial statements produced by the Finance Director and monitored by the Budget Manager attest that revenues are meeting expectations, all with regular financials given to the City Council.

The fact that the City of Carlsbad has a long-term plan for meeting community needs, which consists of a Disaster Preparedness Fund and one-twelfth of the General Fund being used as a safety net, was also listed as evidence of sound management that keeps in mind the needs of the community.
