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Lewisville considers making English its official language

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By STEVE STOLER / WFAA-TV

Video



Steve Stoler reports

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Lewisville will become the third Texas city and the largest to consider making English its official language.

City council members will consider a resolution at their meeting Monday night.

It's stirring controversy, as it did in Farmers Branch and Oak Point.

Carlos Peralta helps his daughter run her Lewisville business, which she's owned for 15 years. They can't understand why Lewisville needs an official language.

"I really don't know what they're trying to get to but I don't believe it's right," said Carlos Peralta.

Deputy mayor pro tem Lathan Watts, who put the English-only resolution on the council agenda says it's all about the future, as Lewisville grows in population and diversity.

"At some point in the future, we will get to the point where if we're translating for one and we have to translate for all, we won't have people on staff who know these languages who can translate."

Watts says it's about being frugal. Hiring people to translate would cost taxpayers money.



WFAA-TV
Carlos Peralta and his daughter

But LULAC district director Ray de los Santos questions Watts' intent.

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language.

"I think this issue is coming up now right before our election at a very inopportune time for our democracy. I think we need to be careful when we bring up these issues because they're very divisive," he said.

"It has nothing to do with race or bias for or against one language or another," Watts said.

But Carlos Peralta says he still doesn't understand why it's needed. He says making English the city's official language is offensive.

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