

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

DEPARTMENT:

AGENDA DATE:

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:

STRATEGIC GOAL:

SUBJECT:

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

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?

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2019, the community of El Paso and the community of Juarez, faced a horrific tragedy that shocked the city, state, nation and the world when a lone shooter walked into a Walmart store and shot 46 people, killing 23 and injuring 23; and,

WHEREAS, after this terroristic act of violence against our community, the Texas Legislature recognized the need to take action on mass violence prevention to prevent future tragedies from happening in Texas and established Mass Violence & Community Safety Committees in both the House and the Senate to address the issue of mass violence caused by mass shootings; and,

WHEREAS, before the first committee could even meet and within the same month of the El Paso mass violence attack, another horrifying act of mass violence occurred on August 31 in the Midland Odessa community, where one shooter killed seven people and wounded 25; and,

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2019 the Texas State Senate, convened a Senate Committee Hearing on Mass Violence & Community Safety in El Paso to address the issue of mass violence and heard from experts in their respective fields providing valuable information related to the ability to establish realistic risk indicators to help identify potential threats; how to make existing laws more effective and efficient; new legislation that will allow counties to add protocols on how to enforce protective orders that require the surrender of firearms; and the use and role of mental health professionals in identifying risk; and,

WHEREAS, before the House Committee could convene and before the year even ended, another senseless act of gun violence towards a Texas Community happened on December 29, 2019 in White Settlement where one shooter killed two people in a church; and,

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2020, the House Committee on Mass Violence & Community Safety also held a hearing in El Paso, once again hearing from experts on identifying ways in which future tragic events that happened in El Paso, could be prevented; and,

WHEREAS, despite the Committee hearings on the prevention of mass violence and promises by State leaders to protect Texas communities from mass shootings, only two bills were passed during the 2021 Legislative Session and no significant common-sense laws to address gun violence prevention were passed; and,

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2022, the deadliest school shooting to occur in Texas and the third deadliest in the nation, occurred in Uvalde where 19 children and two teachers were killed in Robb Elementary School and once again, shocked the city, state, nation and the world.

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2022, after the mass shooting in Uvalde, Governor Abbott called on the Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor to each convene a special legislative committee to review what steps previous legislatures have enacted, what resources the State has made available to local school districts, and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Executive Branch so that meaningful action can be made on, among other things, the following topics to prevent future school shootings; and,

WHEREAS, although making schools safer is the Governor's primary focus of these special legislative committees since during the Governor's tenure two mass shootings at schools have occurred resulting in 31 deaths and 30 injured, there should be a much broader focus on mass shootings since from the time the Governor assumed office, mass shootings have occurred in places other than school grounds, such as the 2016 Dallas mass shooting that killed five officers and injured 11 others; the 2017 Sutherland Springs shooting that killed 26 and injured 20, the August 2019 El Paso shooting that killed 23 and injured 24, and the August 2019 Odessa Midland shooting that killed 7 people and injured 25; and,

WHEREAS, these special legislative committees are similar to the special legislative committees established in 2019 after the El Paso mass shooting incident, where although hours of testimony was taken from the public and subject matter experts, when the Legislature met in the 2021 regular legislative session, no meaningful legislation was passed; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor must call a Special Session because the past has shown that convening special committees does not lead to meaningful legislation

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

That the City having gone through a mass shooting event sends its thoughts and prayers to the community of Uvalde and stands in solidarity and strength with the City and people of Uvalde and prays that although lives were shattered on May 24, and the community shocked, saddened and stunned, that the fabric of their community will not be torn.

That through the El Paso community's resiliency and strong sense of community and strength of community the City was able to endure the horrific event of August 3, 2019 and continue to stand strong despite the senseless attack of violence, and now stands ready to assist the community of Uvalde.

That the State Legislature must finally act responsibly to increase school safety measures and protect schools from violence and prevent the unimaginable pain caused by a senseless act of gun violence so that no other Texas community should have to endure such suffering.

That although the prevention of continued mass violence in our Texas communities is a complicated, complex issue with no simple answer, the Legislature must act to address the issue and prevent the continued horrific acts of violence from occurring in other Texas schools.

That the City strongly urges and advocates for the strengthening of existing legislation to provide stronger ways to more efficiently and effectively protect our schools.

That the Governor call a Special Legislative Session to address gun violence on school grounds.

That during the Special Session, the Legislature passes legislation that will:

- Provide funding for specialized training either through the School Marshal program or other existing programs already available for the School Districts to hire law enforcement officers or peace officers.

- Provide funding to hire military veterans and retired law enforcement officers to implement a School Guardian program similar to that in Florida
- Provide for minimum safety standards and protocols for all Texas schools and provide dedicated funding to implement the standards, to include any required building enhancements, training, or dedicated mental health resources.

That the City Manager be directed to work with El Paso's State Delegation, El Paso School Districts and other governmental entities to enhance the above efforts.

That a copy of this Resolution be provided to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Texas Speaker, and other Texas cities and be included as a priority legislative initiative for the City.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

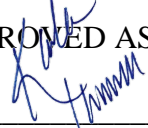
THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser, Mayor

ATTEST:

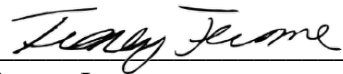
Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Karla M. Nieman
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Tracey Jerome
Deputy City Manager