



Border Security Campaign

PARTNERS

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Many have researched the safety of the U.S. Border Region and research continues to show its safety contrary to the belief about the insecurity of the U.S.-Mexico border and frequent claims for the need to secure the border to prevent the spread of violence into the rest of the country. Rarely are border residents asked how they feel about safety and crime, which could help explain the claims that the border is an insecure warzone posing a threat to the entire country.

Claims to secure national border is common, and it gives negative perceptions of an unsafe border which is not supported by official crime rates and statistics, Border Patrol apprehensions, or the everyday experiences of people in cities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Data from a survey about perceptions of crime, sense of security and safety in neighborhoods and the city in general shows results that most border city residents feel safe.

What continues to hurt the McAllen MSA is the “collateral damage” caused by this negative perception of McAllen and regional cities, but the low levels of violence show our area is safe. McAllen is 7th safest city in the nation, and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) showed McAllen was ranked second lowest in Texas for violent crimes.

Although the Anti-immigrant rhetoric, crime and immigration, perceptions of fear of crime continue, McAllen MSA residents do not display any sense of danger living within proximity to the border of Mexico. The high level of federal law enforcement agencies in our area helps deter criminal activity, but so do the increasing job opportunities in the U.S.

In McAllen there is not a border security crisis, but a humanitarian crisis caused by violence abroad, family separation, and the encampment of asylum seekers in and outside the U.S.

To address the effect of the state’s border security programs and the negative perception of the Valley being unsafe for tourism, employment, and the general economic growth that the rest of the state of Texas is experiencing, we ask our elected officials to help us in the following manner:

- Encourage public publicity for the Texas Border Region relating to the “immigration crisis” and its negative effect on cities.
- Emphasize that Valley cities are the safest cities in the state of Texas according to both state and criminal statistics.
- Encourage leaders to recognize the “collateral effect” of the negative border safety rhetoric on cities.

Prepared by:

Jim Darling
Former Mayor
City of McAllen