



Mayor Renard Johnson
City of El Paso
300 N Campbell St.
El Paso, TX 79901
mayor@elpasotexas.gov

June 12, 2025

Dear Mr. Mayor Johnson and City Council Members,

The American Institute of Architects

AIA El Paso Chapter
311 Montana Ave.
Suite A2-11
El Paso, TX 79902

<http://www.aiaelpaso.org/>


On behalf of the AIA El Paso Chapter, we are excited to be part of the continued dialogue regarding the upcoming zoning changes for El Paso's Uptown and the current ordinance proposal. Thoughtful discussions between local architects and city planners will lead toward better design, community spaces, and quality of life for our city and its residents.

In our profession we often face mandated ordinances that present significant design challenges that often do not produce the desired results of the original intent. The implementation of upcoming zoning changes, such as, reducing or removing barriers toward development, amending the parking requirements, and adjusting Accessible Dwelling Unit (ADU) standards will ease the design process; and eliminate unnecessary financial burdens to our clients that do not always result in good design or best solutions that discourage the stakeholders. Our members are eager to engage with the City Plan Commission to better understand proposed plans and offer input that reflects the best interest of our community.

Overall, AIA El Paso supports the proposed changes and amendments to the existing zoning ordinance. As we recognize it is a necessity to modernize and encourage development in our city. We highly appreciate the consideration and efforts being enacted to this reform, and we proudly encourage continued support amongst our members.

Please feel free to contact us for any additional information.

Sincerely,


Lorena Holguin, AIA
2025 El Paso Chapter President