

# Family says land was cemetery for infants

By David Crowder

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Maria Perez and members of her family think the site of Sun Metro's future Mission Valley Transit Terminal may be an unmarked baby cemetery.

With her parents at her side on Tuesday, she recounted the story of a family secret revealed by her parents only last week.

She told El Paso City Council members that one of the babies buried there may be her brother, Jesus Maria Perez, who was born and died on the same day 50 years ago at the former Delgado Green Cross Hospital, later known as the Ysleta General Hospital, on Harris Street at Alameda Avenue.

That is the property the City Council voted to buy two weeks ago for \$500,000 from Dr. Pedro Ortega, who, until recently, operated the Ysleta Medical Center at the site. Ortega could not be reached for comment.

Maria Perez, 52, said her family wanted city officials to know what might have taken place on the grounds of the old hospital a long time ago.

But Chaya Hinojosa, an 85-year-old Lower Valley resident who spent her entire career working for Dr. Roger Delgado from 1940 until he sold the hospital in 1968, disputes the Perez story.

"That's the biggest lie I ever heard. No way. That never happened," Hinojosa said Tuesday night on hearing what the City Council had been told.

She said she worked as a practical nurse at the hospital until 1955 and then transferred to the business office, where she handled accounts and typed birth certificates.

The Cuban-born Delgado died in 1991, Hinojosa said, and

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