



City of El Paso Agenda Summary Form

City Clerk

Submitted On:

Aug 11, 2026, 11:04AM EDT

Add Image	
Department / Council Office	Economic and International Development
Agenda Date	August 17, 2026
Public Hearing Date	
Email of User Submitting Form	alvaradoia@elpasotexas.gov
Contact Person	Israel Alvarado 9154433421
2nd Contact Person	Karina Brasgalla 9152120094
District(s) Affected	All Districts
Agenda Item	Discussion and Action on a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Updated Sister Cities Agreement Between the City of El Paso and the City of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico.
Issue Statement	Approve and Updated Sister Cities Agreement between the City of El Paso and the City of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico, to strengthen the longstanding partnership between both municipalities and establish an updated framework for continued binational cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Mexican international agreements law states that international agreements are subject to review and approval from the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE). The proposed resolution will allow the mayor to execute the agreement once it has received final clearance from the SRE and been reviewed by the city attorney's office.
Background	The proposed Sister Cities Agreement updates and modernizes the longstanding partnership between the City of El Paso and the City of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico, by establishing a permanent framework for cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The agreement advances the City's International Policy Agenda, adopted by City Council on April 14, 2025 (File 325-336), by promoting international collaboration in economic development, trade, investment, education, culture, tourism, public safety, environmental sustainability, and the exchange of governmental best practices that strengthen regional competitiveness and share prosperity. The proposed signing date is August 25, 2026.
Council Options	1. Approve the Resolution 2. Direct staff to make revisions to the proposed Resolution and/or Sister Cities Agreement and return the item to City Council consideration.

Committee Review and/or Recommendation	N/A
Community and Stakeholder Outreach (if applicable, as an attachment) – please include	Coordination occurred between the City of El Paso, the City of Chihuahua, The Mexican Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE), The City Attorney's Office, and the Economic and International development Department throughout the development and review of the proposed agreement. Feedback received during the intergovernmental and legal review process was incorporated into the final draft to ensure consistency with applicable legal requirements and the mutual objectives of both municipalities.
Related City Policies	City of El Paso International Policy Agenda (Adopted April 14, 2025; File #25-336) City of El Paso Strategic Plan (March 2026)
Prior Council Action	May 21, 2022 - City Council approved a resolution authorizing the execution of the original Sister Cities Agreement between the City of El Paso and the City of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico. November 18, 2008 - City Council Approved a Resolution authorizing the execution of an updated Sister Cities Agreement between the City of El Paso and the City of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico. April 14, 2025 - City Council adopted the City of El Paso International Policy Agenda (File # 25-336), identifying the strengthening of international partnerships and Sister Cities relationships as a strategic priority.
The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the documents and signed off on the necessary forms	Yes
Amount and Source of Funding	Not Applicable. No City funds are requested as part of this action. Any future activities conducted under the Agreement will be subject to availability of appropriated funds and applicable budgetary approvals.
Enter the elected official's name followed by the amount donated.	Not Applicable.
For More Information	Israel Alvarado 9154433421 alvaradoia@elpasotexas.gov

RESOLUTION**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

THAT the Mayor be authorized to execute, in counterpart originals in both English and Spanish languages, an Updated Sister City Agreement between the City of El Paso, State of Texas, United States of America and the City of Chihuahua, State of Chihuahua, of the United Mexican States, in a form substantially similar to the attached after review and approval by the City Attorney's office.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

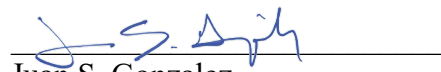
CITY OF EL PASO:

Renard U. Johnson
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Juan S. Gonzalez
Senior Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Karina Brasgalla, Director
Economic & International Development

**SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO
BETWEEN
THE CITY OF CHIHUAHUA, CHIHUAHUA, UNITED MEXICAN STATES
AND
THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The City of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, United Mexican States, and the City of El Paso, Texas, United States of America, hereinafter individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”;

WHEREAS, the historic relations of friendship, cooperation, and understanding between the United Mexican States and the United States of America are reflected in the close ties existing between the City of Chihuahua and the City of El Paso;

WHEREAS, both cities share important economic, commercial, cultural, educational, tourism, and social ties, strengthened through decades of institutional collaboration, citizen exchanges, and business relationships;

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize the importance of promoting economic development, innovation, competitiveness, environmental sustainability, public safety, education, culture, and the well-being of their residents through coordinated actions for mutual benefit;

WHEREAS, the City of Chihuahua and the City of El Paso share opportunities to promote international trade, investment, industrial development, particularly in strategic sectors such as advanced manufacturing and the aerospace industry, as well as tourism and cultural promotion throughout the region;

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to strengthen institutional collaboration among their governments, public agencies, private sector organizations, academic institutions, and civil society organizations in order to promote prosperity, innovation, resilience, and social well-being for the benefit of both communities;

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize the desirability of establishing a clear and permanent institutional framework to facilitate the planning, implementation, and monitoring of cooperation activities in areas of mutual interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

**ARTICLE I
OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish and promote permanent cooperation between the Parties through the development and implementation of collaborative activities in areas of mutual interest, including trade, investment, productive activities, industry, innovation, technology, education, culture, tourism, environmental sustainability, animal welfare, public safety, civil

protection, the exchange of governmental best practices, and any other sector jointly determined by the Parties.

