

**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:

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*****

Veerinder Taneja

SIGNATURE:

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

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the City Council approves the appointment of Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., as the local health authority for a two-year term, pursuant to Section 121.033 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and delegates the authority to City Manager to sign the Certificate of Authority for a Health Authority and all related agreements and forms required by the Department of State Health Services of the State of Texas. The total compensation of the health authority is set at \$75,000.00 per year for services rendered for that two-year term, except that in the event the World Health Organization declares a pandemic, and the El Paso City/County EP-PIA and Basic Plan are activated, compensation shall be set at a rate of \$10,000.00 every two weeks until such time as the Basic Plan and/or EP-PIA are deactivated.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

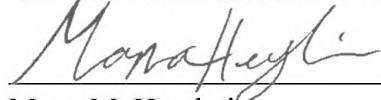
THE CITY OF EL PASO

Renard U. Johnson
Mayor

ATTEST:

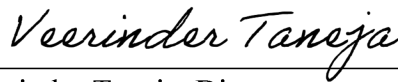
Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Mona M. Heydarian
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Veerinder Taneja, Director
Department of Public Health

APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH AUTHORITY
CITY OF EL PASO

WHEREAS, the director of the City of El Paso’s Department of Public Health is authorized, by ordinance and in conformity with Chapter 121 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, to appoint the Health Authority of the City of El Paso, with the approval of the City Manager.

NOW, THEREFORE, upon taking the OATH OF OFFICE, Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., be and is hereby appointed health authority for the City of El Paso, Texas, effective for a two-year term of office beginning August 5, 2026.

Veerinder Taneja

Veerinder Taneja, Director
Department of Public Health

APPROVED:

Dionne Mack
City Manager

STATE OF TEXAS)
)
)
COUNTY OF EL PASO)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT
Health Authority-Department of Public Health

This Professional Services Contract (Contract) is entered into by and between the **CITY OF EL PASO**, hereinafter called (City), and **HECTOR I. OCARANZA, M.D.**, hereinafter referred to as (Contractor). Each collectively (Parties).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Section 121.033(d), Texas Health and Safety Code, provides that a director of a local health department who is not a physician shall appoint a physician as the health authority in the local health department’s jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the governing body and the department; and

WHEREAS, Section 121.023, Texas Health and Safety Code, provides that a Health Authority has a two-year term of office; and

WHEREAS, Contractor is a physician capable of performing the duties of the Health Authority; and

WHEREAS, Contractor has been appointed as the Health Authority by the Director of the Department of Public Health, which appointment has been approved as required by state statute; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate for the City to enter into this contract with Contractor to set the compensation and establish such other necessary and appropriate provisions for the Contractor’s services while the Contractor serves during this term of office.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City and Contractor do hereby mutually agree as follows:

1. **Services.** During the Period of Contract, the Contractor shall be the Health Authority for the City of El Paso’s Department of Public Health, and all jurisdictions which have by contract with the City agreed that the City’s Health Authority shall serve as the Health Authority for that jurisdiction, and shall perform such services as required of a Health Authority under Section 121.024 of the Texas Health and Safety Code and any other applicable state statute.
2. **Period of Contract.** The services of Contractor are to commence on August 5, 2026, and shall continue for the ensuing two-year term of office.
3. **Compensation and Method of Payment.** Contractor shall be compensated in

the amount of SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$6,250.00) per month (\$75,000.00 per year), during the Period of Contract, except during instances when subsection 3.1 applies. The City will not pay any other fringe benefits. Contractor understands that, as an independent contractor, taxes will not be withheld for the Contractor's payment and, consequently, Contractor assumes all liability for payment of taxes on his earnings. Contractor shall receive no compensation from patients serviced by the Department of Public Health for services rendered by the Contractor in his capacity as Health Authority and only the Department of Public Health shall be eligible to make application for Medicare, Medicaid, and other third-party health insurance coverage reimbursement.

3.1 In the event the World Health Organization declares a pandemic, and the El Paso City/County EP-PIA and Basic Plan (Plan) are activated, the Contractor agrees to perform the relevant services required by the Plan, and the City agrees to pay the Contractor for services rendered at a rate of TEN THOUSAND and NO/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) every two weeks until such time as the Basic Plan and/or EP-PIA are deactivated. Upon de-activation of the El Paso City/County EP-PIA and Basic Plan, compensation shall revert back to the rate of SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$6,250.00) per month.

4. **Location of Performance.** The place where such services are to be performed is the City and County of El Paso, State of Texas, or as otherwise necessary in conjunction with the performance of Contractor's statutorily required duties.

