

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

DEPARTMENT: Mayor and Council

AGENDA DATE: November 22, 2022

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: City Representative Peter Svarzbein 915.212.1002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Goal 4 - Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life through Recreational, Cultural and Educational Environments

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 recognize Rabbi Stephen Leon for his leadership at Congregation B'nai Zion as well as teaching and providing information to the citizens of El Paso for more than three decades about the descendants of the families expelled during the Spanish Inquisition who now live in our community and are known as the Anusim.

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?

Rabbi Stephen Leon is the founder and director of the Anusim Center of El Paso which provides musical, cultural, and educational programs for the people of El Paso.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

N/A

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, for many years, Rabbi Stephen Leon has been a leader to the entire community and served the needs of the descendants of the Spanish and Portuguese families expelled during the Inquisition and who are known as crypto-Jews of El Paso, and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Stephen Leon has served with distinction as the Rabbi and Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation B'nai Zion for 36 years, and has been on the faculty of UTEP for 20 years, and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Stephen Leon has been teaching classes and providing information to the citizens of El Paso for more than three decades about the descendants of the families expelled during the Spanish Inquisition who now live in our community, and

WHEREAS, for the past decade, Rabbi Stephen Leon has served as the founder and director of the Anusim Center of El Paso which provides musical, cultural, and educational programs for the people of El Paso, and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Stephen Leon has been the counselor, mentor, and advisor to hundreds of citizens of El Paso who are researching their historic connection to their crypto-Jewish ancestors from the Spanish Inquisition, and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Stephen Leon has brought to the attention of people in many countries the welcoming nature and support of the citizens of El Paso in regard to their hospitality toward the crypto-Jews in our community.

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

That the City of El Paso proudly honors and recognizes the significant contributions of Rabbi Stephen Leon throughout many decades of service to our community, and November 22, 2022 shall be known as, "RABBI STEPHEN LEON DAY".

(Signatures on the following page)

APPROVED this ____ day of _____ 2022.

CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line and a small loop.

Carlos L. Armendariz
Assistant City Attorney