The cooperation activities contemplated under this Agreement shall be intended to strengthen institutional relations between the Parties, promote regional economic development, improve the quality of life of their residents, and foster shared prosperity throughout the binational region.

ARTICLE II GENERAL COMMITMENTS

Within the framework of coordinated actions for the creation and development of areas of mutual interest, the Parties undertake to act in strict accordance with their respective legal powers and authorities, in compliance with applicable national, state, and local legislation, as well as the political and economic policies of their respective governments.

Likewise, the Parties shall promote institutional cooperation, the exchange of information, experiences, technical knowledge, and best practices, seeking effective communication and the orderly, transparent, and efficient implementation of activities carried out under this Agreement.

ARTICLE III SPECIFIC COOPERATION PROJECTS

The Parties shall encourage the creation, development, and implementation of specific projects with the participation of their respective public, private, academic, and social sectors, as appropriate, for the purpose of exchanging technologies, experiences, technical knowledge, best practices, and professional training.

Such projects shall be primarily aimed at promoting economic activity, innovation, competitiveness, institutional capacity building, the exchange of specialized knowledge, and community well-being within the framework of cooperation and mutual benefit established under this Agreement.

Specific projects developed pursuant to this Agreement shall be formalized in writing and shall include, as appropriate, the provisions necessary for the execution of the corresponding cooperation activities, including at least:

- I. The purpose and scope of the project;
- II. The activities to be carried out by each Party;
- III. Coordination and administrative mechanisms;
- IV. The responsibilities and commitments of each Party;
- V. The human, material, technical, and financial resources, if any, to be contributed;

VI. Provisions relating to the temporary exchange of experts, technicians, researchers, public officials, and other specialized personnel;

VII. The implementation schedule;

VIII. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and

IX. Any other information deemed necessary by the Parties for its proper implementation.

The implementation of specific projects under this Agreement shall be subject to the budgetary, financial, material, and human resources available to each Party, as well as the applicable legislation within their respective jurisdictions.

ARTICLE IV AREAS OF COLLABORATION

For the purpose of achieving the objective set forth in Article I of this Agreement, the Parties shall promote cooperation activities, including, but not limited to, the following:

a) Trade Promotion.

Through collaboration among public agencies, chambers of commerce, and private sector organizations from both cities, for the purpose of facilitating cross-border trade, business development, and market expansion.

Such cooperation may include the organization of trade missions, business meetings, participation in national and international fairs and exhibitions, the exchange of information regarding regulatory requirements and market opportunities, as well as business matchmaking mechanisms, supplier identification, and the strengthening of binational supply chains.

b) Investment Promotion.

Through the exchange of business delegations, information regarding investment opportunities and business prospects, as well as the dissemination of existing mechanisms designed to promote joint investments, in addition to the identification and dissemination of applicable legislation.

c) Industrial Promotion.

Through cooperation in the design and implementation of strategies aimed at stimulating regional exports and promoting cooperation among industries of both Parties, particularly within the aerospace and semiconductor industries.

d) Tourism Promotion.

Through participation in tourism forums, seminars, conferences, festivals, and special events, as well as through the exchange of information regarding the characteristics of their respective

markets and the promotion of principal tourist destinations, with the purpose of increasing activity within this economic sector.

The Parties shall promote coordinated efforts to position Chihuahua and El Paso as complementary destinations within a dynamic and competitive binational region through the development of joint promotional and positioning strategies highlighting the region as a comprehensive destination, emphasizing its cultural, gastronomic, historical, commercial, and business attractions, as well as coordinating campaigns, routes, and tourism events of mutual interest.

e) Cultural and Educational Promotion.

Through the implementation of academic, artistic, and cultural exchange programs involving students, teachers, researchers, artists, and cultural professionals, while fostering mutual understanding of their respective cultures, historical and geographical characteristics, as well as the teaching and dissemination of their respective languages.

The Parties shall promote festivals, exhibitions, academic forums, artistic performances, educational activities, and initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting the historical and cultural heritage of both communities.

f) Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Development.

Through the exchange of experiences and best practices relating to environmental protection, efficient resource utilization, climate change adaptation, urban resilience, sustainable energy management, and the enhancement of community quality of life.

g) Animal Welfare.

Through the exchange of experiences, public policies, and programs related to animal welfare, humane urban animal management, spay and neuter campaigns, responsible adoption initiatives, public education, and institutional strengthening in matters related to animal protection.

h) Public Safety, Civil Protection, and Emergency Response.

Through joint training and educational programs for public safety personnel, emergency responders, and civil protection personnel, including training programs, courses, exercises, certifications, and the exchange of specialized knowledge relating to prevention, emergency response, firefighting, rescue operations, and community safety.

i) Government Best Practices.

Through the exchange of experiences relating to open government, transparency, regulatory improvement, administrative simplification, public innovation, digital government, citizen participation, and institutional strengthening.

j) Any other area agreed upon in writing by the Parties in accordance with applicable legislation.

ARTICLE V AUTHORITIES

The cooperation activities contemplated under this Agreement shall be implemented by such departments, agencies, or entities as may be designated by the Parties in accordance with their respective legal powers and authorities.

The designated agencies may coordinate with public entities, academic institutions, chambers of commerce, civil society organizations, and any other entities necessary to achieve the objectives of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI ANNUAL OPERATING PROGRAMS

For the purpose of promoting the objectives of this Agreement, the Parties may develop Annual Operating Programs.

Each Annual Operating Program may include, among other matters:

- I. Objectives and activities to be carried out;
- II. Work schedule;
- III. Responsibilities of each Party;
- IV. Required human, material, and financial resources;
- V. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- VI. Performance indicators; and
- VII. Any other information necessary for its proper implementation.

The preparation of Annual Operating Programs shall not obligate the Parties to undertake activities in all areas of cooperation contemplated under this Agreement.

The Parties may meet periodically to evaluate progress resulting from the implementation of this Agreement and to propose new areas of cooperation and projects of mutual interest.

ARTICLE VII ADDITIONAL COLLABORATION PROPOSALS

Without prejudice to the Annual Operating Programs and ongoing specific projects, either Party may submit additional collaboration proposals at any time arising from needs, opportunities, or areas of mutual interest identified during the course of this Agreement.

Such proposals may give rise to the development of new projects, activities, exchanges, or cooperation mechanisms, subject to acceptance by both Parties and in accordance with their respective authorities, resource availability, and applicable legislation.

ARTICLE VIII COORDINATION AND MONITORING MECHANISM

For the purpose of coordinating, supervising, and evaluating activities carried out under this Agreement, the Parties shall establish a Binational Working Group composed of representatives designated by each Party.

On behalf of the City of Chihuahua, the Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness is hereby designated.

On behalf of the City of El Paso, the Economic and International Development Department, or its successor agency, is hereby designated.

The Working Group shall have the following functions:

- I. Identify areas of mutual interest;
- II. Formulate recommendations for the development of projects;
- III. Monitor cooperation activities;
- IV. Evaluate results and propose improvements;
- V. Receive and review reports regarding the progress of cooperation activities carried out under this Agreement;
- VI. Propose the development or updating of Annual Operating Programs; and
- VII. Any other function agreed upon by the Parties.

ARTICLE IX FINANCING

The cooperation activities contemplated under this Agreement shall be subject to the budgetary, financial, material, and human resources available to each Party.

Nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any financial obligation for either Party.

Each Party shall bear the costs arising from its participation, unless otherwise expressly agreed in writing.

ARTICLE X PROTECTED INFORMATION

The Parties agree that information classified or protected under the applicable legislation of either Party shall not be transferred pursuant to this Agreement.

Should information requiring special protection be identified, the Parties shall adopt the necessary measures to ensure its proper safeguarding and handling.

The transfer of information that is not protected or classified, but whose export is controlled by either Party, shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable national legislation, regulations, governmental directives, or legal authority of either Party and shall be properly identified, including its use or subsequent transfer. If either Party deems it necessary, the necessary measures shall be implemented to prevent unauthorized transfer or retransfer.

ARTICLE XI INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

The cooperation contemplated under this Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations assumed by the Parties under other international instruments or legal provisions applicable to them.

ARTICLE XII INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property rights that may arise from activities carried out under this Agreement shall be governed by the applicable laws of each country and by the international treaties in force concerning such matters.

ARTICLE XIII PARTICIPATING PERSONNEL

The Parties may promote the temporary exchange of experts, technicians, researchers, academics, public officials, and other specialized personnel for the purpose of carrying out cooperation activities under this Agreement. The modalities, duration, and conditions applicable to such exchanges shall be agreed upon by the Parties on a case-by-case basis.

Participating personnel shall remain under the direction and authority of their respective employing institution, and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating employment relationship with the other Party.

The Parties shall endeavor, within the scope of their respective authorities and in accordance with applicable legislation, to facilitate the participation of personnel involved in cooperation activities contemplated under this Agreement. Such personnel shall comply with all applicable immigration, tax, customs, health, and national security provisions in force in the receiving country as well as with any other legal requirements of the receiving country, and may not engage in activities unrelated to their functions.

**ARTICLE XIV
DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved by mutual agreement between the Parties.

**ARTICLE XV
FINAL PROVISIONS**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall remain in effect indefinitely unless either Party decides to terminate it by written notice to the other Party at least six (6) months in advance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either Party may terminate this Agreement immediately by written notice if its implementation is prohibited by, or becomes incompatible with, the applicable legislation, regulations, governmental directives, or legal authority of either Party.

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties through a written instrument.

The early termination of this Agreement shall not affect the completion of projects or activities formalized during its term.

Signed in the City of El Paso, Texas, United States of America, on the ____ day of _____, 2026, in two original counterparts in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE CITY OF CHIHUAHUA,
CHIHUAHUA,
UNITED MEXICAN STATES

FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO,
TEXAS,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Marco Antonio Bonilla Mendoza
Mayor

Renard U. Johnson
Mayor

WITNESS

WITNESS:

DRAFT