

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

DEPARTMENT: Mayor & Council

AGENDA DATE: 6.20.23

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Representative Cassandra Hernandez ~ 915.212.0003
Representative Henry Rivera, (915) 212-0007

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL

Goal 8 - Nurture and Promote a Healthy, Sustainable 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 recognizing the invaluable service and support the Borderland Rainbow Center provides the LGBTQIA+ Community in the El Paso region and that the City reaffirms its commitment to promoting equality and dignity of all people no matter sexual, gender or questioning identity and that this recognition aligns with the City's values of prioritizing integrity, respect, excellence, accountability and people.

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 Borderland Rainbow Center is located in El Paso, Texas and is the only LGBTQIA+ Community center within a 300-mile radius that serves residents of El Paso County, Deming County, Otero County, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The mission of the Borderland Rainbow Center is to create a space in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex (LGBTQI) people and their allies.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

Yes, the City has recognized the efforts of other LGBTQIA+ initiatives and Pride month.

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?

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Borderland Rainbow Center was founded on September 2, 2016 by Dr. Brenda Risch with the pursuit of addressing inequality and injustices facing the LGBTQIA+ Community in the Borderland region; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Borderland Rainbow Center is to create a space in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex (LGBTQI) people and their allies can heal, grow, and empower themselves and others; and

WHEREAS, the Borderland Rainbow Center is located at 2714 Wyoming Ave in El Paso, Texas and is the only LGBTQIA+ Community center within a 300-mile radius that serves residents of El Paso County, Deming County, Otero County, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Borderland Rainbow Center is governed according research-based best practices for LGBTQIA people and their allies and connects them to resources for improved physical and mental health, economic stability, legal rights, education, spiritual and cultural enrichment; including lifesaving therapy, support groups and intergenerational services; and

WHEREAS, the Borderland Rainbow Center drives their commitment to building a community-driven space for and by our community by additionally offering a weekly pantry that serves over 350 people and community events that bring together people of various backgrounds to a safe space to learn and grow together; and

WHEREAS, the Borderland Rainbow Center is operated by a dedicated staff to include Lorena Edwards, Fernando Mendez, Andi Rose Ticareno, Veronica Camacho, Diana Martinez, Julie Lucas, Ashley Heidelbrecht, Alex Jacquez, Luis Orozco, and others who are committed to the cause; and

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

Recognizes the invaluable service and support the Borderland Rainbow Center provides the LGBTQIA+ Community in the El Paso region and that the City reaffirms its commitment to promoting equality and dignity of all people no matter sexual, gender or questioning identity and that this recognition aligns with the City's values of prioritizing integrity, respect, excellence, accountability and people.

(Signatures begin on following page)

APPROVED this _____ day of June, 2023.

THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Donald C. Davie
Donald C. Davie
Assistant City Attorney