

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

**DEPARTMENT:** Mayor and Council

**AGENDA DATE:** 4.11.23

**CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:** Representative Cassandra Hernandez - 212.0003

**DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:** 3

**STRATEGIC GOAL:**

Goal 5 - Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Amongst All Members of the Community

**SUBJECT:**

**APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.**

Discussion and action to approve a resolution allowing the City Manager to accept a donation in the amount of \$25,000 from Marathon Petroleum Inc. and authorizing the use of District 3 discretionary funds in the amount of \$25,000 to be used towards the establishment and funding of EP TreeKeepers, a tree planting initiative within low tree equity score areas for the City of El Paso.

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

**Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?**

The City of El Paso has residents who reside in areas of the city lacking trees and tree canopies which contributes to the existence of high heat areas. Funds allocated by District 3 and donated by Marathon will go towards paying for drought tolerant trees to be adopted by residents who reside in high heat areas with below 65% tree equity scorecards. The Program will also utilize city urban heat maps and determine routes to city parks and schools for identifying planting opportunities.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

**Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?**

Yes.

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

**How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?**

District 3 discretionary funds and donation from Marathon Petroleum.

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\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso has residents who reside in areas of the city lacking trees and tree canopies; including have a tree equity score of below 65% which contributes to the existence of high heat areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of El Paso wishes to address the above-described issues via various means, including the establishment of an El Paso TreeKeepers program (“Program”) which will provide drought tolerant trees to be adopted by residents who live in high heat areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program will utilize city urban heat maps and determine routes to city parks and schools for identifying planting opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program will be supported through strategic partnerships to include the City’s Climate and Sustainability Department and additional support if needed by the Streets and Maintenance and Parks and Recreation Departments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program will put forth outreach efforts and promotion initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, The Office of District 3, City Representative Cassandra Hernandez /(District 3) wishes to kickstart the initiative by allocating \$25,000 to the newly established EP TreeKeepers program; and

**WHEREAS**, Marathon Petroleum, Inc. (“Marathon”) has been a member of the El Paso community since approximately 1928; and

**WHEREAS**, Marathon has shown a commitment to minimizing their impart on the environment through their on-going involvement in multiple programs, support of several organizations and implementation of various initiatives that aim to protect our environment and the local communities in which they operate; and

**WHEREAS**, Marathon wishes to provide support to the Program by providing the initial startup funding.

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

That the City Council declares that the expenditure of District 3 discretionary funds in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 to support and establish EP TreeKeepers serves a municipal purpose by setting the standard for a safe and secure city, promoting the visual image of El Paso, enhancing El Paso’s quality of life, promoting transparent and consistent communication among all members of the community, and nurturing and promoting a healthy and sustainable community.

That the City Council instruct the City Manager to accept a donation in the amount of \$25,000 from Marathon Petroleum Inc. (“Marathon”) to establish the EP TreeKeepers (“Program”) in the City of El Paso.

That the City Manager instruct staff to establish the Program using the funds allocated by District 3 and donated by Marathon to pay for trees to be adopted by residents who reside in areas of the city lacking trees and tree canopies and targeted to high heat areas with below 65% tree equity scorecards. The Program will also utilize city urban heat maps and determine routes to city parks and schools for identifying planting opportunities. The EP TreeKeepers program will be supported through strategic partnerships to include the Climate and Sustainability Department, Streets and Maintenance and Parks and Recreation Departments.

That the Program will also dedicate part of the funding allocated by District 3 and donated by Marathon to kickstart the program outreach efforts, print, mail, and promotion initiatives. Trees adopted by residents will consent to an agreement to maintain and water their drought tolerant trees aided by a native tree plant guide provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. The Program will continue with the support of the *Love your Block* program and other climate initiatives to ensure its future sustainability. The Program is not limited to any area in the city and is open to additional parties wishing to participate, in alignment with the program’s mission.

Further, that the City Manager is authorized to effectuate any budget transfers necessary to ensure that the funds are properly expended for such purpose and is authorized to execute any related agreements, amendments to such agreements, and documents necessary to carry out the purpose of this Resolution.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

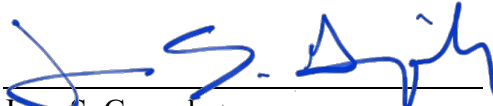
**THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Oscar Leeser, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura D. Prine  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Juan S. Gonzalez  
Sr. Assistant City Attorney