

**FROM THE DESK OF
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To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the El Paso City Council:

First, thank you for your public service to our community. I also commend the city staff for their proactive work in promoting density and advancing best practices in urban planning. Citizens may disagree with certain recommendations, but the fact that our municipal staff is directly addressing these challenges deserves recognition.

Because the issues of parking minimum reductions and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are often conflated, I will address them separately.

Accessory Dwelling Units

The ADU proposal is a necessary response to decades of unchecked urban sprawl in the greater El Paso area. According to 2020 census data, the county's fastest growing neighborhoods are in far East El Paso (79927 and 79928), while the urban core (79901 and 79902) continues to lose population. As a resident of 79902 and a commercial property owner in 79901, I see firsthand how this sprawl has fueled school closures, urban decay, and heavier taxpayer burdens—paid-for infrastructure in the core is left underutilized while new, duplicative systems are built at the edges of the city.

This proposal strikes a reasonable balance between property owner flexibility and neighborhood safeguards. Provisions such as size limits, fire-rated setbacks, and window restrictions protect privacy and safety. Meanwhile, eliminating outdated parking requirements reflects modern housing needs and promotes more efficient land use. Taken together, these updates lower barriers for homeowners, expand attainable housing options, and align with El Paso's long-term goal of building vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive neighborhoods.

The Council may wish to strengthen the ordinance by considering:

- Owner occupancy requirements (verified through the CAD homestead exemption) to encourage proper upkeep;
- Occupancy limits of one residential family per ADU to prevent overcrowding and slum housing; and
- Stronger code enforcement to ensure compliance with municipal rules and regulations.

Parking Minimum Reductions

The proposed amendment to the Uptown Parking Benefit District is a smart, forward-looking reform that strengthens governance and ensures fair representation for one of El Paso's most dynamic districts. By standardizing the advisory committee and expanding district boundaries, the ordinance gives residents, businesses, and institutions a stronger voice in how parking revenues are reinvested. This approach directly addresses long-standing concerns in commercial corridors and adjacent neighborhoods while enhancing quality of life and supporting economic vitality.

Equally important, the ordinance recognizes that parking needs in the urban core differ significantly from suburban standards. With revenues reinvested locally, the Uptown Parking Benefit District will be able to fund community improvements—ranging from infrastructure upgrades to safety and beautification initiatives. These updates align squarely with Council's vision of fostering sustainable economic growth while ensuring that development benefits both businesses and residents.

The Council may also wish to consider:

- Minimizing signage clutter in historic districts by leveraging modern technology for enforcement and communication; and
- Robust code enforcement to ensure compliance with rules and to protect the character of our neighborhoods.

The City should be commended for proactively tackling these issues. While no proposal is perfect, these reforms represent thoughtful, proven steps toward combating urban sprawl and revitalizing the urban core. However, without consistent enforcement, these policies risk falling short—the current unkempt state of our cityscape gives one pause about the City's commitment to meaningful code enforcement.

Finally, I urge Council to rise above NIMBY opposition and give weight to the voices of those who have already invested in the heart of our community—citizens like Roberto Palacios and Miguel Fernandez, who will be speaking before you tomorrow. Their demonstrated commitment to our core justifies giving their perspective elevated consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Alex Hoffman', written in a cursive, stylized font.

Cc: Dionne Mack, City Manager
Alex Hoffman, City Planning