



EL PASO COUNTY
STATE OF TEXAS



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the people of the County of El Paso, Texas, stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they; provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills; Support working families by ensuring children are safe and productive when they are not at school; Build stronger communities and promote positive relationships by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people; Engage families, schools, and community partners in advancing youth welfare; Offer young people many demonstrated positive benefits, particularly in their academic studies, social and emotional health, and their overall physical wellbeing; and,

WHEREAS, El Paso afterschool programs have responded to the COVID-19 crisis with innovative virtual programming to keep kids engaged and healthy, and they are facing the challenge of helping kids adjust to the return to in-person learning and social interactions that are crucial to their development; and,

WHEREAS, the County of El Paso is honored to be home to several community organizations that provide leadership in youth health and education and believe quality afterschool programs help our children become successful adults -- including the Paso del Norte Health Foundation's Healthy Kids Initiative, the United Way of El Paso County, and the BOOST Network and its members; and,

WHEREAS, studies show that young people who participate in afterschool programs perform better in school, develop leadership skills, and are less likely to engage in risky behaviors; and,

WHEREAS, Lights on Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs, will be held this year on October 26, 2023, to promote the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and,

WHEREAS, the County of El Paso is committed to the health and safety of all young people and to providing expanded learning opportunities to help close an opportunity gap exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare young people for future success better; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court enthusiastically endorse innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure their lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

SIGNED, this 23rd day of October 2023

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David C. Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3

Commissioner Sergio Coronado, Pct. 4

County Judge Ricardo A. Samaniego