

**EL PASO COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**CARLOS LEON**  
Commissioner, Pct. 1

**ILIANA HOLGUIN**  
Commissioner, Pct. 3



**DAVID STOUT**  
Commissioner, Pct. 2

**CARL L. ROBINSON**  
Commissioner, Pct. 4

**RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO**  
County Judge

Commissioners Court Chambers, El Paso County Courthouse  
500 East San Antonio Room 303 El Paso, Texas 79901  
Website address: <http://www.epcounty.com>  
View live video webcast: <http://epcounty.com/video>

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**COMMISSIONERS COURT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021**

HON. RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO	COUNTY JUDGE, PRESIDING	VIDEOCONFERENCE
CARLOS LEON	COMMISSIONER, PCT #1	VIDEOCONFERENCE
DAVID S. STOUT	COMMISSIONER, PCT #2	VIDEOCONFERENCE
ILIANA HOLGUIN	COMMISSIONER, PCT #3	VIDEOCONFERENCE
CARL L. ROBINSON	COMMISSIONER, PCT #4	TELECONFERENCE

**MINUTES PREPARED BY JESSICA DOMINGUEZ, DEPUTY CLERK**

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**1. MEETING CONVENED**

Commissioners Court of El Paso County, Texas was called to order by the Deputy Clerk at 9:32 A.M.

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**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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**3. INVOCATION**

A. Receive an invocation from Reese Kaplan.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**

10. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding El Paso County's preparation and response for COVID-19.

Betsy C. Keller, CM, Chief Administrator, County Administration Department (915) 546-2215

**NO ACTION**

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Resolution to Allow Online Bidding and Sale for Tax Foreclosure Sales and Tax Resales, and to Adopt Rules Governing Online Bidding and Sale. (OP-21-0003)  
Betsy C. Keller, CM, Chief Administrator, County Administration Department (915) 546-2215
- B. Accept the Quarterly Report from Life Ambulance Service, Inc.  
Rachel Harracksingh, President, Life Ambulance Service, Inc. (915) 772-1642
- C. Pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code, Section 115.021, audit and settle all accounts against the County shown on the attached listing and direct the payment of those accounts.  
Edward A. Dion, County Auditor, County Auditor's Office (915) 546-2040
- D. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Member Participation Agreement between the County of El Paso and My Texas Direct, a custom built 504 Workers Compensation Network, to certify eligibility requirements and become a member of My Texas Direct. (Contract No. 2020-1119)  
Melissa M. Carrillo, PHR, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Department (915) 546-2218
- E. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Interlocal Agreement between the County of El Paso and the El Paso County Community Supervision and Corrections Department for Human Resources Services and Employee Benefits from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2023. (Contract No. 2020-0926)  
Melissa M. Carrillo, PHR, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Department (915) 546-2218
- F. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Consulting Agreement between the County of El Paso and Independent HR Management Solutions, LLC, DBA Sandra Greene, regarding investigative services for employment claims as referred by the HR Department. (Contract No. 2021-0007)  
Melissa M. Carrillo, PHR, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Department (915) 546-2218
- G. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Agreement for the Release of Driver Records to Government Entities between the County of El Paso and the State of Texas Department of Public Safety. (Contract No. 2020-1007)  
Melissa M. Carrillo, PHR, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Department (915) 546-2218
- H. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the First Amendment to Letter of Intent between El Paso County, Texas and Moms on Board (MOB) to provide a six-month extension to fundraise the \$750,000 for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grant to build all-inclusive playgrounds at Ascarate, Gallegos, and Risinger Parks. (Contract No. 2021-0005)  
Veronica Myers, Director, Parks and Recreation Department (915) 546-2015
- I. Approve the Certificates of Plat Compliance (under Texas Local Government Code Section 232.028(a), as provided on the attached listing.  
Norma R. Palacios, Executive Director, Public Works Department (915) 546-2015
- J. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Extension & Amendment to the Lease Agreement with El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board renewing the lease for an additional five years from June 1, 2020, through May 31, 2025, in the sum of \$721.16 plus a one time administrative fee of \$600 for the first year of the option term, and a 3% annual rental adjustment for each subsequent year, for the use of the tree farm and water well #5 at Ascarate Park. Funding is available in GF-ASCARATEOP-RENT/LEASES and GF-ASCARATEOP-OPS EXP-GEN. Further, approve the transfer of funds from GF-ASCARATEOP-OPS EXP-GEN to GF-ASCARATEOP-RENT/LEASES. (Contract No. 2020-0399)  
Norma R. Palacios, Executive Director, Public Works Department (915) 546-2015
- K. Approve and authorize the transfer and removal of surplus assets from the respective departments to the Purchasing Department in compliance with Texas Local Government Code Section 262.011(j). See attachment.  
Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

#### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by Commissioner Stout

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Nay: None

## **5. RESOLUTIONS**

A. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing January 2021 as National Mentoring and Human Trafficking Awareness month in El Paso County, Texas.

David Stout, Commissioner, Pct. 2 (915) 546-2111

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego  
Seconded by Commissioner Stout

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson  
Members Voting Nay: None

B. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing January 2021 as Crime Stoppers Month in El Paso County.  
Carl L. Robinson, Commissioner, Pct. 4 (915) 546-2044

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by Commissioner Robinson  
Seconded by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson  
Members Voting Nay: None

C. Approve and adopt a resolution declaring the month of January 2021 as "School Board Recognition Month" in El Paso County, Texas.

Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge, Commissioners Court (915) 546-2098

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego  
Seconded by Commissioner Robinson

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson  
Members Voting Nay: None

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **NO ACTION**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

7. Receive a presentation of the audited financial statements for the El Paso County Hospital District, as of September 30, 2020, and for the year then ended, and take appropriate action.

R. Jacob Cintron, President & CEO, Hospital District/University Medical Center (915) 521-7600

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego  
Seconded by Commissioner Holguin

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson  
Members Voting Nay: None

## **COMMISSIONERS COURT**

8. Approve and authorize the allocation of \$5,000 in Hotel Occupancy Tax funds for a project with Preservation Texas and KTSM to produce videos that promote the history of El Paso. Further, authorize an allocation in the amount of \$5,000 to assist the Trost Society with operational costs from SR-TOURPROM-OPS EXPENSES-GEN. (OP-20-1317)

David Stout, Commissioner, Pct. 2 (915) 546-2111

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego  
Seconded by Commissioner Stout

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson  
Members Voting Nay: None

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**

9. Receive a report and discuss the CARES Act Grant and the Coronavirus Response and Relief, Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021.

Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262

### **NO ACTION**

## **PURCHASING**

11. Approve VMWare Support Renewal for Information Technology Department using DIR-TSO-3926 awarded to Sequel Data Systems Incorporated of Austin, Texas, in the amount of \$93,337.21. Purchasing approved on December 22, 2020. Funding is available in GF-ITD-MAINT/REP-SOFTWARE.  
Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Nay: None

12. Approve award recommendation for Bid 21-001 As-Needed Pest Control Services for the County of El Paso to Eagle Pest Control of El Paso, TX, for the yearly amount of \$23,464. Purchasing approved on 12/21/2020. Funding is available in GF-FACILITIES-CONTR SVC-GEN.  
Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by Commissioner Robinson

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Nay: None

13. Approve award recommendation for Bid 21-002 As-Needed Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Filters for the County of El Paso to Independent Air Filters of Lubbock, TX, and Ferguson Enterprises of El Paso, TX, as indicated on the tabulation. Purchasing approved on January 5, 2021. Funding is available in various department accounts.  
Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Nay: None

14. Approve award recommendation for Bid 21-003 Janitorial Supplies for the County of El Paso to Laun-Dry Supply of El Paso, TX; Longhorn Distributing of El Paso, TX; Shelby Distributions, Inc. of El Paso, TX; Southwestern Mill Distributors, Inc., of El Paso, TX; and Spectrum Paper Co., Inc. of El Paso, TX, as indicated on the tabulation. Purchasing approved on 12/22/2020. Funding is available in various department accounts.  
Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Nay: None

15. Approve award recommendation for Bid 21-005 Newspaper Advertising/Legal Ads for the County of El Paso to El Paso, Inc., of El Paso, TX, as indicated on the tabulation. Purchasing approved on 12/22/2020. Funding is available in GF-GADM-ADVERTISING.  
Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Nay: None

