

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

DEPARTMENT: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

AGENDA DATE: October 11, 2021

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

City Representative Peter Svarzbein 915-212-0001

City Representative Aleksandra Annello 915-212-0002

City Representative Cassandra Hernandez 915-212-0003

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: (Goal 6 – Set the Standard for Sound Governance and Fiscal Management)
(Subgoal: 6.8 – Support Transparent and Inclusive Government)

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 on a resolution that the City Council of the City of El Paso urges the Texas 87th Legislature to support El Paso by ensuring Fort Bliss and the El Paso International Airport remain in Congressional District 16.

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 City of El Paso and Fort Bliss have a history of strong cooperation ensuring our shared community has access to the services critical to public safety, education, and quality of life and drawing a district boundary that excludes the El Paso International Airport and Fort Bliss from being represented by a Congressional representative who is locally based and understands the needs of these key community assets and the critical role they play in the strength and resilience of our community.

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, the Governor has convened a third special legislative session of the Texas 87th Legislature to consider legislation relating to the apportionment of the State of Texas into districts used to elect members of the Texas House of Representatives, the Texas Senate, the State Board of Education, and the United States House of Representatives, a process known as “redistricting”; and

WHEREAS, redistricting is the revision or replacement of existing electoral districts, resulting in new districts with different geographical boundaries in order to equalize population among electoral districts after publication of the United States decennial census indicates population has increased or decreased over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Senate has proposed a redistricting map (“Map”) that would remove Fort Bliss and the El Paso International Airport (“EPIA”) from District 16, which is an El Paso-based congressional district and place these two vital economic drivers for our community and region in District 23, which is based in San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, if the proposed Map is approved, a significant portion of our City, including a portion of Northeast El Paso, Fort Bliss and the EPIA will be represented by a Congressional delegation member based over 550 miles away as opposed to a member based within the City, familiar with the needs and services of our City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso International Airport, owned and operated by the City of El Paso, is a catalyst for growth and plays an important role in the strength and resilience of our region’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso, has identified the continued growth and development of the El Paso International Airport as a key strategic objective, successfully engaging in public-private partnerships that result in the development of airport land, including the construction of a \$150 million distribution center, bringing 950 new jobs to the region, and generating over \$48 million in revenue to the Airport over the next 50 years; and

WHEREAS, \$3.3 billion of goods moved through the Airport’s Foreign Trade Zone No. 68 and \$542 million of merchandise was exported from this Zone to other countries in 2020 alone, and further, Foreign Trade Zone No. 68 is directly responsible for 2,055 jobs; and

WHEREAS, with an average of 47 departures per day and an annual 3.5 million throughput in total passenger traffic, the airport facilitates tourism and provides local businesses with access to the global market; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bliss has a \$4 billion impact on the local economy, directly employs over 47,000 people and indirectly employs another nearly 84,000, making Fort Bliss the single largest employer in the El Paso region, contributing to the livelihood of at least 1 in 5 people in El Paso; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, there were nearly 38,000 active duty family members that reside in the El Paso region where they live, work, and play, while an additional 3,000 soldiers released from active duty decided to make El Paso their permanent home; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso and Fort Bliss have a history of strong cooperation ensuring our shared community has access to the services critical to public safety, education, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, drawing a district boundary that excludes the El Paso International Airport and Fort Bliss from being represented by a Congressional representative who is locally based and understands the needs of these key community assets and the critical role they play in the strength and resilience of our community;

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

The City Council of the City of El Paso urges the Texas 87th Legislature to support El Paso by ensuring Fort Bliss and the El Paso International Airport remain in Congressional District 16.

PASSED and APPROVED this _____ of _____, 2021

THE CITY OF EL PASO

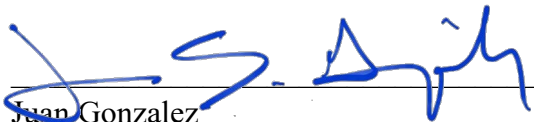
Oscar Lesser
Mayor

(signatures continue on following page)

ATTEST:

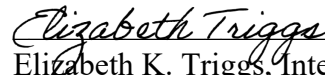
Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Juan Gonzalez
Senior Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Elizabeth K. Triggs, Interim Director
Economic and International Development