



AGENDA FOR THE ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)

March 11, 2026

**Thorman Conference Room City 3 Building, Basement Level 801 Texas Ave.
6:15 PM**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee will be conducted on the above date and time.

In compliance with the requirement that the City provide two-way communication for members of the public, members of the public may communicate with the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee during public comment, and regarding agenda items by calling the following number:

1-915-213-4096 or Toll Free Number: 1-833-664-9267

At the prompt please enter the corresponding Conference ID: 303-474-657#

The public is strongly encouraged to sign up to speak on items on this agenda no later than one day prior to the meeting by signing up at <https://elpasotx.seamlessdocs.com/f/ASACSignUpSheet>

The following members of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee will be present via video conference:

Chris Canales, Barbara Candelaria, Sandra DiFrancesco, Elvira Stephanie Frias, Laura Sanchez, Celinda Crews, Mary Bardouche, Raquel Ellis, Silvia Serna, Tess Passero and Megan Sesker.

A quorum of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee members must be present and participate in the meeting.

ROLL CALL

AGENDA

1. Discussion and action on approval of minutes for the February 11, 2026 meeting.

[BC-1801](#)

2. Discussion and action on approval of minutes for the February 19, 2026 meeting. [BC-1802](#)

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, STAFF, AND SUBCOMMITTEES

3. Chair Report - Chris Canales [BC-1803](#)
4. El Paso Animal Services Director's Report: February update and statistics - Michael Wachsmann, El Paso Animal Services Interim Director [BC-1804](#)

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Discussion on the development of a Community Pet Resource Alert Page under EPAS leadership with staff directed to develop guidelines and implementation plan. - Barbara Candelaria. [BC-1817](#)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

ADJOURN

Language interpreters will be provided for this meeting upon request. Requests must be made to Department of Animal Services at a minimum of 72 hours prior to the date and time of this meeting.

Please contact Maria Arciniega at asac@elpasotexas.gov or call (915) 212-8704.

Posted this the _____ of _____ at _____ AM/PM by _____



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

File #: BC-1801, **Version:** 1

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.

Discussion and action on approval of minutes for the February 11, 2026 meeting.



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes

February 11, 2026

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5

Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held virtually by Vice-Chair Tess Passero at 6:01 PM.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Laura Sánchez	X	
Silvia Serna	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco	X	
Celinda Crews	X	
Vacant		
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Mary Bardouche	X	
Elvira Stephanie Frias	X	
Raquel Ellis	X	
Tess Passero	X	
Megan Sesker	X	
Chris Canales		X

Animal Services staff present: Michael Wachsmann, Maria Arciniega, Michele Anderson, Wesley Walker

Richard Bristol, Mona Heydarian, Eric Gutierrez, Kristopher Serna

1. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval minutes for January 14, 2026.

Laura Sanchez motioned to approve the January 14, 2026 minutes; Mary Bardouche seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously

2. Reports of Officers, Staff and Subcommittees.

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov





El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

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Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

A. Chair Report

Tess Passero – Vice-Chair, provided an update on a change that requires this committee to meet in person moving forward starting March. Informed City Council unanimously adopted the Aggressive and Vicious dog Ordinance as ASAC recommended. Mentioned the spay-a-thon happening in the next few months.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Sandra DiFrancesco
- Tess Passero
- Raquel Ellis
-

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

B. El Paso Animal Services February update and statistics

Michael Wachsmann presented the January statistics. Report is attached.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Silvia Serna
- Celinda Crews
- Barbara Candelaria
- Raquel Ellis
- Mary Bardouche
- Tess Passero

The following staff member commented:

- Michael Wachsmann

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

3. Regular Agenda

- Presentation by legal on ASAC duties - Mona Heydarian, Assistant City Attorney I.

The following members of ASAC commented:

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

- Barbara Candelaria
- Megan Sesker
- Mary Bardouche
- Tess Passero

CITY COUNCIL**District 1**

Alejandra Chávez

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

- Discussion on Special Meeting to go into Executive Session per Section 551.074 - PERSONNEL MATTERS

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Tess Passero
- Barbara Candelaria
- Sandra DiFrancesco
- Raquel Ellis
- Mary Bardouche

District 5

Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

District 8

Chris Canales

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

4. Call to the Public

None

5. Adjournment

Silvia Serna motioned to adjourn; Laura Sanchez seconded, all members voted in favor; none opposed, and motion passed unanimously; the meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Prepared by: Maria Arciniega

Approved by A.S.A.C Chairman: _____

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov





El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

File #: BC-1802, Version: 1

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

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Discussion and action on approval of minutes for the February 19, 2026 meeting.



