

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

Tommy Gonzalez
City Manager



CITY COUNCIL
Peter Svarzbein, District 1
Alexandra Anello, District 2
Cassandra Hernandez, District 3
Joe Molinar, District 4
Isabel Salcido, District 5
Claudia L. Rodriguez, District 6
Henry Rivera, District 7
Cissy Lizarraga, District 8

**NOTICE OF URGENT PUBLIC NECESSITY (UPN) MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO**

May 23, 2022

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 300 N. CAMPBELL AND VIRTUALLY
2:00 PM**

**THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE USE OF
MASKS IN ALL CITY FACILITIES AND INDOOR SPACES**

Teleconference phone number 1-915-213-4096

Toll free number: 1-833-664-9267

Conference ID: 466-952-353#

Notice is hereby given that an Emergency Meeting of the City Council of the City of El Paso will be conducted on May 23, 2022 at 2:00 P.M. Members of the public may view the meeting via the following means:

Via the City's website. <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>

Via television on City15,

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

In compliance with the requirement that the City provide two-way communication for members of the public, members of the public may communicate with Council 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: 466-952-353#

The public is strongly encouraged to sign up to speak on items on this agenda before the start of this meeting on the following links:

<https://www.elpasotexas.gov/city-clerk/meetings/city-council-meetings>

AND

<https://elpasotx.seamlessdocs.com/f/SpeakerSignUpFormItem>

A quorum of City Council must participate in the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Discussion and action on an Emergency Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to assign personnel and resources to assist in addressing the Humanitarian and Public Safety Crisis resulting from a mass migration through El Paso. **22-655**

All Districts

City Manager's Office, Chief Mario D'Agostino, (915) 212-5605

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council of the City of El Paso may retire into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the following: (The items listed below are matters of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the City Council of the City of El Paso may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act and the Rules of City Council.) The City Council 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.

- Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY
- Section 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
- Section 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS
- Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS
- Section 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES OR SECURITY AUDITS
- Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS
- Section 551.089 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES OR SECURITY AUDITS; CLOSED MEETING

ADJOURN



Office of the City Attorney

MAYOR

Oscar Leeser

MEMORANDUM

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Alexsandra Anello

District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

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District 8

Cissy Lizarraga

CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

TO: Laura Prine, City Clerk

FROM: Karla M. Nieman, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Justification for a Meeting to Discuss Matter of Urgent Public Necessity

DATE: May 23, 2022

During today's City Council Work Session Meeting, City Council considered item Number 1 on that agenda which was posted as:

Discussion and action on an Emergency Ordinance of the City of El Paso, Texas extending a Disaster Declaration due to a humanitarian, security, and economic crisis resulting from a mass migration through El Paso.

City Council heard the statistics regarding the current migrant crisis situation and reviewed the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's data for Southwest Land Border Encounters and Southwest Land Border Encounters (By Component) as related to the removal of Title 42. Although Title 42 remains in effect at the present time, it is still subject to federal litigation. Furthermore, the CBP statistics show the dramatic increase in apprehensions in the El Paso sector.

Both Chief Mario D'Agostino and Chief Jorge Rodriguez provided Council with a presentation that explained the circumstances that existed in El Paso in 2019, as a result of the large numbers of immigrants that were being processed through El Paso. The presentation also discussed the current number of immigrants encountered in the El Paso region, and the likelihood that those numbers would continue to increase based on information provided in previous briefings with federal law enforcement agencies. Although the item was posted to extend a Disaster Declaration the Mayor did not sign the Declaration prior to May 23, 2022, therefore Council could not vote to extend the declaration.

Various Council members asked questions of both Chiefs and asked for what alternatives they had in responding to the immigration influx. Chief D'Agostino and myself explained the motion that was approved by Council in March of 2019 that allowed the City Manager to assist local NGO's with transporting and sheltering immigrants arriving in El Paso.

Karla M. Nieman - City Attorney

P.O. Box 1890/ El Paso, Texas 79950-1890 /915-212-0033 /Facsimile: 915-212-0034/ www.elpasotexas.gov



«Matter Matter ID»/

DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES

Office of the City Attorney

Based on the information provided to Council regarding the large influx of immigrant encounters in the El Paso region, as well as the limited amount of shelter capacity, limited number of volunteers to staff the shelters, limited modes of public transportation in our region, as well as the likelihood that Title 42 can still be lifted, immediate action is necessary from Council to be able to address this emergency affecting life, health, property, and the public peace.

