

Arizona Mayor Objects to English/Spanish Invitation

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Princeton, NJ - On August 17, highly-regarded *Diversity Inc.* carried a story about Huachuca City, AZ Mayor Ken Taylor's "outburst over receiving a bilingual U.S.-Mexico Border Mayors Association invitation." The article said the Mayor "refused an invitation 'in Spanish/Mexican.'" *The New York Times* also reported on the case.

"I will NOT attend a function that is sent to me in Spanish/Mexican," Taylor wrote to John Cook, Executive Director of the association and former mayor of El Paso, TX. Quoting from the email, *Diversity Inc.* reported that Taylor told Cook that "One nation means one language, and I am insulted by the division caused by language."

The U.S.-Mexico Border Mayors Association, says its website in English and Spanish, is "a leading authority on border issues" that seeks to "speak with a unified voice as we make recommendations to our State Legislatures and the U.S. Congress that will help the Mexico and United States border region grow and prosper economically."

Cook's and Taylor's exchanges continued, with increasing rancor from Taylor and with pleas for speaking with a unified voice from Cook. According to *Diversity Inc.* – bless them – Taylor's last blast said: "If Mexico is NOT stopping drugs, crime, and terrorists from coming INTO our country from Mexico, then Mexico is not a friend and I don't care to help. I have better things to do than fighting the problems they export to us."

Some facts can help here:

- Σπανιση ισ της δε φαχτο σεχονδ λανγυαγε οφ της Υνιτεδ Στατες, σποκεν βψ αβουτ 40 μιλλιον πεοπλε.
- Της Υνιτεδ Στατες ισ της ωορλδ σ τηιρδ λαργεςτ Σπανιση–σπεακινγ νατιον (αφτερ Μεξιχο ανδ Χολομβια).
- Μεξιχαν ισ νοτ α λανγυαγε.Μεξιχο σ φιρστ λανγυαγε ισ Σπανιση.
- Α λαργε περχενταγε οφ Ηυαχηυχα Χιτψ ρεσιδεντς σπεακ Σπανιση.
- Εφφεχτιωε χομμυνιχατιον, εσπεχιαλλψ ιν χροσσ–βορδερ ενγαγεμεντς, ρεθυιρες υσε οφ Ενγλιση ΑΝΔ Σπανιση.
- Χομμον χουρτεσψ ιν Υ.Σ.–Μεξιχο χομμυνιχατιονς χαλλς φορ υσινγ βοτη λανγυαγες.
- Σπανιση ισ της σεχονδ μοστ υσεδ λανγυαγε ον σοχιαλ μεδια.
- Σπανιση ισ της σεχονδ μοστ υσεδ λανγυαγε ον της ιντερνετ.
- Σπανιση ισ της σεχονδ λαργεςτ νατιωε λανγυαγε ιν της ωορλδ, αφτερ Μανδαριν.

- Της Ηισπανιχ ποπυλατιον ανδ ελεχτορατε ιν Αριζονα ανδ ιν τηε νατιον αρε γρωωινγ; το δισδαιν τηεμ ανδ τηειρ ποτεσ ις νοτ σμαρτ.
- Σπανιση–σπεακινγ Αμεριχανσ αρε αν ασσετ το τηε Υνιτεδ Στατεσ οφ Αμεριχα.
- Σπανιση ις τηε μοστ στυδιεδ σεχονδ λανγυαγε ιν τηε Υνιτεδ Στατεσ.
- Μανψ χουντριεσ αρε οφφικιαλλψ βιλινγυαλ ανδ εωεν τρι–λινγυαλ (ε.γ., Σωιτζερλανδ), ανδ υσε τηειρ λανγυαγεσ το αδωανχε νατιοναλ ιντερεστσ.

The Research Institute of United States Spanish (RIUSS) is compelled to give a “thumbs down” to Mayor Taylor’s comments and attitude. “RIUSS finds attitudes such as that of Mayor Taylor out of step with America’s history as a nation of immigrants and with its values, history and future,” said Leticia Molinero, President of RIUSS. “We are not a political organization. Our purpose is to commission and disseminate research on the oral and written use of United States Spanish; hold symposia, conferences and webinars on United States Spanish; and serve as a clearinghouse on United States Spanish.”

A nonprofit membership organization, RIUSS seeks to serve by building bridges of communication between English- and Spanish-speakers, thereby promoting better services to all. And this includes Huachuca City, Arizona. For more information on the Institute visit www.RIUSS.org.

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WHERE :

CONTACT:

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