

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS  
AGENDA ITEM  
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

**DEPARTMENT:** Mayor and Council

**AGENDA DATE:** 11/23/2021 (Regular Agenda)

**CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:**

Rep. Cissy Lizarraga, 915-212-0008

Co-sponsor:

Rep. Cassandra Hernandez, 915-212-0003

**DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:** All

**STRATEGIC GOAL:**

Goal 5 - Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Amongst All Members of the Community

Goal 8 - Nurture and Promote a Healthy, Sustainable Community

**SUBJECT:**

**APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.**

Discussion and action to approve a resolution to adopt definitions of bullying and cyberbullying outside of educational settings in an effort to protect children

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

**Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?**

Texas State Law and the El Paso City Code do not offer clear definitions of bullying and cyberbullying outside of school or educational settings, particularly when the offending person or "bully" is not a student and/or not a child. This resolution adopts such definitions, for semantic purposes, for the sake of future discussions of the El Paso City Council concerning bullying or cyberbullying.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

**Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?**

No.

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

**How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?**

N/A

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\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso strives to foster an environment that is conducive to nurturing our youth; and

**WHEREAS**, “bullying” and “cyberbullying” of youth are harmful social phenomena that transcend school and student settings; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing definitions of “bullying” and “cyberbullying” that transcends school and student settings promotes greater recognition and prevention of harm to youth; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently limited definitions of “bullying” and “cyberbullying” for acts outside a school or student setting; and

**WHEREAS**, a semantic definition of “bullying” and “cyberbullying” is a workable solution to make protection of children outside a school and student setting an objective of a code of conduct.

### **BE IT RESLOVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

- 1) That when the definitions of “Bullying” and “Cyberbullying” fall outside the definitions of Texas Education Code Section 37.0832, the City of El Paso may adopt for semantic purposes a revised definition of bullying and cyberbullying of a child or children outside a school or student setting, as follows:

A “child” is an unemancipated person younger than seventeen years of age; and

“Bullying” means a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more persons, directed at a child, that exploits an imbalance of power; and that

- i. has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a child; and/or
- ii. is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment for a child; and/or
- iii. discloses private information about a child that may be detrimental to the child’s safety or wellbeing; and/or
- iv. infringes on the rights of a child;

and in the more narrow case of “cyberbullying” involves engaging in such conduct through electronic means.

- 2) And that this Resolution be appended for reference to the Code of Conduct for the El Paso City Council and all other elected officials and board members, along with the following Anti-Bullying Statement:

The bullying or cyberbullying of a child or children as defined in this Resolution, or of any person, is unacceptable conduct for Elected or Appointed Officials within the City of El Paso organization.

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.


**CITY OF EL PASO:**

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Oscar Leeser  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Laura D. Prine  
City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
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Karla M. Nieman  
City Attorney