



# Items 24-26

City Representative Henry Rivera, District 7

# Items 24 – 26 Purpose of Initiatives



- As a result of a long rainy/monsoon season coupled with the City unable to keep up with the maintenance of overgrown weeds in City medians, the city opted to financially incentivize organizations and ask for volunteers to help clean-up City medians. Therefore, it is unfair to cite and fine El Paso senior and disabled residents who struggle to keep up with their own yards and abutting parkways and alleys.
- Items 24-26 are to protect and bring relief to City of El Paso seniors over 65 and persons with disabilities who have filed an over 65 years of age or disabled homestead (HS) exemption with the Central Appraisal:

**Item 24:** from receiving a citation from the City for overgrown weeds at their homestead property; to go into effect immediately and expire on December 31, 2022.

**Item 25:** create an amnesty period for residential property owners who have filed an over 65 or persons with disabilities exemption with the El Paso Central Appraisal District that have received a citation for overgrown weeds in the last 60 days.

**Item 26:** create a permanent moratorium on Article XVII of the City's Municipal Code for residential property owners who have filed an over 65 or persons with disabilities exemption with the El Paso Central Appraisal District from July 15 to September 30.



# Additional Issues impacting residential property owners 65 + or disabled



- **More Rain in the Forecast:** “El Paso doused in unusually wet October, with more rains forecast” El Paso Matters 10/18/22 – by Danielle Prokop
- **Inflation rose in El Paso by nearly 10%**, according to the consumer price index, the highest percentage since 1981 - “Fed Chair Powell warned of ‘pain’ to come. Seniors on fixed incomes are already feeling it” KVIA 9/26/22
- A substantial proportion of residents are considered very low-income, **with the City's poverty rate of nearly 20% (higher than the rate of State level)** reported in the Annual Action Plan, City of El Paso Texas 2022-2023 prepared by the Department of Community and Human Development.

# Continue...Additional Issues impacting residential property owners 65 + or disabled

- **25% of El Paso households are housing cost burdened**, meaning they spend more than **30% of their household income on housing costs** (i.e. rent, mortgage, utilities, insurance). Of particular concern is the prevalence of severe housing cost burden for households at or below 30% of Area Median Income. 52% of these extremely low-income households expend more than half of their income on housing costs. These individuals and families are likely forced to make difficult choices to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and warmth.  
\*City of El Paso Texas 2022-2023 prepared by the Department of Community and Human Development.
- **Nearly 1 in 5 El Pasoans live in poverty**, reported in the Annual Action Plan, City of El Paso Texas 2022-2023 prepared by the Department of Community and Human Development.



# Over 65 and Disabled in the City of El Paso

- Nearly 52,000 over 65 or disabled residence homestead exemptions properties are filed with the El Paso Central Appraisal District – ITEM 23 City Council 6/22/21 – Presentation slide 5

- Top 5 El Paso Zip Codes of Residents 65 and Older ([healthypasodelnorte.org](http://healthypasodelnorte.org))

79936 = 12,342

79912 - 10,466

**79907 = 8,736** (Median household income \$27,166 – [unitedstateszipcodes.org](http://unitedstateszipcodes.org))

79924 = 8,246

**79915 = 7,322** (Median household income \$27,134 – [unitedstateszipcodes.org](http://unitedstateszipcodes.org))





# What happens when your weeds are too tall?



- “El Paso fines public for overgrown vegetation and weeds” KVIA 7-19-22

## **Weeds taller than 12 inches:**

- Property owners will get a notice from the city code enforcement that says they have 7-10 days to correct, then they go back to inspect the property.
- If not fixed, it will be turned over to environmental services, who, after a second warning, will clean the property for you at a hefty fee.
- Average fine for clean-up is \$200.
- At that point the homeowner will be charged with the expenses incurred by the city. If someone fails to pay those, then they are looking at having to pay interest on the charges they have accrued.
- Homeowners who do not pay the fines could face liens, making it hard to sell the property later.

# Requested Council Actions

- Asking Council's support to protect our vulnerable populations. Motion to Approve:
  - Direct CM/CA to establish a moratorium on Article XVII of the City's Municipal Code for residential property owners who have filed an over 65 or persons with disabilities exemption with EPCAD to expire on 12.31.22;
  - Direct CM/CA to create an amnesty period for residential property owners who have filed an over 65 or persons with disabilities exemption with EPCAD that have received a citation for overgrown weeds in the last 60 days; and
  - Direct CM/CA to create a permanent moratorium on Article XVII of the City's Municipal Code for residential property owners who have filed an over 65 or persons with disabilities exemption with EPCAD from 7.15 to 9.30 every year and develop a program and/or partner with a non-profit organization that can provide free of charge landscaping/yard cleaning service to home property owners 65 or older or persons with disabilities who are unable to complete the physical activity necessary to up keep with overgrown weeds.

## 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, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,  
**A**ccountability, **P**eople