

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

AGENDA DATE: APRIL 4, 2017

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: REP JIM TOLBERT, 212-0002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: ALL

STRATEGIC GOAL: (8) NURTURE AND PROMOTE A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable. Adopt a Resolution denouncing the presidential executive order to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns? On January 25, 2017 the President signed "Executive Order: Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements," attempting to authorize construction of a high security wall, patrolled by law enforcement to keep migrants from entering the U.S. The City of El Paso recognizes the harm and stigma such action causes Latino people in Texas and throughout the nation. We recognize that immigration has been a part of our country's history since its founding and do not believe in demonizing people of Mexican and Latin American descent. Furthermore, the construction of a border wall would waste an enormous amount of taxpayer money, hurt the environment, contribute to climate change, divide ancestral native lands, disrupt tribal communities, increase international tensions, and reinforce failed Cold War policies of isolationism and exclusion.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one? N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer? N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

RESOLUTION

DENOUNCING THE BORDER WALL

WHEREAS, the Camino Real passed through present day El Paso and was traveled by soldiers, traders, settlers, and Don Juan de Onate' for nearly three hundred years, and, similar trade routes existed between Mesoamerica, in what is presently central Mexico, and almost certainly passed through the El Paso area for hundreds of years before the arrival of Europeans and the designation of the Camino Real by the Spanish;

WHEREAS, the trade that continues now between Mexico and Texas, as well as the other border states of the southwest, is a major and significant portion of our economy, offering employment and other opportunities for many here;

WHEREAS, the economic, historic, and cultural connections between our part of the United States and just across the border in Mexico is underscored by the families whose members have been connected across this region for hundreds of years before there was a border between the modern countries of the United States and Mexico;

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso is a historically safe border city, and continues to be one of the safest cities in the United States;

WHEREAS, El Paso is the Largest U.S. City on the U.S./Mexico Border, centrally located giving equal access to markets in Canada and Mexico, and El Paso, Texas, New Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez are a tri-state, bi-national region that is the connected to more than 110 million North American Consumers accessible within 24 hours by truck, in 2015 El Paso exported over \$21 billion worth of goods to Mexico ranking the City as the number one largest trading MSA with Mexico, home to more than 2.5 million people, and this region is the largest international metroplex in the world;

WHEREAS, construction of a border wall with tightened security will harm our interdependent relationship with our brothers and sisters to the south in Ciudad Juarez who are seeking economic prosperity, as well as U.S. and Mexican businesses dependent on cross-border commerce valued at \$200 billion Texas-Mexico trade and \$584 billion U.S.-Mexico trade in 2015 making Mexico the top trading partner of Texas;

WHEREAS, any method devised to pay for such a border wall may require up to \$25 billion U.S. taxpayer funds or subsidies supported by an import tariff or "Border Tax" on Mexican goods imported to the U.S. or U.S. goods entering Mexico resulting in a "trade war" which leads to market instability in terms of job creation, economic development, substantial increases in the costs of goods passed to consumers, and a negative cultural impact;

WHEREAS, transnational border crossings require municipal, state, and federal policy solutions applying technology and infrastructure to move people and commerce for true

economic and border security, and such an Executive Order leads to more immigrants risking deportation, jail or even death to cross the border, increasing illegal immigration; and

WHEREAS, the wall would cause serious environmental damage to the ecosystem of the Chihuahuan Desert by increasing emissions, cutting off natural water flows, and disturbing wildlife migration routes, all of which would contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, it is not just economy that crosses, but language, food, music, art, culture, and most importantly families cross every minute, of every day here along our ports of entry.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That it denounces the Presidential Executive Order to construct a wall between the United States and Mexico.
2. That TRUE border security IS economic security.
3. That this RESOLUTION shall be transmitted to the Texas Delegates of the U.S. Congress and the President of These United States of America.

Adopted this ____ day of April, 2017.

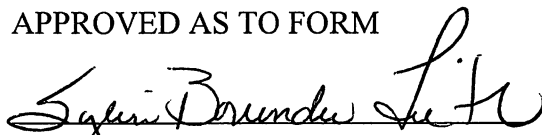
THE CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM


Sylvia Borunda Firth
City Attorney