

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1
ALEXANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3
JOE MOLINAR, DISTRICT 4
ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5
CLAUDIA L. RODRIGUEZ, DISTRICT 6
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7
CISSY LIZARRAGA, DISTRICT 8

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 6, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL AND VIRTUALLY
9:05 A.M.**

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The City Council of the City of El Paso met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 10:17 a.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser was present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Alexandra Annello, Cassandra Hernandez, Joe Molinar, Isabel Salcido, Henry Rivera, and Cissy Lizarraga. Late Arrival: Peter Svarzbein at 10:18. Claudia Rodriguez requested to be excused.

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AGENDA
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1. Presentation and discussion by the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Cross-Functional Team providing information on key activities, efforts, and processes.

1. Overview (Tommy Gonzalez)

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, provided an update on the current status of the pandemic by explaining that the 7-day rolling average of the number of positive COVID-19 cases were eight times higher than cases reported at the beginning of May. He said hospitalizations were also increasing however the number was still low. Mr. Gonzalez said the current trends reflected that the vaccine was effective against severe illness and noted that 82% of the local community was fully vaccinated. He ended the overview by providing the hours of operation at vaccination sites along with the website address and phone number for obtaining additional COVID-19 information.

2. City Attorney Overview (Karla Nieman)

- a) Greg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas v. City of El Paso & Statewide Mask Mandate Litigation
- b) Additional Updates

Ms. Kristen Hamilton-Karam, Senior Assistant City Attorney, continued the presentation by stating that the City's mask mandate litigation was still pending along with other related cases filed against the State. She explained that per the Texas Supreme Court Emergency Order, remote hearings were allowed however, El Paso Municipal Court anticipated that in person jury trials would resume on June 23, 2022.

3. Team Lead Report:

- a) Health Focus (Hector Ocaranza, M.D.)

Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Public Health Authority, highlighted the effectiveness of the vaccine against hospitalizations and death and encouraged the community to seek vaccinations and boosters. He attributed the upward trend to subvariants, large gatherings at end of school celebrations and the recent holiday however, he expects a decrease with kids out for the summer break.

4. City Manager Wrap-up (Tommy Gonzalez)

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, closed the presentation by reiterating that infections were on the rise and said that although cases were mild it is important to remain vigilant of any subvariants.

Representative Svarzbein, commented.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Salcido, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 10:46 a.m. pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 - 551.089 to discuss the executive session items:

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY
Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rivera, and Lizarraga
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Representative Rodriguez

Motion made by Representative Molinar, seconded by Representative Rivera, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 2:16 p.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Molinar, Salcido, and Rivera
NAYS: None
NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Hernandez and Lizarraga
ABSENT: Representative Rodriguez

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EX1. City Attorney and City Manager annual performance evaluations. Matter No. 21-1043-688 (551.071) (551.074)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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ADJOURN

Motion made by Representative Rivera, seconded by Representative Molinar and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

AYES: Representatives Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Molinar, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, and Lizarraga
NAYS: None
NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Hernandez and Lizarraga
ABSENT: Representative Rodriguez

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk