



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes February 11, 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 by Vice-Chair Tess Passero at 6:01 PM.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Laura Sánchez	X	
Silvia Serna	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco	X	
Celinda Crews	X	
Vacant		
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: Michael Wachsmann, Maria Arciniega, Michele Anderson, Wesley Walker

Richard Bristol, Mona Heydarian, Eric Gutierrez, Kristopher Serna

1. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval minutes for January 14, 2026.

Laura Sanchez motioned to approve the January 14, 2026 minutes; Mary Bardouche seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously

2. Reports of Officers, Staff and Subcommittees.

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov





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A. Chair Report

Tess Passero – Vice-Chair, provided an update on a change that requires this committee to meet in person moving forward starting March. Informed City Council unanimously adopted the Aggressive and Vicious dog Ordinance as ASAC recommended. Mentioned the spay-a-thon happening in the next few months.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Sandra DiFrancesco
- Tess Passero
- Raquel Ellis
-

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

B. El Paso Animal Services February update and statistics

Michael Wachsmann presented the January statistics. Report is attached.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Silvia Serna
- Celinda Crews
- Barbara Candelaria
- Raquel Ellis
- Mary Bardouche
- Tess Passero

The following staff member commented:

- Michael Wachsmann

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

3. Regular Agenda

- Presentation by legal on ASAC duties - Mona Heydarian, Assistant City Attorney I.

The following members of ASAC commented:

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
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- Barbara Candelaria
- Megan Sesker
- Mary Bardouche
- Tess Passero

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

- Discussion on Special Meeting to go into Executive Session per Section 551.074 - PERSONNEL MATTERS

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Tess Passero
- Barbara Candelaria
- Sandra DiFrancesco
- Raquel Ellis
- Mary Bardouche

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Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

District 8

Chris Canales

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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Dionne Mack

4. Call to the Public

None

5. Adjournment

Silvia Serna motioned to adjourn; Laura Sanchez seconded, all members voted in favor; none opposed, and motion passed unanimously; the meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Prepared by: Maria Arciniega

Approved by A.S.A.C Chairman: _____

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
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