

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso is the only city of the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States without a law school;

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso is the sixth largest city in Texas and least two law schools within the State are located in communities with much lower populations;

WHEREAS, all the law schools within the State of Texas are located several hundred miles from the City of El Paso and attending those law schools creates a substantial hardship on the citizens of El Paso;

WHEREAS, the number of lawyers per capita to serve the citizens of the City of El Paso is substantially lower than the cities in Texas where law schools are located;

WHEREAS, a citizens group has been formed for the purpose of advocating for the establishment of a law school in El Paso called the “El Paso Law School Initiative”;

WHEREAS, the El Paso Law School Initiative has requested the support of the El Paso City Council in its efforts to lobby the State Legislature and Governor Gregg Abbott for the establishment of a law school in El Paso and the federal government for the use of the old federal courthouse building located at 511 E. San Antonio, El Paso Texas for the law school; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso City Council believes the local populace would benefit from the establishment of a law school in El Paso through the creation of increased educational opportunities, jobs and the expansion of affordable legal services.

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

1. The Mayor and City Council support the efforts of the El Paso Law School Initiative to establish a law school within the City of El Paso.
2. The creation of a law school within the City of El Paso will be listed as a support measure in the City’s Legislative Agenda for the 85th Legislative Session.
3. The Mayor is authorized to sign letters in support of the efforts of the El Paso law School Initiative, including but not limited to the use of the old federal courthouse as a site for the law school.

Adopted on this _____ day of October 2016.

CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Sylvia Borunda Firth
City Attorney