



CITY OF EL PASO

*Item 24*

# **Campaign Events: Public Safety Duties and Cost Recovery**

August 4, 2026

# Council Motion

On June 9, 2026, Council directed staff to develop a policy that:  
“direct the City Manager and City Attorney to develop a policy that will safeguard taxpayers from covering public safety and venue costs when candidates choose to visit the city while on the campaign trail. The policy should include an upfront deposit that will cover the projected cost of the event. It is requested that this policy be brought to the council within 60 days.”

# Texas law and EPPD duties

- Texas Code of Criminal Procedures: Art. 2A.051 requires peace officers to preserve the peace within their jurisdiction using lawful means.
- Secret Service authority: art. 2A.002 recognizes Secret Service agents as special investigators and grants specified state-law powers while protecting persons in 18 U.S.C. § 3056(a).
- Operational effect: EPPD coordinates authorized protective support. Public-safety action is not conditioned on an event permit or deposit.
- Policy boundary: the proposed code applies to applicant-requested event services—not statutory duties, emergency response, or a protective mission.

# Secret Service Protectees

| Category                            | Examples                                                                      | When protection applies                         | City treatment                                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Current / incoming leaders</b>   | President; Vice President or successor; President-elect; Vice President-elect | Federal protective mission                      | Not conditioned on a City event permit or deposit      |
| <b>Former leaders / dignitaries</b> | Former leaders; foreign heads of state or government                          |                                                 | Handled through law-enforcement coordination           |
| <b>Major candidates</b>             | Major Presidential or Vice Presidential candidates                            | Only when Secret Service protection is assigned | Campaign or host still pays non-protective event costs |

# Proposed cost-recovery code

## Create Chapter 13.39 — Campaign Events Requiring City Services

- Applicant: a campaign, political party, PAC, event organizer, venue sponsor, or other City-service requester.
- Trigger: a campaign event requires City personnel, equipment, venue/right-of-way use, or event-specific services.
- Before the event: sign a cost-recovery agreement and deposit 100% of estimated recoverable costs.
- Recoverable services: traffic/public-safety staffing; Fire/EMS standby; barricades/signage; venue/right-of-way use; and cleanup.
- After the event: reconcile actual costs within 30 days; invoice any balance or refund any overpayment.

# Exemptions and safeguards

## Excluded from the deposit requirement

- Official protective operations requested by the Secret Service or another authorized agency.
- Routine public-safety and emergency response.

## Drafting safeguards

- Use an objective, content-neutral formula tied to actual services.
- Do not vary a fee based on party, candidate, viewpoint, message, anticipated opposition, or public reaction.

# Examples of covered applicants

| Applicant / event                         | Does code apply?                                                    | Applicant pays                                                     | Protective exception                                            |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Campaign, party, PAC, or organizer</b> | Yes—federal, state, or local campaign event requiring City services | 100% deposit for estimated event services                          | Emergency and statutory response remains available              |
| <b>City venue or street closure</b>       | Yes—rally, parade, or political event requesting City resources     |                                                                    | Official protective mission is handled separately               |
| <b>Protected visit</b>                    | Yes—only for non-protective event costs                             | Venue and applicant-requested services outside the protective plan | Interagency protective operations are excluded from the deposit |

# Next Steps

## Based on council direction

- Staff will initiate drafting the ordinance
- Coordinate with EPPD and CAO
- Brief CC on the proposed amendments
- Return to Council for formal adoption

## MISSION



Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community.

## VISION



Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government.



## VALUES

Integrity, Respect, Excellence,  
Accountability, People