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes

February 19, 2026

Special Meeting

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5

Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held virtually by Chair Chris Canales at 5:06 PM.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Laura Sánchez	X	
Silvia Serna	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco		X
Celinda Crews	X	
Vacant		
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Mary Bardouche	X	
Elvira Stephanie Frias	X	
Raquel Ellis	X	
Tess Passero	X	
Megan Sesker	X	
Chris Canales	X	

Animal Services staff present: Maria Arciniega,

Richard Bristol, Mona Heydarian

1. Regular Agenda

- Discussion and action to change the date, time, and location of the monthly ASAC meetings for the current fiscal year- City Attorney’s Office, Mona Heydarian I.

The following members of ASAC commented:

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov





El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5

Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

- Barbara Candelaria
- Raquel Ellis
- Mary Bardouche
- Tess Passero
- Silvia Serna
- Laura Sanchez
- Celinda Crews

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian
- Richard Bristol
- Maria Arciniega

Tess Passero made a motioned to DESIGNATE that the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee MEET at City Hall.; Stephanie Frias seconded; all members voted; Barbara Candelaria opposed. Motion carried by voice vote.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco

Mary Bardouche made a motioned for the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee MEET MONTHLY; Celinda Crews seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco

Tess Passero made a motioned for the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee to continue to MEET the SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH; Celinda Crews seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco

Tess Passero made a motioned for the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee to MEET at 6:15p.m.; Celinda Crews seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee may retire into Executive Session pursuant to the Uniform Bylaws under the El Paso City Code Title 2 and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, for the item listed below.

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov





El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward any of the following items for public discussion, as appropriate.

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

EX1. Presentations and discussion, as time permits, on Animal Services Director Position (551.074)

City Attorney’s Office, Mona Heydarian, (915) 212-1116

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

Silvia Serna motioned: Laura Sanchez seconded; and unanimously carried that the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee RETIRE into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:08p.m. pursuant to Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS to discuss the following items:

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

EX1. Presentations and discussion, as time permits, on Animal Services Director Position (551.074)

District 5

Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco

District 8

Chris Canales

Tess Passero motioned to carried that the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee RECONVENE from EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:06 p.m.; Silvia Serna seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed and motion passed unanimously

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Sandra DiFrancesco

NO ACTION was taken on EX1 item.

3. Call to the Public

The following members of the public commented

- Carla Gallardo

The following members of the public submitted statements to be entered into the record

- Carla Gallardo

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov





El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

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Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5

Ivan Niño

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Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