It is for all these reason that the Council was justified in calling for a meeting for today at 2 p.m. under City Code Section 2.06.050 Items of Urgent Public Necessity and under the powers granted to the Council under Article III, The City Council, Section 3.10 Emergency Ordinances to Discuss an Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Assign Personnel and Resources to Assist in Addressing the Humanitarian and Public Safety Crisis Resulting from Mass Migration Through El Paso.

Karla M. Nieman - City Attorney

P.O. Box 1890/ El Paso, Texas 79950-1890 /915-212-0033 /Facsimile: 915-212-0034/ www.elpasotexas.gov

«Matter Matter ID»/

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA DATE: May 23, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: May 23, 2022

CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Mario M. D'Agostino, DCM (915) 212-5605

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL: Goal 2. Set the Standard for a Safe and Secure City

SUBGOAL: 2.1 Maintain standing as one of the nation's top safest cities

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.

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ASSIGN PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES TO ASSIST IN ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN AND PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS RESULTING FROM MASS MIGRATION THROUGH 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?

City Council heard the statistics regarding the current migrant crisis situation and reviewed the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's data for Southwest Land Border Encounters and Southwest Land Border Encounters (By Component) as related to the removal of Title 42. Although Title 42 remains in effect at the present time, it is still subject to federal litigation. Furthermore, the CBP statistics show the dramatic increase in apprehensions in the El Paso sector.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

Previous motion on migrant support in 2019.

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

HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? YES NO

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT:

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT:

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD:



(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE
AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ASSIGN PERSONNEL AND
RESOURCES TO ASSIST IN ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN AND PUBLIC
SAFETY CRISIS RESULTING FROM A MASS MIGRATION THROUGH EL PASO**

WHEREAS, thousands of migrants from Latin America have already gathered at or near the U.S.- Mexico border in hopes that President Biden will ease immigration restrictions that will make it easier to enter the United States; and

WHEREAS, because of war between Russia and Ukraine and the political situation in Turkey, Ukrainians, Russians, and Turks are arriving at the Southern border for admission to the United States; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) announced the repeal of the Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C. §265 (“Title 42”), which was expected to allow for the inflow of migrants from the southern border; and

WHEREAS, federal litigation ensued to enjoin the CDC from repealing Title 42; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest had 234,088 land border encounters in the month of April, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso sector of CBP had 29,838 land border encounters in the month of April, 2022 and a total of 143,124 encounters for federal fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, although Title 42 remains in place as a result of the federal litigation, the number of Border Patrol encounters remain high averaging 1,200 to 1,500 per day; and

WHEREAS, due to this high volume, the number of refugees and asylum seekers continues to climb resulting in 400-500 releases to the Annunciation House, a local non-governmental organization (“NGO”) on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, on some days, the number of releases is lower due to the limited NGO space; and

WHEREAS, when the City faced a migrant surge in March of 2019, the NGO was able to establish over thirty hospitality sites throughout the El Paso region, versus today’s fifteen hospitality sites; and

WHEREAS, the primary challenge is that the NGO does not have the volunteer base to sustain or increase current capacity at its current fifteen hospitality sites (twelve in El Paso, Texas, one in Las Cruces, New Mexico, one in Deming, New Mexico, and another in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and

ORDINANCE NO. _____

WHEREAS, although NGO volunteer recruitment efforts will continue, it is not anticipated that the volunteer base will keep up with the current demand, despite the NGO having identified additional facilities that could receive migrants; and

WHEREAS, when the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s (“CBP”) Central Processing Center is over capacity and NGO space is unavailable, that is when the potential for street releases arises; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2022, the federal authorities released 119 single adults on the downtown streets of the City of El Paso; and

WHEREAS, in response to the May 15, 2022, street release, the El Paso City-County Office of Emergency Management (“OEM”) reallocated twenty-nine COVID-19 Operations staff to assist as migrant shelter surge staff, and on May 17, 2022, this staff began orientation training at Casa del Refugiado, the NGO’s largest hospitality site; and

WHEREAS, OEM has created a job specification, for general disaster operations to include humanitarian relief duties to hire and assign staff to assist with NGO capacity; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso City Charter Section 3.10, allows for the adoption of one or more emergency ordinances to meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, Section 121.003 of the Texas Health & Safety Code states that a municipality may enforce any law that is reasonably necessary to protect public health; and

WHEREAS, Section 122.006 of the Texas Health & Safety Code provides home-rule municipalities express authority to adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the municipality, including quarantine rules to protect the residents against communicable disease; and

WHEREAS, OEM continues to provide COVID-19 isolation and quarantine hotel support to migrant shelters, expanding operations when outbreaks occur in congregate shelter facilities; and

WHEREAS, OEM has provided isolation and quarantine services to over 2,293 migrants in close coordination with NGOs since April 2020; and

WHEREAS, the release of mass groups of people without access to potable water, food, or shelter exposes the migrants and El Paso residents to the origination and spread of potential and actual disease; and

WHEREAS, there are significant public safety and security concerns related to the wave of migration, including but not limited to the risk to injury or loss of life with migrants in El Paso

ORDINANCE NO. _____

22-1006-11694 / PL#1177913v.3

Emergency Ordinance – Migrant Wave Surge Staff with Resources & Supplies/KMN/JF

streets with little or no resources on days that reach hot or cold temperatures and the inherent risks that come with increased demand on local shelters; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, the City is faced with the imminent threat of widespread injury or loss of life resulting from a surge in transient migrants traveling to the region during an ongoing global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, there is the potential for loss of property for both residents and migrants due to those who would take financial advantage of this wave of migrants; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso is home to 4 of the 28 international ports of entry between Texas and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, based on mass migration events in the recent past, the City anticipates significant delays at the international ports-of-entry to include trade; and

WHEREAS, the potential encampment of large groups of migrants on City rights of way and parks poses safety risks to migrants and citizens alike; and

WHEREAS, in awaiting the due support of the federal government, the City finds that the expenditure of public funds for staff to coordinate resources and supplies, serve as shelter surge staff and transport of migrants released in the City of El Paso accomplishes a valid public purpose of protecting public infrastructure, and protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of El Paso; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health of persons in the municipality, the City Council wishes to continue to assist the local NGO with surge staff, coordination of resources and supplies, and transportation in light of the continued high number of community releases; and

WHEREAS, OEM and the City will continue to prepare and evaluate the need for mass emergency sheltering in anticipation of the eventual repeal of Title 42 and other regional migration surges that may impact the El Paso region; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance shall remain in effect until otherwise terminated, re-enacted, or superseded by a conflicting ordinance, El Paso Local Health Authority Ordinance, or state or federal law.

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

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AND DESCRIPTION.

- 1) A public emergency affecting life, health, property, or the public peace exists due to the release of mass groups of people without access to potable water, food, or shelter

ORDINANCE NO. _____

22-1006-11694 / PL#1177913v.3

Emergency Ordinance – Migrant Wave Surge Staff with Resources & Supplies/KMN/JF

within the City of El Paso as follows:

- a. exposing the migrants to life endangering hot or cold temperatures;
- b. exposing the migrants and El Paso residents to the origination and spread of potential and actual disease;
- c. exposing City property, infrastructure, migrants and El Paso citizens to safety issues involved in the potential encampment of large groups of migrants on city rights of way and parks; and
- d. requiring the City to dedicate its first responders as necessary to maintain the public peace.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY ACTION.

- 1) In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, the City Manager is granted broad authority to take all action necessary to commit, direct, and assign necessary personnel and resources, with the exception of financial contributions to provide humanitarian relief to migrants released by federal authorities into the El Paso community;
- 2) The OEM will continue to request reimbursement for resources and expenditures used in addressing the continual arrival and release of migrants through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program;
- 3) Upon the City Attorney's Office review, the City Manager or designee is authorized to execute any and all necessary documents to address the public emergency.
- 4) The City Manager is directed to provide reports every thirty days to City Council of the budgetary impacts of the City's efforts to address the current immigration influx, such report to include but not be limited to expenses pertaining to transportation and personnel.
- 5) The City of El Paso may conduct emergency procurements in accordance with all applicable state law to acquire goods and services necessary to address the public emergency.

SECTION 3. CITY CHARTER 3.10.

This Ordinance is adopted as an emergency measure with the unanimous vote of the City Council Representatives present and the consent of the Mayor and pursuant to El Paso City Charter Section 3.10.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

22-1006-11694 / PL#1177913v.3

Emergency Ordinance – Migrant Wave Surge Staff with Resources & Supplies/KMN/JF

Except as specified in a preceding section, this Emergency Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and publication and it is accordingly so ordained. This Ordinance shall remain in effect for 30 days, unless re-enacted in accordance with El Paso City Charter Section 3.10 or until the emergency is terminated, whichever is sooner.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable. If any part of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining phrases, sentences, paragraphs and sections.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 23rd day of May, 2022

THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

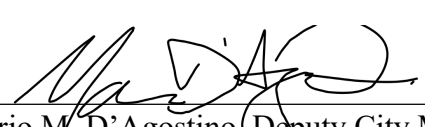
Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Karla M. Nieman
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Mario M. D'Agostino, Deputy City Manager
Public Health & Safety

ORDINANCE NO. _____

22-1006-11694 / PL#1177913v.3

Emergency Ordinance – Migrant Wave Surge Staff with Resources & Supplies/KMN/JF