

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso has residents who reside in areas of the city lacking trees and tree canopies; including have a tree equity score of below 65% which contributes to the existence of high heat areas; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of El Paso wishes to address the above-described issues via various means, including the establishment of a 915 TreeKeepers program (“Program”) which will provide drought tolerant trees to be adopted by residents who live in high heat areas; and

WHEREAS, the Program will utilize city urban heat maps and determine routes to city parks and schools for identifying planting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Program will be supported through strategic partnerships to include the City’s Climate and Sustainability Department and additional support if needed by the Streets and Maintenance and Parks and Recreation Departments; and

WHEREAS, the Program will put forth outreach efforts and promotion initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The Office of District 3, City Representative Cassandra Hernandez wishes to kickstart the initiative by allocating \$25,000 to the newly established 915 TreeKeepers program; and

WHEREAS, The Office of District 5, City Representative Isabel Salcido authorizes the use of discretionary funds in the amount of \$10,000 to purchase trees for District 5; and

WHEREAS, The Office of District 5, City Representative Isabel Salcido authorizes the use of discretionary funds in the amount of \$1,500 to provide as an incentive for volunteers or groups who participate in the Program; and

WHEREAS, El Paso Electric Company (“El Paso Electric”) has been an integral part of the El Paso community for over a century, established in 1901; and

WHEREAS, El Paso Electric has established bold renewable energy goals striving to achieve 80% carbon-free energy by 2035 and 100% decarbonization by 2045. These commitments demonstrate their unwavering commitment to sustainable, renewable energy and a cleaner future for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, El Paso Electric wishes to provide support to the Program by providing the initial startup funding; and

WHEREAS, Marathon Petroleum, Inc. (“Marathon”) has been a member of the El Paso community since approximately 1928; and

WHEREAS, Marathon has shown a commitment to minimizing their impact on the environment through their on-going involvement in multiple programs, support of several organizations and implementation of various initiatives that aim to protect our environment and the local communities in which they operate; and

WHEREAS, Marathon wishes to provide support to the Program by providing the initial startup funding.

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

That the City Council declares that the expenditure of District 3 discretionary funds in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, and the expenditure of District 5 discretionary funds in the an amount not to exceed \$11,500 to support and establish 915 TreeKeepers serves a municipal purpose by setting the standard for a safe and secure city, promoting the visual image of El Paso, enhancing El Paso's quality of life, promoting transparent and consistent communication among all members of the community, and nurturing and promoting a healthy and sustainable community.

That the City Council instruct the City Manager to accept a donation in the amount of \$25,000 from El Paso Electric Company (El Paso Electric) and Marathon Petroleum Inc. ("Marathon") to establish the 915 TreeKeepers ("Program") in the City of El Paso.

That the City Manager instruct staff to establish the Program using the funds allocated by District 3, District 5 and donated by El Paso Electric and Marathon to pay for trees to be adopted by residents who reside in areas of the city lacking trees and tree canopies and targeted to high heat areas with below 65% tree equity scorecards. The Program will also utilize city urban heat maps and determine routes to city parks and schools for identifying planting opportunities. The Program will be supported through strategic partnerships to include the Climate and Sustainability Department, Streets and Maintenance and Parks and Recreation Departments.

That the Program will also dedicate part of the funding allocated by District 3, District 5 and donated by El Paso Electric and Marathon to kickstart the program outreach efforts, print, mail, and promotion initiatives. Trees adopted by residents will consent to an agreement to maintain and water their drought tolerant trees aided by a native tree plant guide provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. The Program will continue with the support of the *Love your Block* program and other climate initiatives to ensure its future sustainability. The Program is not limited to any area in the city and is open to additional parties wishing to participate, in alignment with the program's mission. Representative Isabel Salcido wishes to dedicate the use of discretionary funds in the amount of \$1,500 to provide incentives to volunteers who participate in tree planting events. Three incentives in the amount of \$500 will be provided to volunteers through random selection for participation.

Further, that the City Manager is authorized to effectuate any budget transfers necessary to ensure that the funds are properly expended for such purpose and is authorized to execute any

related agreements, amendments to such agreements, and documents necessary to carry out the purpose of this Resolution.

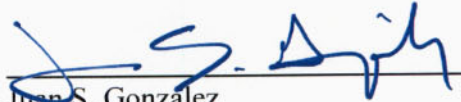
PASSED AND APPROVED this 11th day of April, 2023.

THE CITY OF EL PASO:



Oscar Leeser, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Juan S. Gonzalez
Sr. Assistant City Attorney



ATTEST:



Laura D. Prine
City Clerk