

RENARD U. JOHNSON
MAYOR

DIONNE MACK
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
ALEJANDRA CHÁVEZ, DISTRICT 1
JOSH ACEVEDO, DISTRICT 2
DEANNA MALDONADO-ROCHA, DISTRICT 3
CYNTHIA BOYAR TREJO, DISTRICT 4
IVAN NIÑO, DISTRICT 5
ART FIERRO, DISTRICT 6
LILY LIMÓN, DISTRICT 7
CHRIS CANALES, DISTRICT 8

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 28, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL AND VIRTUALLY
9:05 A.M.

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The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 9:26 a.m. Mayor Renard Johnson was present and presiding. The following Council Members answered roll call: Alejandra Chávez, Josh Acevedo, Deanna Maldonado-Rocha, Cynthia Boyar Trejo, Ivan Niño, Art Fierro, Lily Limón, and Chris Canales.

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AGENDA
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1. RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, PURSUING DESIGNATION AS A UNICEF CHILD FRIENDLY CITY, AND AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO INITIATE THE FORMAL APPLICATION PROCESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNICEF.

WHEREAS, by resolution dated December 17, 2019, the City Council of the City of El Paso enacted a Resolution Establishing a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) for the purpose of promoting regular and active civic engagement among the youth of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Advisory Board remains an active and vital platform for youth voices to influence city policy and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso currently has over 14 departments with dedicated youth programming, with an estimated 360 youth programs collectively serving young people across the city, and;

WHEREAS, A local steering committee is in place and coordinates a comprehensive child rights situation analysis with broad youth and community engagement.

WHEREAS, the City will develop and implement a Child Friendly City Action Plan that reflects local needs and aligns with the City's strategic goals, guided by UNICEF's framework.

WHEREAS, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) in 1996, applying a framework informed by the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to support local governments in realizing children's rights in urban settings and elevating youth voices in local government; and

WHEREAS, the vision of CFCI is that every child and young person enjoys their childhood and youth, and reaches their full potential through the equal realization of their rights within their cities and communities; and

WHEREAS, the CFCI Framework for Action includes five core goal areas:

1. Every child is valued, respected, and treated fairly;
2. Every child's voice is heard in public decisions;
3. Every child has access to quality essential services;
4. Every child lives in a safe and clean environment;
5. Every child enjoys family life, play, and leisure; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso is committed to equity, quality of life, and community trust, as reflected in its Strategic Plan goals to enhance public safety, increase access to services, promote transparent communication, and support youth engagement; and

WHEREAS, pursuing recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly City supports the City of El Paso's mission to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community for all residents, especially children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso remains one of the largest binational communities in the world, sharing a larger community with Ciudad Juarez, Mexico in which language, culture, education, work, and family are shared; and

WHEREAS, the CFCI process requires meaningful youth participation, a thorough child rights situation analysis, the co-creation of a Child Friendly City Action Plan, cross-sector collaboration, and a commitment to equity and non-discrimination; and

WHEREAS, achieving recognition as a Child Friendly City will connect El Paso to a global network of cities, of which only three are in the United States, committed to child well-being and provide access to technical resources, best practices, and use of the CFCI brand.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That the City of El Paso formally expresses its commitment to pursue UNICEF Child Friendly City designation.
2. That the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to initiate the formal application process with UNICEF, including engaging with key stakeholders and beginning preparations for a Memorandum of Understanding.
3. That the City of El Paso commits to ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and transparency throughout the CFCI process and future recognition cycles.
4. That the City of El Paso affirms its commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of children and youth by supporting the principles of the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI); and recognizing the unique challenges and strengths of our binational, bilingual, and bicultural identity as a borderland community, the City will work collaboratively across departments and with community partners to center children in urban planning, public policy, and civic life - ensuring that every child in El Paso, regardless of zip code or background, has the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy, educated, and empowered.

Mr. Richard Bristol, Deputy City Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Acevedo and Limón commented.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Ms. Leah Hanany
2. Mr. Jack Loveridge

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Boyar Trejo and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore Fierro, seconded by Representative Niño, and unanimously carried that the City Council **RETIRE** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 10:00 a.m. pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 - 551.089 to discuss the following items:

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Section 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Maldonado-Rocha, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the Executive Session at 11:02 a.m. and **RECONVENE** the meeting of the City Council at which time a motion was made.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

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EX1. Application of El Paso Electric Company for Approval of an Amendment to Its Generation Cost Recovery Rider to Include the Texas Solar One Generation Facility - PUC#57974; HQ#UTILITY-65 (551.071)

Mayor Johnson verbally disclosed a contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Acevedo verbally disclosed a \$1,750 contribution received from El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Maldonado Rocha verbally disclosed that she received a contribution from the El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Niño verbally disclosed a \$1,000 contribution received from El Paso Electrical Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Limón verbally disclosed that she received a contribution the El Paso Electric Employee Political Action Committee.

Representative Canales commented.

Ms. Karla Nieman, City Attorney, commented.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tempore, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried that the City Attorney in consultation with the City Manager be **AUTHORIZED** to hire and retain outside counsel and any other necessary consultants, and to file an intervention in the *Application of El Paso Electric Company for Approval of an Amendment to its Generation Cost Recovery Rider to Include the Texas Solar One Generation Facility*, under the Texas Public Utility Commission, Docket No. 57974, in Matter Number HighQ Utility-65, and to take all steps necessary, including the execution of any required documents, in order to effectuate this authority.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

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EX2. Discussion on open records requests relating to the August 3, 2019 active shooter incident. HQ #25-4846 (551.071)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX3. Discussion on economic development opportunities in Downtown El Paso, Texas HQ#25-4812 (551.087)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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EX4. Purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property located in El Paso; HQ#25-4833 (551.072)

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Niño, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

AYES: Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales

NAYS: None

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk