



# El Paso Animal Services

**MAYOR**

Renard U. Johnson

## Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes

October 8, 2025

**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	
Chris Canales	X	

Animal Services staff present: Interim Director Michael Wachsmann, Operations Manager Adan Parra, Maria Arciniega, Veronica Frescas, Gina Ramirez, Julieanne Newbold, Jose Cortez, Wesley Walker

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

**1. Approval of Minutes**

*Discussion and action on approval of corrected minutes for August 13, 2025.*

*Sandy DiFrancesco moved to approve the August 13, 2025 minutes and Stephanie Frias seconded. All members voted in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.*





# El Paso Animal Services

## *Discussion and action on approval of corrected minutes for September 10, 2025*

### **MAYOR**

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*Silvia Serna moved to approve the September 10, 2025 minutes; Tess Passero seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed; and motion passed unanimously.*

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## **2. Reports of Officers, Staff and Subcommittees.**

### **A. Chair Report**

Chair Chris Canales provided an update on Pet Pantries.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Tess Passero
- Celinda Crews
- Barbara Candelaria

*NO ACTION was taken on this item.*

### **B. El Paso Animal Services October update and statistics**

Michael Wachsmann presented the September statistics. Report is attached.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Celinda Crews
- Chris Canales
- Barbara Candelaria
- Mary Bardouche
- Tess Passero

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

*NO ACTION was taken on this item.*

## **3. Regular Agenda**

**A.** Discussion and action on establishing a subcommittee to investigate the use of increased Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on multiple platforms to foster a greater public awareness of available services and of the contribution of staff of El Paso Animal Services toward animal welfare in El Paso. - Celinda Crews



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## CITY MANAGER

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The following members of ASAC commented:

- Chris Canales
- Celinda Crews
- Silvia Serna

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

*NO ACTION was taken on this item.*

- B.** Discussion and action on establishing a subcommittee to review the housing and sanitation of the shelter facilities, to include the adequacy of the housing for sick, injured, or diseased animals to maintain separation from healthy animals, for the purposes of providing guidance and advice to the shelters, and reporting to and making recommendations to the city council. - Celinda Crews

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Chris Canales
- Celinda Crews
- Tess Passero
- Barbara Candelaria
- Dr. Raquel Ellis
- Mary Bardouche
- Silvia Serna

The following staff member commented:

- Michael Wachsmann

*NO ACTION was taken on this item.*

## 4. Call to the Public

The following members of the public spoke:

Eileen Mendoza



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**5. Adjournment**

*Tess Passero moved to adjourn; Silvia Serna seconded, all members voted in favor; none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Prepared by Maria Arciniega; edited by Chris Canales

Approved by ASAC Chair:

Chris Canales