



El Paso Animal Services

MAYOR
Renard U. Johnson

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Minutes

February 11, 2026

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Alejandra Chávez

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Deanna M. Rocha

District 4
Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5
Ivan Niño

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER
Dionne Mack

Call to Order- Establish Quorum

A meeting of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was held virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Tess Passero at 6:01 PM.

Board Members	Present	Absent
Laura Sánchez	X	
Silvia Serna	X	
Sandra DiFrancesco	X	
Celinda Crews	X	
Vacant		
Barbara Candelaria	X	
Mary Bardouche	X	
Elvira Stephanie Frias	X	
Raquel Ellis	X	
Tess Passero	X	
Megan Sesker	X	
Chris Canales		X

Animal Services staff present: Interim Director Michael Wachsmann, Maria Arciniega, Michele Anderson, Wesley Walker

Other City staff present: Deputy City Manager Richard Bristol, Assistant City Attorney Mona Heydarian, Assistant City Attorney Eric Gutierrez, El Paso Police Department Animal Cruelty Investigations Unit (ACIU) Detective Kristopher Serna

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
El Paso Animal Services | 5001 Fred Wilson | El Paso Texas 79906
915.212.7297 | EPAS@elpasotexas.gov





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1. Approval of Minutes

Discussion and action on approval of the minutes for the January 14, 2026 meeting.

Laura Sanchez moved to approve the January 14, 2026 minutes; Mary Bardouche seconded; all members voted in favor; none opposed; and motion passed unanimously.

2. Reports of Officers, Staff and Subcommittees.

A. Chair Report

Vice Chair Tess Passero provided an update on a change that requires this committee to meet in person moving forward beginning in March 2026. Passero also informed the committee that the City Council unanimously adopted the Aggressive and Vicious Dog Ordinance changes as ASAC had recommended. She also mentioned the Spay-a-Thon event happening in the next few months to provide low cost spay/neuter services to the public.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Sandra DiFrancesco
- Tess Passero
- Raquel Ellis

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

B. El Paso Animal Services February update and statistics

Michael Wachsmann presented the January Director's Report and Statistics. Report is attached.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Silvia Serna
- Celinda Crews
- Barbara Candelaria
- Raquel Ellis
- Mary Bardouche
- Tess Passero

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
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NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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3. Regular Agenda

- Presentation by legal on ASAC duties - Mona Heydarian, Assistant City Attorney I.

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Barbara Candelaria
- Megan Sesker
- Mary Bardouche
- Tess Passero

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

- Discussion on Special Meeting to go into Executive Session per Section 551.074 - PERSONNEL MATTERS

The following members of ASAC commented:

- Tess Passero
- Barbara Candelaria
- Sandra DiFrancesco
- Raquel Ellis
- Mary Bardouche

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

The following staff member commented:

- Mona Heydarian

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

4. Call to the Public

No member of the public spoke.

5. Adjournment

Silvia Serna moved to adjourn; Laura Sanchez seconded, all members voted in favor; none opposed; and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Michael Wachsmann- Interim Director
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Prepared by Maria Arciniega; edited by Chris Canales.

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Approved by A.S.A.C Chair:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CC", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Canales

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