5. **Independent Contractor Relationship.** Nothing herein shall be construed as creating the relationship of employer and employee between the Parties. The City nor Department of Public Health shall not be subject to any obligations or liabilities of the Contractor incurred in the performance of this Contract, unless otherwise herein authorized.

6. **Proof of Lawful Work Status.** Contractor agrees to comply with the Immigration Reform and Control Act. Contractor agrees to complete all necessary forms or documents including Form I-9 and to provide proof of United States citizenship or lawful residency and work status within three (3) days of the execution of this Contract.

7. **INDEMNIFICATION. As a condition of the granting of this Contract, the Contractor or its insurer will INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD the City, its officers, agents and employees, HARMLESS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, CAUSES OF ACTION, LIABILITY, DAMAGES OR EXPENSE, (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS) FOR ANY DAMAGE TO OR**

LOSS OF ANY PROPERTY, OR ANY ILLNESS, INJURY, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT, LOSS OF SERVICES, OR DEATH TO ANY PERSON ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT AND/OR CONTRACTOR'S SERVICES AS

HEALTH AUTHORITY. Without modifying the Contractor's obligation to preserve and assert any defense available to the City, the City will promptly forward to the Contractor every demand, notice, summons or other process received by the City in any claim or legal proceeding contemplated herein. The Contractor will 1) investigate or cause the investigation of accidents or occurrences involving such injuries or damages; 2) negotiate or cause to be negotiated the claim as the Contractor may deem expedient; and 3) defend or cause to be defended on behalf of the City all suits for damages even if groundless, false or fraudulent, brought because of such injuries or damages. The Contractor will pay all judgments in actions defended by the Contractor pursuant to this section along with all attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the City including interest accruing to the date of payment by the Contractor, and premiums on any appeal bonds. The City, at its election will have the right to participate in any such negotiations or legal proceedings to the extent of its interest. The City will not be responsible for any loss of or damage to the Contractor's property from any cause.

8. **Law Governing Contract.** For purposes of determining the place of the Contract and the law governing the same, it is agreed that this Contract is entered into in the City of El Paso, State of Texas, and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas.

9. **Termination.** Contractor may terminate this Contract upon thirty (30) days written notice to the City. This agreement shall automatically terminate in the event that Contractor ceases to be the Health Authority, to include but not be limited to Contractor's resignation or removal, or the appointment of a physician as the Director of the Department of Public Health. This agreement shall automatically terminate in the event that Contractor ceases to be a competent physician with a reputable professional standing who is legally qualified to practice medicine in Texas.

10. **Notices.** Notices required herein shall be either hand-delivered or mailed, postage pre-paid, to the following addresses:

City: City of El Paso
Attn: City
Manager 300 N.
Campbell
El Paso, Texas 79901

W/ Copy to: Department of Public
Health Attn: Director
9566 Railroad Dr.
El Paso, Texas
79924

Contractor: Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D.
1329 Calle Lago
El Paso, Texas 79912

11. **Compliance with Laws.** Contractor shall at all times during the term of this Contract, provide all required services in accordance with applicable law. In addition, Contractor shall, at all times during the term of this Contract, satisfy all State and federal certifications, regulations, or licensure requirements and render services under this Agreement in compliance with all applicable statutes, regulations, standards, rules and directives of State, federal and other governmental and regulatory bodies having jurisdiction over Contractor. Contractor agrees to give immediate written notice to the Director of the City of El Paso’s Department of Public Health in the case of suspension or revocation, or initiation of any proceeding that could result in any change in the status, suspension or revocation, of such licensure, certification or registration. Upon request, Contractor shall submit evidence of such licensing, certification or registration, if applicable, to the Director of the City of El Paso Department of Public Health.

12. **HIPAA Business Associate Agreement.** The Parties to this Contract agree to comply with the terms of the HIPAA Business Associate Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

13. **Amendment; Entire Agreement.** Any amendment to this Contract must be in writing and signed by both Parties in order to be valid. This Contract constitutes and expresses the entire agreement between the Parties in reference to the services of the Contractor for the City of El Paso, and to any of the matters or things herein provided for, or hereinbefore discussed or mentioned in reference to the hiring of such services; all promises, representations and

understandings relative thereto herein being merged.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have duly executed this Professional Services Contract the _____ day of _____, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have executed this Amendment at El Paso, Texas this _____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF ELPASO, TEXAS:

CONTRACTOR:


Dionne Mack
City Manager



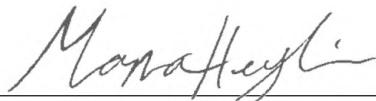
Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D.

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Veerinder Taneja, Director
Department of Public Health



Mona M. Heydarian
Assistant City Attorney

EXHIBIT “A”

(HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT)

FOLLOWS ON NEXT PAGE

STATE OF TEXAS)
)
COUNTY OF EL PASO) **HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE**
) **AGREEMENT COUNTY**

THIS HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS (City) and DR. HECTOR I. OCARANZA, by and through their duly authorized officials.

(a) **Definitions.** The following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this Section. Other capitalized terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the context in which they first appear, or as provided in (a)(a) to this section.

1. **Agreement** shall refer to this document.
2. **Business Associate** means the DR. HECTOR I. OCARANZA.
3. **HHS Privacy Regulations** shall mean the Code of Federal Regulations “C.F.R.” at Title 45, Sections 160 and 164.
4. **Individual** shall mean the person who is the subject of the Information, and has the same meaning as the term “individual” is defined in 45 C.F.R. 164.501.
5. **Information** shall mean any “health information” provided and/or made available by the CITY to BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, and has the same meaning as the term “health information” as defined by 45 C.F.R. 160.102.
6. **Parties** shall mean BUSINESS ASSOCIATE and the CITY.
7. **Secretary** shall mean the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and any other officer or employee of HHS to whom the authority involved has been delegated.

(a)(a) **Catch-all definition:** The following terms used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning as those terms in the HIPAA Privacy, Security, Breach Notification and Enforcement Rules at 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and 164: breach, data aggregation, designated record set, disclosure, health care operations, protected health information, required by law, subcontractor, and use.

(b) **Limits on Use and Disclosure Established by Terms of Agreement.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE hereby agrees that it shall be prohibited from using or disclosing the

Information provided or made available by the CITY for any other purpose other than as expressly permitted or required by this Agreement (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(i).)

(c) Stated Purposes for which BUSINESS ASSOCIATE May Use or Disclose Information. The Parties hereby agree that BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall be permitted to use and/or disclose Information provided or made available from CITY for the following stated purposes:

To provide public health services to the community of the CITY for the mutual benefit and general welfare of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE and the CITY (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(i); 65 Fed. Reg. 82505.)

(d) Use of Information for Management, Administrative and Legal Responsibilities. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE is permitted to use Information if necessary for the proper management and administration of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE or to carry out legal responsibilities of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(4)(i)(A-B)).

(e) Disclosure of Information for Management, Administration and Legal Responsibilities. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE is permitted to disclose Information received from CITY for the proper management and administration of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE or to carry out legal responsibilities of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, provided:

1. The disclosure is required by law; or
2. The BUSINESS ASSOCIATE obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that it will be held confidentially and used or further disclosed only as required by law or for the purposes for which it was disclosed to the person, the person will use appropriate safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of the information, and the person immediately notifies the BUSINESS ASSOCIATE of any instance of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(4)(ii)).

(f) Data Aggregation Services. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE is also permitted to use or disclose Information to provide data aggregation services, as that term is defined by 45 C.F.R. 164.501, relating to the health care operations of CITY. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(i)(B)).

(g) BUSINESS ASSOCIATE OBLIGATIONS:

1. **Limits on Use and Further Disclosure Established by Agreement and Law.**

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE hereby agrees that the Information provided or made available by the CITY shall not be further used or disclosed other than as permitted or required by the

Agreement or as required by federal law (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(A)).

1. **Appropriate Safeguards.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE will establish and maintain appropriate safeguards to prevent any use or disclosure of the Information, other than as provided for by this Agreement. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(B)).
2. **Reports of Improper Use or Disclosure.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE hereby agrees that it shall report to CITY **within two (2) days of discovery** any use or disclosure if Information not provided for or allowed by this Agreement. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(C)).
3. **Subcontractors and Agents.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE hereby agrees that any time Information is provided or made available to any subcontractors or agents, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE must enter into a subcontract with the subcontractor or agent that contains the same terms, conditions and restrictions on the use and disclosure of Information as contained in this Agreement. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(D)).

3.1 45 C.F.R. 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and 164.308(b)(2). In accordance with 45 C.F.R. 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and 164.308(b)(2), if applicable, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agrees to ensure that any subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, or transmit protected health information on behalf of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agree in writing to the same restrictions and conditions that apply through this Agreement to BUSINESS ASSOCIATE with respect to such information.

