

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



DEPARTMENT / COUNCIL OFFICE:

AGENDA DATE:

PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

CONTACT PERSON NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

2nd CONTACT PERSON NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:

AGENDA ITEM:

REVISED
8:00 am, May 29, 2026

ISSUE STATEMENT:

BACKGROUND:

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

COMMITTEE REVIEW AND/OR RECOMMENDATION:

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH (if applicable, as an attachment) – please include:

RELATED CITY POLICIES:

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

LEGAL REVIEW:

Legal counsel reviewed as a part of Council packet

Legal counsel reviewed in advance of packet as an individual item

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

REPORTING OF CONTRIBUTION OR DONATION TO CITY COUNCIL:

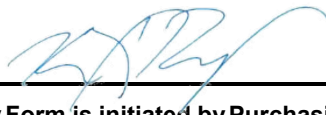
NAME	AMOUNT (\$)

ATTACHMENTS:

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

SIGNATURE:



(If Agenda Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

**RENEWAL OF THE SISTER CITY AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO
BETWEEN
CIUDAD JUÁREZ, STATE OF CHIHUAHUA, UNITED MEXICAN STATES
AND
THE CITY OF EL PASO, STATE OF TEXAS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Ciudad Juárez, State of Chihuahua, United Mexican States, and the City of El Paso, State of Texas, United States of America, individually referred to as the *Party* and collectively as the *Parties*, have decided to renew the commitments established in the Sister City Agreement between Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, United Mexican States, and the City of El Paso, Texas, United States of America, originally entered into on April 21, 2005, and ratified on March 27, 2018, in accordance with the current binational context.

WHEREAS, the longstanding and positive relationship between the United Mexican States and the United States of America is reflected in the close and dynamic partnership between Ciudad Juárez and El Paso, which together constitute one of the most interconnected and economically significant binational urban regions along the international border; and

WHEREAS, the economic, historical, cultural, and social ties between the two cities have been forged over centuries through trade, family ties, shared heritage, and daily cross-border interaction, creating a unique binational community that predates the modern international border and continues to define the identity and prosperity of both jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, both cities share common challenges and opportunities in the areas of economic development, environmental sustainability, public health, investment, cultural exchange, and quality of life, among others, which are best addressed through cooperation, dialogue, and coordinated action; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to further strengthen institutional collaboration among their respective governments, agencies, and communities for the purpose of promoting prosperity, resilience, innovation, and social well-being on both sides of the border; and

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize the importance of establishing and maintaining a clear legal and institutional framework to guide their cooperative activities, ensure continuity, and provide a basis for long-term binational engagement in areas of shared interest and mutual benefit.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties” agree as follows:

ARTICLE I OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Agreement is to establish and promote sustained cooperation between Parties through the development and implementation of collaborative activities in areas of mutual interest, including, but not limited to, trade, investment, productive activities, services, culture, tourism, and any other sectors as may be jointly agreed upon by the Parties. These cooperative efforts are intended to support economic development, strengthen institutional relationships, improve the quality of life of residents, and promote long-term prosperity and stability in 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 commit to act in full compliance with their respective legal authorities and powers, in accordance with their applicable national, state, and local laws and regulations. In carrying out the objectives of this Agreement, Parties shall cooperate in good faith, promote effective communication among their respective institutions, and facilitate the exchange of information, technical knowledge, and best practices, in order to ensure the orderly, transparent, and effective implementation of all cooperative activities carried out under this Agreement.

ARTICLE III AREAS OF COLLABORATION

The Parties shall promote cooperative activities, including, but not limited to:

- a. **TRADE PROMOTION**, through sustained cooperation among public agencies, including 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 shall include the organization of trade and business missions, participation in regional and international trade fairs, as well as the exchange of information related to customs procedures, regulatory requirements, and market opportunities. The Parties shall foster direct business linkages, supplier identification, and commercial connection mechanisms, in order to strengthen binational supply chains, support small and medium-sized enterprises, and increase the volume, diversity, and value of the goods and services exchanged between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez.
- b. **INVESTMENT PROMOTION**, through coordinated economic development efforts aimed at attracting, retaining, and expanding national and international investment in both cities. The Parties shall exchange investment delegations, promote priority development sectors and infrastructure projects, and share information regarding incentive programs, permitting processes, and legal and regulatory frameworks. Through the alignment of their investment attraction strategies and collaboration in promotional activities directed toward potential investors, the Parties seek to facilitate joint projects and binational enterprises.
- c. **INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION**, through collaborative planning and coordinated actions that support the manufacturing, logistics, technology, and other key industrial sectors of the binational region. This cooperation shall include the exchange of best practices in industrial development, workforce training, and technological adoption, as well as the promotion of partnerships among industrial parks, research institutions, suppliers, and logistics operators. The Parties shall work jointly to strengthen cross-border production networks and export capacity, improve productivity and innovation, and consolidate the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez corridor as an industrial and manufacturing center of global competitiveness.
- d. **TOURISM PROMOTION**, through cooperation to jointly promote El Paso and Ciudad Juárez as complementary destinations within a shared binational region, including the exchange and dissemination of visitor information, coordinated promotion of principal attractions, cultural offerings, and relevant events through visitor centers, official tourism

platforms, and digital channels, as well as collaboration in tourism promotion activities and engagement with the travel industry. The Parties shall also encourage the development of binational tourism experiences and cross-border travel opportunities that highlight the unique assets of both cities, with the objective of increasing tourism flows, promoting longer stays, strengthening the international visibility of the region, and consolidating tourism as a key driver of economic development, cultural exchange, and community vitality in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez.

- e. **CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROMOTION**, through sustained collaboration on cultural, educational, and artistic initiatives that foster mutual understanding and strengthen human ties between both cities. This cooperation shall include the exchange of artists, students, faculty, and cultural professionals; the organization of festivals, exhibitions, academic forums, and performances; as well as the promotion of language learning, educational exchange programs, institutional partnerships, and the preservation of cultural heritage. By highlighting the shared history, geographic proximity, and cultural diversity, the Parties seek to reinforce community identity, expand educational opportunities, encourage civic participation, and deepen the people-to-people relationships that form the basis of the Sister Cities relationship.

- f. **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROMOTION**, through strengthening regional sustainability and resilience through public policy coordination, the development of joint initiatives, and support for efforts related to climate, energy, and community development. The Parties shall encourage institutional cooperation and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, technical expertise, and best practices, with the shared objective of improving the quality of life of residents on both sides of the border and establishing a lasting binational framework that promotes sustainable progress and contributes to the long-term prosperity and well-being of the border region.

- g. Other areas mutually agreed upon by the Parties, in accordance with applicable law.

ARTICLE IV AUTHORITY

The Parties shall carry out the collaborative activities referred to in Article III of this Agreement in accordance with the respective competencies, regulations, and political-economic directives of their respective Governments.

ARTICLE V ANNUAL OPERATING PROGRAMS

To further the objectives of this Agreement, the Parties may develop Annual Operating Programs (AOPs) that, once mutually approved in writing, shall form part of this Agreement.

Each AOP may include specific projects or activities and, as applicable, shall identify:

- a) Objectives and activities to be carried out;
- b) Work schedule;
- c) Profile, number, and stay of assigned personnel;
- d) Responsibility of each Party;
- e) Allocation of human, material, and financial resources;
- f) Evaluation mechanism and criteria; and
- g) Any other information deemed necessary.

Nothing in this Agreement shall require the Parties to undertake projects in all cooperation modalities, nor shall they be obligated to collaborate in activities that would conflict with applicable law, regulation, policy, or other legal restriction applicable to either Party. prohibition or a prohibition derived from any law, regulation, or custom.

The Parties may meet annually to evaluate matters arising from the implementation of this Agreement and to propose new guidelines for the development of projects of mutual interest.

The Parties may develop an initial AOP within sixty (60) days following the execution of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

For the establishment of a mechanism that allows for the proper coordination, supervision, follow-up, and evaluation of the cooperative activities carried out under this Agreement, as well as to ensure the best conditions for their implementation, a *Working Group* shall be established, composed of representatives of both Parties, with the following designated as executing areas:

- On behalf of Ciudad Juárez, State of Chihuahua, United Mexican States, the General Directorate of Economic Development is designated.
- On behalf of the City of El Paso, State of Texas, United States of America, the Department of Economic and International Development is designated.

