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McAllen Takes Center Stage at Premier North American Forum
City Manager Isaac J. Tawil Represents McAllen at High-Level Trilateral Gathering, Showcasing the City's Growing Role in Strengthening North America's Supply Chain and Economic Future

The City of McAllen is stepping onto the international stage this week, participating for the first time in the prestigious North Capital Meridian Diplomacy Forum in Washington, D.C., an invitation-only gathering of top leaders from the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Co-hosted by Meridian International Center and the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, the forum convenes more than 200 high-level decision-makers at the historic Meridian House to address some of North America's most pressing challenges and opportunities. Discussions centered on economic and food security, migration, cybersecurity, trade policy, and the future of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement ahead of its 2026 review.

Representing the City of McAllen, City Manager Isaac J. Tawil will join a select group of leaders shaping policy and collaboration across the continent, positioning McAllen as a key voice in conversations that will define North America's economic future.

During a featured session on state and local leadership, Tawil plans to highlight McAllen's strategic role in strengthening supply chain resilience, particularly in the critical minerals sector. The discussion will explore the full lifecycle of these resources, from extraction and transportation to advanced manufacturing and recycling, and the importance of cross-border coordination in maintaining a competitive North American economy.

"McAllen is transitioning from a regional partner to a global player," said Tawil. "Our location, infrastructure investments, and commitment to innovation are attracting significant foreign direct investment and creating new opportunities that strengthen both our local economy and North America's supply chain."

McAllen's growing influence is driven by major investments and infrastructure projects that are reshaping the region's economic landscape. The upcoming expansion of the Anzalduas International Bridge, an \$88 million project set to open to commercial cargo traffic, will enhance cross-border mobility and position the Rio Grande Valley as a hub for high-value manufacturing and trade. Industries such as automotive technology, medical devices, and advanced electronics continue to expand in the region, supported by recent global investments like Valeo's \$225 million project.

As North America approaches a pivotal period marked by the upcoming review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and increased global attention surrounding the 2026 World Cup, McAllen’s presence at the forum underscores its growing role in advancing cross-border collaboration, economic integration, and regional prosperity.

Participation in the North Capital Meridian Diplomacy Forum reflects the City of McAllen’s continued commitment to building strategic partnerships, investing in infrastructure, and leading conversations that shape the future of trade, innovation, and economic development across North America.

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About the City of McAllen

Founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1911, the City of McAllen has grown from a small agricultural community into one of the most vibrant and fastest-growing cities along the U.S.–Mexico border. Known as the “City of Palms,” McAllen serves as a hub for international trade, retail, tourism, and culture in the Rio Grande Valley. Today, the city employs more than 2,600 dedicated public servants across 41 departments, delivering essential services to a community of more than 150,000 residents. McAllen city leaders remain committed to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and enhancing quality of life through innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. For more information, visit www.mcallen.net and follow us on social media @cityofmcallen