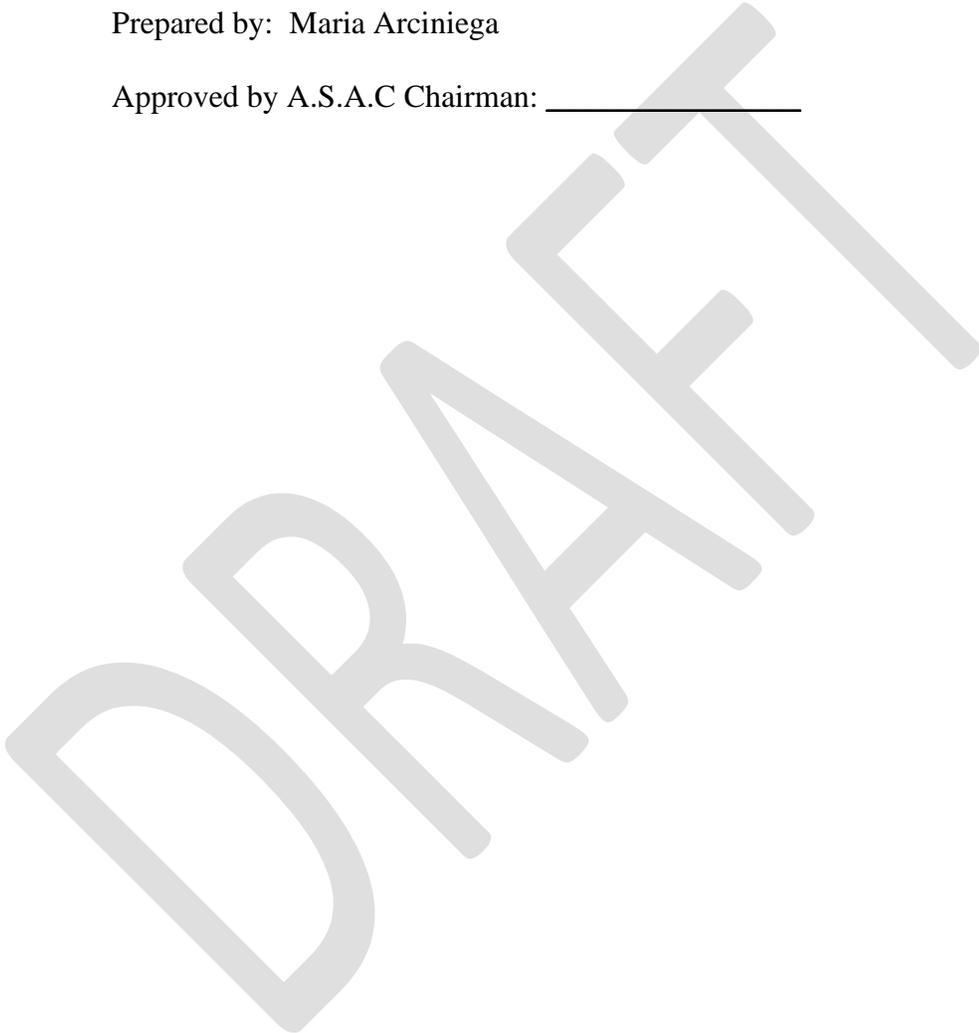
Dionne Mack

4. Adjournment

Silvia Serna motioned to adjourn; Laura Sanchez seconded, all members voted in favor; none opposed, and motion passed unanimously; the meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Prepared by: Maria Arciniega

Approved by A.S.A.C Chairman: _____



Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov



Arciniega, Maria L.

From: Carla Gallardo <gallardocm28@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 7:41 PM
To: City Clerk; Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
Cc: District #7
Subject: [External] - FORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT - ASAC Meeting Feb 19 - Carla Gallardo

You don't often get email from gallardocm28@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of El Paso. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If suspicious, use **Phish Alert** or forward to SpamReport@elpasotexas.gov.

The Message Body

To the City Clerk and the Animal Services Advisory Committee,

My name is Carla Gallardo, a resident of District 7 (299 Kings Point Dr.). I am submitting this written statement to be included in the official minutes of the February 19, 2026, Special Meeting.

During the meeting, I waited over two hours to speak and was disconnected twice due to technical issues on the city's line. While I was eventually able to provide a brief verbal comment, I am submitting my full intended statement below to ensure my message regarding the leadership of Animal Services is captured accurately and in its entirety:

"The future of El Paso Animal Services depends on full transparency and integrity. We must uphold the standards championed by Rick LoBello. The community deserves a department that is fundamentally honest. We demand:

- **Radical Accountability:** An end to information gatekeeping; all shelter data must be open to the public.
- **A Culture of Partnership:** The city must treat residents as essential allies, not adversaries.
- **Education over Enforcement:** We must eliminate the abuse of power and shift toward a system that guides responsible citizens with dignity. Our priority must be protecting the human-animal bond by providing proactive support so families are not torn apart.

Our animals cannot wait, and our community will not settle for anything less than excellence."

Please confirm receipt of this email and verify that it will be included in the official record for this meeting.

Thank you,





Carla Marie Gallardo
Certified Veterinary Assistant

915-319-3826 | Gallardcm28@gmail.com

www.rover.com/sit/carlag37197



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

File #: BC-1803, **Version:** 1

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

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Chair Report - Chris Canales



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

File #: BC-1804, **Version:** 1

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

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El Paso Animal Services Director's Report: February update and statistics - Michael Wachsmann, El Paso Animal Services Interim Director



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

File #: BC-1817, Version: 1

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

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Discussion on the development of a Community Pet Resource Alert Page under EPAS leadership with staff directed to develop guidelines and implementation plan. - Barbara Candelaria.