The Working Group shall meet with the frequency and at the location agreed upon by the Parties, in order to evaluate matters arising from the implementation of this Agreement, and shall be responsible for the following functions:

- a) Adopt the necessary decisions in order to fulfill the objective of this Agreement;
- b) Identify areas of common interest for the preparation and formulation of the AOPs;
- c) Guide, organize, and formulate the relevant recommendations for the implementation of cooperative activities pursuant to this Agreement;
- d) Receive, review, and approve reports on progress in cooperative activities pursuant to this Agreement; and
- e) Any other function that the Parties may agree upon in accordance with applicable law.

ARTICLE VI FINANCING

The Parties shall finance the cooperative activities contemplated under this Agreement with resources allocated in their respective budgets, subject to the availability of such funds and in accordance with applicable law. Any cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to this Agreement shall be subject to the availability of funds, personnel, and resources of each Party and shall not create any obligation for either Party to expend funds. Each Party shall bear the expenses related to its participation. The Parties may also identify and utilize alternative funding mechanisms for specific cooperative activities, as appropriate.

ARTICLE VII PROTECTED INFORMATION, MATERIAL, AND EQUIPMENT

The Parties agree that protected information, material, and equipment, classified by law for national security purposes or for the purpose of the foreign relations of either of the Parties, shall not be subject to transfer within the framework of this Agreement.

If, in the course of cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to this Agreement, information, material, or equipment is identified that requires or may require protection and classification, the Parties shall inform the competent authorities and establish, in writing, the appropriate measures.

The transfer of information, material, and equipment that is not protected or classified, but whose export is controlled by either of the Parties, shall be carried out in accordance with applicable national law, regulation, governmental directive, or the legal authority of either Party and shall be duly identified, including its use or subsequent transfer. If either of the Parties considers it necessary, the necessary measures shall be implemented to prevent its unauthorized transfer or retransfer.

ARTICLE VIII INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

The cooperation referred to in this Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations that the Parties have acquired pursuant to other international instruments.

ARTICLE IX INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

If, as a result of the cooperative activities carried out in accordance with this Agreement, instruments of commercial value and/or intellectual property rights are generated, they shall be governed by the applicable national legislation on the matter, as well as by international treaties binding upon the United Mexican States and the United States of America.

ARTICLE X PARTICIPATING PERSONNEL

Personnel participating in activities under this Agreement shall remain under the direction and authority of their respective employing institution, and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create an employment relationship with the other Party.

The Parties shall cooperate, subject to applicable law and authority of respective governmental agencies, to facilitate the participation and travel of personnel involved in activities conducted pursuant to this Agreement. Such personnel shall comply with all applicable migration, tax, customs, health, and national security provisions in force in the receiving country, and other legal requirements of the receiving country and may not engage in any activity unrelated to their duties.

The Parties shall encourage their personnel participating in cooperative activities pursuant to this Agreement to maintain appropriate medical, travel, and liability insurance coverage in connection with activities carried out under this Agreement.

ARTICLE XI-PROPOSALS

Each Party may formulate collaboration proposals that arise during the implementation of the cooperative activities of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XI-DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any differences or divergences that may arise from the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by mutual agreement between the Parties.

ARTICLE XII FINAL PROVISIONS

This Agreement shall enter into force as of the date of its signature and shall remain in effect unless either of the Parties decides to terminate it by written notice addressed to the other Party six (6) months in advance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either Party may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice if its implementation becomes prohibited by, or inconsistent with, applicable law, regulation, governmental directive, or the legal authority of either Party.

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties, formalized through written communications specifying the effective date of such amendments.

Early termination of this Agreement shall not affect the conclusion of cooperative activities that may have been formalized during its term.

Upon the entry into force of this Agreement, the Sister City Agreement between Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, United Mexican States, and the City of El Paso, Texas, United States of America, dated April 21, 2005, and its ratification dated March 27, 2018, shall cease to have effect.

Executed in the City of El Paso, Texas, United States of America, on June 3, 2026, in English and Spanish, in two counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original.

**FOR CIUDAD JUÁREZ, CHIHUAHUA,
UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

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

Cruz Pérez Cuellar

Mayor of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua,
United Mexican States

Renard U. Johnson

Mayor of El Paso, Texas, United States of
America

Witness:

Witness:

Mauricio Ibarra Ponce de León

Consul General

Consulate General of the United
Mexican States in El Paso, Texas

Robin Busse

Acting Consul General

Consulate General of the United States of
America in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua