



EL PASO COUNTY STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, many El Paso County residents—including but not limited to the homeless, children and students, transgendered persons, the indigent, the disabled, the elderly, immigrants and mixed-status families, runaway youth or youth exiting the foster-care system, justice involved individuals, survivors of domestic violence, and others—are currently unserved or underserved by existing official identification (ID), and;

WHEREAS, this population, that numbers well beyond 100,000 or is nearly 10% of the population within the County of El Paso, is in need of access to some form of government issued identification, and;

WHEREAS, this lack of official identification impedes the ability of these persons to exist in their daily lives, restricting their access to emergency services, financial services, other government services, and civic life more broadly, and;

WHEREAS, this lack of identification particularly reinforces reservations held by these communities that lead them to not report crimes to the police or to bear witness in criminal investigations, a well-documented problem in communities across this state and this nation, and;

WHEREAS, such reservations about interacting with local authorities without proper ID leads these communities to likewise under-report labor, health, and housing violations, which combined with under-reporting of criminal activity, means that our communities are less safe for all residents, and;

WHEREAS, this lack of identification significantly increases the chances that mixed-status families are divided by deportation, and;

WHEREAS, persons lacking valid identification are often unable to open bank accounts, leaving them in a cash-based economy that makes them particularly likely targets for robberies and assaults, and;

WHEREAS, the inability to access bank accounts makes these individuals unable to acquire financial services, such as home or auto loans, checking accounts, or savings accounts, that they need to prosper financially, thus making the entire community less dynamic and prosperous, and;

WHEREAS, an El Paso Community Identification Card would fill a void by providing an official form of personal identification for the tens of thousands of El Paso residents who face the challenges described above as they try to live their lives without such identification, and;

WHEREAS, this Community Identification Card will unify the El Paso community, make it safer and more secure, more prosperous and economically dynamic, and facilitate participation in public and private aspects of city life, and;

WHEREAS, the Cities of New Haven, Connecticut, San Francisco, California, Oakland, California, Newark, New Jersey, New York, New York, Hartford, Connecticut and Richmond, California have implemented such municipal ID programs and have reported an increase in the reporting of crimes in those cities, as well as other signs of increased civic integration and community success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court that the County of El Paso supports the concept of an El Paso Community Identification Card as a means to support the general welfare of all who call El Paso home.

SIGNED, this 26th day of July 2021

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David C. Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3

Commissioner Carl L. Robinson, Pct. 4

Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge