

**EL PASO COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**CARLOS LEON**  
Commissioner, Pct. 1

**ILIANA HOLGUIN**  
Commissioner, Pct. 3



**DAVID STOUT**  
Commissioner, Pct. 2

**SERGIO CORONADO**  
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, MAY 6, 2024**

HON. RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO	COUNTY JUDGE, PRESIDING	PRESENT
CARLOS LEON	COMMISSIONER, PCT #1	PRESENT
DAVID S. STOUT	COMMISSIONER, PCT #2	PRESENT
ILIANA HOLGUIN	COMMISSIONER, PCT #3	PRESENT
SERGIO CORONADO	COMMISSIONER, PCT #4	PRESENT

**MINUTES PREPARED BY JESSICA DOMINGUEZ, DEPUTY CLERK  
CESAR O. NAVA, DEPTUY CLERK**

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**1. MEETING CONVENED**

Commissioners Court of El Paso County, Texas was called to order by the Deputy Clerk at 9:39 A.M.

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**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Nadine Hidrogo, student at San Elizario High School led the Commissioners Court in the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge

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**3. INVOCATION**

Receive an invocation from Roman Bustillos.

#### 4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of the Minutes of the regular meeting of April 29, 2024.  
County Administration Department (915) 546-2215

**B. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY STRATEGIC PLANNING** - Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Professional Services Agreement with Outreach Strategists, LLC for the provision of comprehensive research and messaging development services for the County's 2024 Multiyear Capital Planning Process from the date of signature through August 31, 2024. Funding in the amount of \$99,500 is available in GF-ECONIMPACT-INITIATIVE. (Contract No. 2024-0363)

Jose M. Landeros, Director of Strategic Development, County Administration Department (915) 546-2159

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.

Barbara Parker, County Auditor, County Auditor's Office (915) 273-3262

D. Approve amendment No.25 to the County of El Paso's 2023-2024 operating budget. This budgetary amendment will increase Grants by \$1,487,000.00, thus increasing the overall budget of \$618,434,889.52 to \$619,921,889.52.

John Sarah, Director, Budget & Finance Department (915) 546-2262

E. Rescind the Commissioners Court Order of April 22, 2024, Item No. 4Y on the Consent Agenda to approve and authorize the County Judge to accept the FEMA Shelter Services Program funding award allocation (SSP-A) in the amount of \$4,542,014 to support regional humanitarian response efforts during the eligible spending periods of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2026. No County match is required. (Contract No. 2024-0338) Further, approve and authorize County Judge to accept the FEMA Shelter Services Program funding award allocation (SSP-A) in the amount of \$4,542,014 to support regional humanitarian response efforts during the eligible spending periods of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2026 and sign necessary documents for the submission of the grant application. (Contract No. 2024-0338)

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

**F. POSTPONE ONE WEEK PER CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION** - Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP) for the purpose of the research and evaluation component of the Grant Funded, Innovations in Reentry Initiative: Building System Capacity and Testing Strategies to Reduce Recidivism grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA-2020-17281) with a retroactive term beginning October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2025. Funding in the amount of \$99,954 is available in SG-REENTRY21-OPERATING EX. (Contract No. 2024-0281)

Catherine Jones, Director, Criminal Justice Coordination Department (915) 273-3353

G. Rescind the Commissioners Court Order of April 22, 2024, Item No. 4J on the Consent Agenda to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the First Amended Contract Service Agreements between the County of El Paso and the following service providers participating in the Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) initiative (Grant #2283712) from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2025: Tom Krampitz (2024-0308) and Kathleen Braddock, d/b/a/ KAB Legal Consulting (2024-0309). No County match is required.

Bill D. Hicks, District Attorney, District Attorney's Office (915) 546-2059 x4077

H. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Interlocal Agreement between the El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department and Emergence Health Network multi-systematic therapy services for pre and post adjudicated youth from May 6, 2024, through August 31, 2025. Funding is available in TJJD MULTI-SYSTEMIC THERAPY 2024. (Contract No. 2024-0020)

Rosie Medina, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Juvenile Probation Department (915) 849-2500

I. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department and The 32nd Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department for secure post-adjudication correctional treatment services from June 1, 2024, through July 30, 2025. There is no fiscal impact. (Contract No. 2024-0287)

Rosie Medina, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Juvenile Probation Department (915) 849-2500

J. Approve and authorize the renewal of the County of El Paso's Burn Ban Order for an additional 90 days effective May 13, 2024. (#4350-OP)

Melissa Carrillo, Executive Director, County Operations Department (915) 546-2162

K. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Sections 232.028 and 232.029, approve and authorize the issuance of certification regarding compliance with applicable plat requirements as provided on the attached listing.  
Michael McElroy, Director, Planning & Development Department (915) 273-3330

L. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the service agreement/order form with West Publishing Corporation/Thomson Reuters for Westlaw Proflex Precision on-line legal research services for the Public Defender's Office in the monthly amount of \$4,288.88. Funding is available in GF-PUBLICDEFEND-BOOKS&SUBSCRPT. (Contract No. 2024-0342)  
Kelli Childress, Chief Public Defender, Public Defender's Office (915) 546-8185

M. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Irrevocable Direction of Contract Funds between El Paso County, Texas and Sound & Signal Systems of Texas, Inc (Contractor). The Irrevocable Direction of Contract Funds directs all payments due to the Contractor from the County be remitted to Syrberus, Inc. (Contract No. 2024-0296)  
Robin Sully, Facilities Director, Facilities Maintenance Department (915) 546-2009

N. 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.  
Karen L. Davidson, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 273-3349

O. Rescind the Commissioners Court Order of March 18, 2024, Item No. 4AC on the Consent Agenda to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Incinerator Use Interlocal Agreement with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office and the County of El Paso from April 1, 2024 through April 1, 2025. (Contract No. 2024-0231). Further, approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the updated Incinerator Use Interlocal Agreement with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office and the County of El Paso from April 1, 2024, through April 1, 2025. (Contract No. 2024-0231)  
Sheriff Richard D. Wiles, El Paso County Sheriff's Office (915) 538-2006

P. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Eighth Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the County of El Paso and the El Paso County Hospital District d/b/a University Medical Center of El Paso for Inmate Healthcare and Mental Healthcare Services, extending the term of service through May 4, 2025, and amending Attachment B-4, Mental Health Services. Funds are available in GF-SOJAILANNX-PROF SVC-MED JAI and GF-SODETEN-PROF SVC-MED JAIL. (Contract No. 2024-0370)  
Sheriff Richard D. Wiles, El Paso County Sheriff's Office (915) 538-2006

Q. GRANT AMENDMENT - Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a letter addressed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requesting the County Judge to be listed as the agency's authorized representative. (#4428-OP)  
John Sarah, Director, Budget and Finance Department (915) 546-2262

R. **PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER HOLGUIN - GRANT APPLICATION** - Approve and authorize the Criminal Justice Coordination Department to apply for the BJA FY24 Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2027, in the amount of \$550,000 with a cash match of \$215,779. Funding is available in GF-GADM-XFER OUT-GRANT MATCH. (Contract No. 2024-0359)  
Catherine Jones, Director, Criminal Justice Coordination Department (915) 273-3353

**MOTION: APPROVE**

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

**5. RESOLUTIONS**

A. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing May 5 - 11, 2024, as "National Correctional Officers' Week" in El Paso County, Texas.  
Carlos Leon, Commissioner, Pct. 1 (915) 546-2014

**MOTION: APPROVE**

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

G. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing May 2024 as "National Treatment Court Month" in El Paso County, Texas.

Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge, County Judge's Office (915) 546-2098

**MOTION: APPROVE**

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

B. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing May 11, 2024, as "Stamp Out Hunger Day" in El Paso County, Texas.

Carlos Leon, Commissioner, Pct. 1 (915) 546-2014

**MOTION: APPROVE**

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

C. Approve and adopt a resolution declaring May 2024 as Foster Care Awareness Month, in El Paso County, Texas.

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

**MOTION: APPROVE**

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

D. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing the San Elizario boy's soccer team as state champions.

Iliana Holguin, Commissioner, Pct. 3 (915) 546-2144

**MOTION: APPROVE**

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

E. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing the San Elizario High School Skills USA State Champions.

Iliana Holguin, Commissioner, Pct. 3 (915) 546-2144

**MOTION: APPROVE**

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

F. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary Celebration of ESD #1 and the Horizon City Fire Department.

Iliana Holguin, Commissioner, Pct. 3 (915) 546-2144

**MOTION: APPROVE**

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

H. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing the week of May 6 - 10, 2024 as "Economic Development Week" in El Paso County, Texas.

Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge, County Judge's Office (915) 546-2098

**MOTION: APPROVE**

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

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elizabeth Crawford, concerned citizen, addressed the Commissioners Court regarding Mothers Day, Holocaust Remembrance week and abortion and read Bible passages

Commissioner Segio Coronado informed the Commissioners Court regarding a large house fire in the Canutillo area that claimed significant property damage and the life of a constituent and friend Manny Hidalgo and asked for a moment of silence.



## ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

**4B. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY STRATEGIC PLANNING** - Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Professional Services Agreement with Outreach Strategists, LLC for the provision of comprehensive research and messaging development services for the County's 2024 Multiyear Capital Planning Process from the date of signature through August 31, 2024. Funding in the amount of \$99,500 is available in GF-ECONIMPACT-INITIATIVE. (Contract No. 2024-0363)

Jose M. Landeros, Director of Strategic Development, County Administration Department (915) 546-2159

### **MOTION: APPROVE, AS CORRECTED.**

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

**4R. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER HOLGUIN - GRANT APPLICATION** - Approve and authorize the Criminal Justice Coordination Department to apply for the BJA FY24 Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2027, in the amount of \$550,000 with a cash match of \$215,779. Funding is available in GF-GADM-XFER OUT-GRANT MATCH. (Contract No. 2024-0359)

Catherine Jones, Director, Criminal Justice Coordination Department (915) 273-3353

### **MOTION: APPROVE**

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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

12C. Discuss litigation styled Lorenzo Juarez v. El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 2022DCV1835; County Attorney case number 0082-22-LD, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

Michael Gomez, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3247

14. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding litigation styled Lorenzo Juarez v. El Paso County, Texas; Cause No. 2022DCV1835; County Attorney case number 0082-22-LD.

Michael Gomez, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3247

### **MOTION: DELETE EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM #12C AND THE CORRESPONDING REGULAR SESSION ITEM #14.**

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

12G. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and 551.0725, discuss and receive legal advice concerning the County's rights, responsibilities, and contract negotiations regarding the Historic Site Tourist Promotion and Preservation Services Agreement between El Paso County and the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society. (Contract 2021-0728 and 2023-0917).

Roberto Ransom, Director, Economic Development Department (915) 546-2177

**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 RECORDING OF THE PROCEEDINGS IN CLOSED SESSION IS MADE REGARDING THE DISCUSSION OF LEGAL ADVICE CONCERNING THE COUNTY'S RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE HISTORIC SITE TOURIST PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN EL PASO COUNTY AND THE SAN ELIZARIO GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. (CONTRACT 2021-0728 AND 2023-0917)**

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

**12. INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 2:11 P.M.**

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

B. Discuss pending litigation styled Marlena Y. Smith v. El Paso County, et al.; Cause No. 2022DCV1682; County Attorney case number 0075-22-LD, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.  
Ian R. Kaplan, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3247

D. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, discuss legal rights and responsibilities regarding litigation styled United States v. Texas, No. 24-50149, County Attorney's File No. 0165-23-PL.  
Bernardo R. Cruz, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3247

