



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

On December 5, 2020, El Latino, a newspaper owned and written by Abdon Horta, published an article entitled “Water Works & Hospital Irresponsables E Inhumanos.” The article disclosed the private information of an employee of the Eagle Pass Water Works System (EPWWS), without the permission or consent of the employee or his family, and contained serious misstatements and inaccurate information regarding EPWWS protocols that require correction.

EPWWS takes the safety of its employees very seriously and has implemented the recommended protocols issued by the CDC and relevant governmental authorities to protect both the public and EPWWS employees from the threat presented by COVID-19. Specifically, the article falsely claims the employee raised concerns with his supervisors regarding COVID-19 safety protocols, which went ignored. This is untrue. The employee in question did not file or communicate any complaints with EPWWS and performed a job where he was by himself most of the time. Additionally, the employee had not been in the workplace for several days prior to becoming ill.

Equally false and misleading was the article’s claim the employee complained of the number of employees in an EPWWS crew or vehicle. For over a year, EPWWS has limited the number of employees who travel in any vehicle to no more than 2 or 3 employees, depending on whether it is a regular cab or utility vehicle. Every morning EPWWS supervisors hold safety meetings and go over safety practices and protocols. Employees are asked to wear masks at all times for their protection and the protection of others. If Mr. Horta would have called the EPWWS, or researched these serious allegations as one would expect of a professional journalist, this information would have been easily discovered.

This article is just one of several instances where Mr. Horta has purposely published misleading and false written information about EPWWS. While EPWWS believes in transparency and understands journalists play an important role in that process, the lack of proper investigation and journalistic integrity demonstrated by El Latino required a strong response. EPWWS cares deeply for its customers and employees and would never jeopardize their safety in disregard of the law. Accordingly, as the General Manager of the System, I believe it is important the public receive accurate information regarding the System’s management.

Sincerely,

Jorge Barrera, General Manager, Eagle Pass Water Works System