



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes January 14, 2026

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5

Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Canales at 6:00 PM.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Laura Sánchez	X	
Silvia Serna	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco	X	
Celinda Crews	X	
Alejandra Valdez		X
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Mary Bardouche	X	
Elvira Stephanie Frias	X	
Raquel Ellis		X
Tess Passero	X	
Megan Sesker	X	
Chris Canales	X	

Animal Services staff present: Interim Director Michael Wachsmann, Maria Arciniega, Veronica Frescas, Gina Ramirez, Julieanne Newbold, Jose Cortez, Michele Anderson

Other City staff present: Deputy City Manager Richard Bristol, Deputy City Attorney Josette Flores, Assistant City Attorney Carlos Armendariz, Assistant City Attorney Mona Heydarian, Assistant City Attorney Eric Gutierrez, El Paso Police Department Animal Cruelty Investigations Unit (ACIU) Detective Kristopher Serna, Ricardo Hernandez

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
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1. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval minutes for December 10, 2025.

Sandra DiFrancesco moved to approve the December 10, 2025 minutes; Stephanie Frias seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed; and motion passed unanimously.

2. Reports of Officers, Staff and Subcommittees.

A. Chair Report

Chair Chris Canales provided an update on City Council meeting agenda item for discussion on Title 7. He also shared information about the Borderland Animal Welfare Collaborative Round table hosted by the El Paso Community Foundation.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Silvia Serna
- Tess Passero

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

B. El Paso Animal Services January update and statistics

EPAS Interim Director Michael Wachsmann presented the December Director's Report and Statistics. Report is attached.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Chris Canales
- Celinda Crews
- Tess Passero
- Barbara Candelaria
- Laura Sanchez

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

3. Regular Agenda

- **Discussion and action on presentation for proposed Title 7-Animal ordinance amendments. - Michael Wachsmann, El Paso Animal Services Interim Director.**

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
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The following members of ASAC commented:

- Tess Passero
- Sandra DiFrancesco
- Silvia Serna
- Celinda Crews
- Laura Sanchez
- Megan Sesker
- Chris Canales

The following staff members commented:

- Michael Wachsmann
- Mona Heydarian

Silvia Serna moved to recommend approval of the ordinance as proposed to the City Council; Stephanie Frias seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed; and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Chris Canales and Interim Director Michael Wachsmann said that they would communicate the ASAC's adopted position and recommended approval to the City Council.

- **Discussion and action on the preparation of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Annual Report- Chris Canales**

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Celinda Crews
- Tess Passero
- Chris Canales

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

4. Call to the Public

No members of the public spoke.

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
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5. Adjournment

Tess Passero moved to adjourn; Laura Sanchez seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed; and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Prepared by Maria Arciniega; edited by Chris Canales

Approved by ASAC Chair: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CC", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Canales

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
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