**MEETING RECESSED AT 12:01 P.M.**

**MEETING RECONVENED AT 1:00 P.M.**

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

16. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the 381 Economic Development Agreement with the El Paso Chamber of Commerce as an administrator of the County Financial Assistance for Safety, Technology & Economic Resilience (FASTER) program. Funding in the amount of \$1,560,000 is available in GF-GADM-APPROP-UNALLOCATED FB. (Contract No. 2020-1125)

Jose M. Landeros, Interim Director, Economic Development Department (915) 546-2177

17. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Chapter 381 Economic Development Program Agreement with Workforce Solutions Borderplex as an administrator of the County Financial Assistance for Safety, Technology & Economic Resilience (FASTER) program. Funding in the amount of \$1,030,000 is available in GF-GADM-APPROP-UNALLOCATED FB. (Contract No. 2020-1126)

Jose M. Landeros, Interim Director, Economic Development Department (915) 546-2177

18. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the 381 Economic Development Agreement with the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as an administrator of the County Financial Assistance for Safety, Technology & Economic Resilience (FASTER) program. Funding in the amount of \$1,560,000 is available in GF-GADM-APPROP-UNALLOCATED FB. (Contract No. 2020-1129)

Jose M. Landeros, Interim Director, Economic Development Department (915) 546-2177

### **MOTION: APPROVE ITEMS #16, #17 AND #18, TO INCLUDE THE AMENDED EXHIBIT C, AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Commissioner Stout

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Nay: None

## HUMAN RESOURCES

19. Approve and authorize the revision to the County's Re-Employment Policy, and further authorize the deletion of the County's Reinstatement Policy. (OP-20-1588)

Melissa M. Carrillo, PHR, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Department (915) 546-2218

### **MOTION: POSTPONE 2 WEEKS.**

Motion by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Stout

Members Voting Nay: None

20. Adopt a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Statement for the County of El Paso.

Melissa M. Carrillo, PHR, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Department (915) 546-2218

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by Commissioner Holguin

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Nay: None

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

Approve the submission of County grant applications as listed and described. If awarded, all grant award agreements will be brought back to the Commissioners Court for final acceptance and approval.

21. **CORRECTION PER COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE** - Approve and authorize El Paso County to apply for the U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program to make funding available for the County to assist eligible households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, through existing or newly created rental assistance programs. The funding allocation will be later determined by the Treasury Department and may be utilized through **DECEMBER 31, 2021**. (Contract No. 2021-0006)

Irene G. Valenzuela, Executive Director, Community Services Department (915) 775-2708

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by Commissioner Stout

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Holguin

Members Voting Nay: None

22. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) for Reconstruction Project Off-System and accompanying resolution with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the engineering design and construction costs of two Canutillo roadways (Contract #24 BCF5003) in the amount of \$1,033,678.09. No County match required. (Contract No. 2020-1116)  
Jose M. Landeros, Director, Planning & Development Department (915) 546-2015

**MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Nay: None

**BUDGET AND FINANCE**

23. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Detention Services Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the U.S. Department of Justice, United States Marshals Service. (Contract No. 2020-0622)  
Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262

**MOTION: DELETE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Stout

Members Voting Nay: None

24. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding the allocation of additional funding necessary for improvements to the Medical Examiner's Office for the negative pressure system. Funding in the amount of \$279,207 is available within CP-IMPROV01-MISCELLANEOUS and GF-GADM-OPS CONTINGENCIES.  
Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262

**MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Holguin

Members Voting Nay: None

25. Approve amendment No. 13 to the County of El Paso's 2020-2021 operating budget. This budgetary amendment will increase General Fund by \$300,000, decrease Capital Projects by \$300,000, increase Grants by \$190,000, thus increasing the overall budget of \$484,116,474.24 to \$484,306,474.24.  
Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262

**MOTION: APPROVE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Nay: None

26B. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.0725, discuss contract negotiations regarding the County's Federal Inmate contract with the U.S. Marshal's Service for detention rates and services related to federal prisoners.

Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262

**MOTION: (1) COMMISSIONERS COURT VOTES UNANIMOUSLY THAT DELIBERATION IN AN OPEN MEETING WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE POSITION OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH A THIRD PARTY; (2) THE ATTORNEY ADVISING THE COMMISSIONERS COURT ISSUES A WRITTEN DETERMINATION THAT DELIBERATION IN AN OPEN MEETING WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE POSITION OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH A THIRD PARTY; AND (3) A TAPE RECORDING OF THE PROCEEDINGS IN CLOSED SESSION IS MADE REGARDING THE COUNTY'S FEDERAL INMATE CONTRACT WITH THE U.S. MARSHAL'S SERVICE FOR DETENTION RATES AND SERVICES RELATED TO FEDERAL PRISONERS.**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Nay: None

## **26. INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 1:52 P.M.**

A. Discuss findings regarding persons necessary in Executive Session.  
County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2050

B. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.0725, discuss contract negotiations regarding the County's Federal Inmate contract with the U.S. Marshal's Service for detention rates and services related to federal prisoners.

Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262

C. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, receive legal advice and consultation regarding El Paso County's invocation policy.

Jo Anne Bernal, County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2081

D. Discuss litigation styled Krystal Mijares and Melissa Alvarado v. El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 2016DCV0573; Appeal No. 08-19-00294-CV; County Attorney case number: 0055-16-LD(A), pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

Michael Gomez, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2050

E. Discuss claim regarding Stacy Mejardo, County Attorney File No. 0268-19-PC, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

Michael Gomez, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2050

F. Discuss litigation styled Jacob L. Garcia v. El Paso County, et al, Cause No. 2019DCV4407; County Attorney case number 0255-19-LD, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

Ian R. Kaplan, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2050

G. Discuss financial information and economic development negotiations received regarding a Chapter 381 Agreement with Project Yellow Rose, a private business prospect, pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.087.

Jose M. Landeros, Interim Director, Economic Development Department (915) 546-2015

## **REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED AT 3:07 P.M.**

27. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding El Paso County's invocation policy.

Jo Anne Bernal, County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2081

## **NO ACTION**

28. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding litigation styled Jacob L. Garcia v. El Paso County, et al, Cause No. 2019DCV4407; County Attorney case number 0255-19-LD.

Ian R. Kaplan, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office, (915) 546-2050

## **MOTION: ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT THAT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE PARTIES FROM MEDIATION AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego      Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson  
Seconded by Commissioner Leon      Members Voting Nay: None

26D. Discuss litigation styled Krystal Mijares and Melissa Alvarado v. El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 2016DCV0573; Appeal No. 08-19-00294-CV; County Attorney case number: 0055-16-LD(A), pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

Michael Gomez, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2050

26E. Discuss claim regarding Stacy Mejardo, County Attorney File No. 0268-19-PC, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

Michael Gomez, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2050

## **MOTION: POSTPONE EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS #26D AND #26E FOR 2 WEEKS.**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego      Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson  
Seconded by Commissioner Holguin      Members Voting Nay: None

26G. Discuss financial information and economic development negotiations received regarding a Chapter 381 Agreement with Project Yellow Rose, a private business prospect, pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.087.

Jose M. Landeros, Interim Director, Economic Development Department (915) 546-2015

**MOTION: DELETE**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Nay: None

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:14 P.M.**

**EL PASO COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**CARLOS LEON**  
Commissioner, Pct. 1

**ILIANA HOLGUIN**  
Commissioner, Pct. 3



**DAVID STOUT**  
Commissioner, Pct. 2

**CARL L. ROBINSON**  
Commissioner, Pct. 4

**RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO**  
County Judge

Commissioners Court Chambers, El Paso County Courthouse  
500 East San Antonio Room 303 El Paso, Texas 79901  
Website address: <http://www.epcounty.com>  
View live video webcast: <http://epcounty.com/video>

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**COMMISSIONERS COURT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:14 P.M.**

ATTEST:

DELIA BRIONES, COUNTY CLERK  
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

\_\_\_\_\_  
JESSICA DOMINGUEZ, DEPUTY CLERK

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY ME THIS

\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY JUDGE RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO, PRESIDING