

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

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 5, 2025**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 300 N. CAMPBELL AND VIRTUALLY**  
**11:00 A.M.**

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The City Council met at the above place and date. The meeting was called to order at 11:18 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.**

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**R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor has convened a special legislative session of the Texas 89th Legislature to consider legislation relating to the apportionment of the State of Texas into districts used to elect members of the United States House of Representatives, a process known as "redistricting"; and

**WHEREAS**, redistricting is the revision or replacement of existing electoral districts, resulting in new districts with different geographical boundaries in order to equalize population among electoral districts after publication of the United States decennial census indicates that the population has increased or decreased over the last decade; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Senate has proposed a redistricting map ("Map") that would remove Fort Bliss and the El Paso International Airport ("EPIA") from District 16, which is an El Paso-based congressional district and would place these two vital economic drivers for our community and region in District 23, which is based in San Antonio; and

**WHEREAS**, if the proposed Map is approved, a significant portion of our city, including Fort Bliss, with its VA Health Care Center, and the EPIA will be represented by a Congressional delegation member based over 550 miles away as opposed to a member based within the city, familiar with the needs and services of our city and its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the El Paso International Airport, owned and operated by the City of El Paso, is a catalyst for growth and plays an important role in the strength and resilience of our region's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso, has identified the continued growth and development of the El Paso International Airport as a key strategic objective, successfully engaging in the development of airport land, including the construction of a \$150 million distribution center, bringing approximately 950 new jobs to the region, and generating over \$48 million in revenue to the Airport over the next 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, \$15.4 billion worth of goods moved through the Airport's Foreign Trade Zone No. 68 and \$3.7 billion worth of merchandise was exported from this Zone to other countries in 2024 alone, and further, Foreign Trade Zone No. 68 is directly responsible for 2,930 jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, with an average of 55 departures per day and an annual 4 million through-put in total passenger traffic, the airport facilitates tourism and provides local businesses with access to the global market; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Bliss has a \$4 billion impact on the local economy, directly employs over 47,000 people and indirectly employs another nearly 84,000, making Fort Bliss the single largest employer in the El Paso region, contributing to the livelihood of at least 1 in 5 people in El Paso; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, there were nearly 38,000 active duty family members that reside in the El Paso region where they live, work, and play, while an additional 3,000 soldiers released from active duty decided to make El Paso their permanent home; and

**WHEREAS**, El Paso is proud to be: 1) located in the Veterans Capital of the U.S., 2) ranked as one of the top ten best places for veterans to live in the United States, and indeed, 3) home to over 50,000 veterans who serve an integral part of our community, with this population looking forward to the construction of a new VA Health Care Center which will be conveniently located on 36 acres of Fort Bliss property; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso and Fort Bliss have a history of strong cooperation ensuring our shared community has access to the services critical to public safety, education, and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, drawing a district boundary that excludes the El Paso International Airport and Fort Bliss from being represented by a Congressional representative who is locally based and understands the needs of these key community assets and the critical role they play in the strength and resilience of our community removes the close working relationship that has proven vital for federal funding opportunities and constant cohesive support for both EPIA and Fort Bliss;

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

THAT, the City Council of the City of El Paso urges the Texas 89th Legislature to support El Paso by ensuring Fort Bliss and the El Paso International Airport remain in Congressional District 16.

Mayor Johnson and Representatives Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales commented.

Ms. Lisa Turner, citizen, commented.

Motion made by Representative Acevedo, seconded by Representative Maldonado-Rocha, 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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Motion made by Representative Limón, seconded by Representative Fierro, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 11:40 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:

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Laura D. Prine, City Clerk