E. Discuss the pending EEOC claim and potential litigation of Charge No. 453-2024-00267; County Attorney's file number 0172-23-EE, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.  
Jed Untereker, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3238

F. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.076, discuss and receive legal advice concerning the County's rights and responsibilities with respect to security within the County Jail and law enforcement actions by the State that impact El Paso County operations.  
Christina R. Sanchez, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3238

G. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and 551.0725, discuss and receive legal advice concerning the County's rights, responsibilities, and contract negotiations regarding the Historic Site Tourist Promotion and Preservation Services Agreement between El Paso County and the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society. (Contract 2021-0728 and 2023-0917).  
Roberto Ransom, Director, Economic Development Department (915) 546-2177

**REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED AT 3:16 P.M.**

13. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding litigation styled Marlena Y. Smith v. El Paso County, Texas, et al.; Cause No. 2022DCV1682; County Attorney case number: 0075-22-LD.  
Ian R. Kaplan, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3247

**MOTION: ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AS STATED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**

Motion by Commissioner Holguin  
Seconded by Commissioner Leon

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

15. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding legal rights and responsibilities regarding litigation styled United States v. Texas, No. 24-50149, County Attorney's File No. 0165-23-PL.  
Bernardo R. Cruz, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3247

**NO ACTION**

16. Discuss and take appropriate action to decrease the financial and operational impact to El Paso County as it pertains to law enforcement actions by the State, including arrests along the El Paso border.  
Christina R. Sanchez, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3238

**NO ACTION**

**AT THE CONCLUSION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION, THE COMMISSIONERS COURT WAS NOT RE-OPENED TO THE PUBLIC. THEREFORE, IN THE INTEREST OF PROCEDURE AND TRANSPARENCY THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED AND THE REGULAR SESSION ITEMS WERE RE-ADDRESSED.**

13. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding litigation styled Marlena Y. Smith v. El Paso County, Texas, et al.; Cause No. 2022DCV1682; County Attorney case number: 0075-22-LD.  
Ian R. Kaplan, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3247

**MOTION: ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AS STATED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**

Motion by County Judge Samaniego  
Seconded by Commissioner Holguin

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

15. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding legal rights and responsibilities regarding litigation styled United States v. Texas, No. 24-50149, County Attorney's File No. 0165-23-PL.  
Bernardo R. Cruz, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3247

**NO ACTION**

16. Discuss and take appropriate action to decrease the financial and operational impact to El Paso County as it pertains to law enforcement actions by the State, including arrests along the El Paso border.  
Christina R. Sanchez, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 273-3238

**NO ACTION**

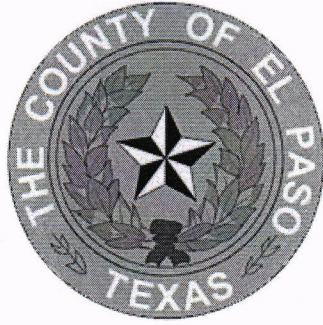
**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:26 P.M.**



**EL PASO COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**CARLOS LEON**  
Commissioner, Pct. 1

**ILIANA HOLGUIN**  
Commissioner, Pct. 3



**DAVID STOUT**  
Commissioner, Pct. 2

**SERGIO CORONADO**  
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  
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**COMMISSIONERS COURT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:26 P.M.**

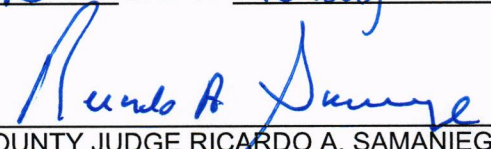
ATTEST:

DELIA BRIONES, COUNTY CLERK  
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JESSICA DOMINGUEZ, DEPUTY CLERK  
CESAR O. NAVA, DEPUTY CLERK

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY ME THIS

13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF May, 2024

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