4. **Right of Access to Information.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE hereby agrees to make available and provide a right of access to Information by an Individual. This right of access shall conform with and meet all of the requirements of Section 181.102 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, requiring that not later than the 15th business day after the date of the receipt of a written request from a person for the person's electronic health record, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall provide the requested record to the person in electronic form unless the person agrees to accept the record in another form, and with any further requirements

45 C.F.R. 164.524, including substitution of the words “COVERED ENTITY”

with BUSINESS ASSOCIATE where appropriate. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(E)).

5. **Correction of Health Information by Individuals.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall, upon receipt of notice from the CITY, amend or correct protected health information (PHI) in its possession or under its control.
6. **Amendment and Incorporation of Amendments.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agrees to make Information available for amendment and to incorporate any amendments to Information in accordance with 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(F)).
7. **Provide Accounting.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agrees to make Information available as required to provide an accounting of disclosures in accordance with 45 C.F.R. 164.528, including substitution of the words “COVERED ENTITY” with BUSINESS ASSOCIATE where appropriate. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(G)).
8. **Access to Books and Records.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE hereby agrees to make its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use or disclosure of Information received from, or created or received by BUSINESS ASSOCIATE on behalf of the CITY, available to the Secretary or the Secretary’s designee for purposes of determining compliance with the HHS Privacy Regulations. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(H)).
9. **Return or Destruction of Information.** At the termination of this Agreement, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE hereby agrees to return or destroy all Information received from, or created or received by BUSINESS ASSOCIATE on behalf of the CITY. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agrees not to retain any copies of the Information after termination of the Agreement. If return or destruction of the Information is not feasible, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agrees to extend the protections of this Agreement for as long as necessary to protect the Information and to limit any further use of disclosure. If BUSINESS ASSOCIATE elects to destroy the Information, it shall certify to the CITY that the Information has been destroyed. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(I)).
10. **Mitigation Procedures.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agrees to have procedures

in place for mitigating, to the maximum extent practicable, any deleterious effect from the use or disclosure of Information in a manner contrary to this Agreement or the HHS Privacy Regulations. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.530(f)).

11. **Sanction Procedures.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agrees and understands that it must develop and implement a system of sanctions for any employee, subcontractor or agent who violates this Agreement of the HHS Privacy Regulations. (ref. 45 C.F.R. 164.530(e)(1)).
12. **Subpart E of 45 C.F.R. Part 164.** To the extent BUSINESS ASSOCIATE is to carry out one or more of CITY'S obligations under Subpart E of 45 C.F.R. Part 164, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall comply with the requirements of Subpart E that apply to CITY in the performance of such obligation(s).
13. **Prohibition against the Sale of Protected Health Information.** The BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall comply with the requirements of Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 181.153, and any amendments of that section.
14. **Notice and Authorization Required for Electronic Disclosure of PHI.** The BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall comply with the requirements of Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 181.154, and any amendments of that section, regarding the requirement of providing notice to an individual for whom the BUSINESS ASSOCIATE creates or receives protected health information if the individual's PHI is subject to electronic disclosure.
15. **State Law on Medical Records Privacy.** The BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall abide by the requirements set forth in Texas Health and Safety Code Section 181.001 et. seq., and any amendments of that chapter.

(b) **Property Rights.** The Information shall be and remain the property of the CITY. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agrees that it acquires no title or rights to the Information, including any de-identified information, as a result of this Agreement.

(c) **Modifications.** The CITY and BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agree to modify this Business Associate Agreement, in order to comply with Administrative Simplification requirements of HIPAA, as set forth in Title 45, Parts 160 and 164, (Subparts A and E the "Privacy

Rule” and Subparts A and C the “Security Rule”) of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(d) **Automatic Amendment.** Upon the effective date of any amendment to the regulations promulgated by HHS with respect to PHI, this Business Associate Agreement shall automatically amend such that the obligations imposed on BUSINESS ASSOCIATE as a Business Associate remain in compliance with such regulations.

(e) **Termination for Cause.** Upon the CITY’s knowledge of a material breach by BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, the CITY shall:

- (1) Provide an opportunity for BUSINESS ASSOCIATE to cure the breach or end the violation, and terminate if BUSINESS ASSOCIATE does not cure the breach or end the violation within the time specified by the CITY.
- (2) Immediately terminate the Business Associate Agreement if BUSINESS ASSOCIATE has breached a material term of this Business Associate Agreement and cure is not possible.
- (3) Notify the Secretary of HHS if termination is not possible.