

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: Museums and Cultural Affairs

AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2008

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Yolanda Alameda, Director, Museums & Cultural Affairs 541-4896
and Kathryn Dodson, Director, Economic Development 541-4747

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: 2, 6, 7 and 8

SUBJECT:

A resolution to create a downtown area of potential effect to encourage the preservation of historically significant sites in need of tax relief to encourage their preservation in order to preserve the City's historic properties.

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 April 29, 2008, the City Council approved an Ordinance amending Title 3 (Revenue and Finance), Chapter 3.04 (Property Taxes), 3.04.035 (Exemption—Historically Significant Sites) of the El Paso City Code to make areas of potential effect eligible for the exemption; clarifying the application process; and revising the eligibility process and procedures.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION

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

On July 10, 2006, Council approved a resolution concerning the preparation and implementation of a Downtown Redevelopment Plan, in which Council expressed its determination that a revitalization strategy is necessary to address the critical needs of the downtown area and that such strategy include opportunities to preserve historically, socially, culturally, and architecturally significant structures and places and the use of financial and development incentive strategies to encourage investment; and on May 30, 2006, Council passed and approved Ordinance No. 016370 in order to provide an exemption from taxation of certain property taxes for renovations completed to historically significant property to encourage the preservation of such properties and to create an application and approval process for such exemptions; and on October 31, 2006, Council approved Ordinance No. 016487 incorporating the Downtown 2015 Plan ("the Plan") into the City's comprehensive plan entitled The Plan for El Paso, and directing the City Manager to prepare an Implementation Strategy for execution of the Plan, with particular focus to phasing, implementation tools, and financing mechanisms to be utilized to carry out the intent of the Plan.

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

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

Enter appropriate comments or N/A

Reviewed and approved by the Historic Landmark Commission on August 21, 2008.

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

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____
Copy for Y. Alameda

CITY CLERK DEPT.
MAY 29 PM 1:17

(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____

DATE: _____

CITY CLERK DEPT.
08 MAY 20 PM 1:17

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2006, the City Council (“the Council”) of the City of El Paso passed and approved a resolution, concerning the preparation and implementation of a Downtown Redevelopment Plan, in which the Council expressed its determination that a revitalization strategy is necessary to address the critical needs of the downtown area and that such strategy include opportunities to preserve historically, socially, culturally and architecturally significant structures and places and the use of financial and development incentive strategies to encourage investment; and

WHEREAS, on October 31, 2006, the Council passed and approved Ordinance No. 016487, incorporating the Downtown 2015 Plan (“the Plan”) into the City’s comprehensive plan entitled *The Plan for El Paso* and directing the City Manager to prepare an Implementation Strategy for execution of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies a downtown area as the Downtown Historic District; and

WHEREAS, Council has the authority to create one or more areas of potential effect to encourage the preservation of historically significant sites in need of tax relief to encourage their preservation in order to preserve the City’s historic properties; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.04.035 of the City Code provides an exemption from taxation of certain property taxes for renovations completed to historically significant property to encourage the preservation of such properties; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to designate the area identified in the attached Exhibit “A” as an area of potential effect to encourage the preservation and renovation of properties abutting the Downtown Historic District identified in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the designation of the property included in the attached Exhibit “A” as an area of potential effect for tax relief purposes constitutes a benefit to the public, is necessary to assist in the City’s implementation of the Plan and will further encourage the renovation of historically significant sites by property owners;

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

THAT, the area identified in the attached Exhibit “A” be and hereby is designated as an area of potential effect for the purpose of preserving and renovating one or more historically significant sites in need of tax relief to encourage their preservation.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2008.

THE CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Josette Flores
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Yolanda Alameda, Director
Museums and Cultural Affairs Department

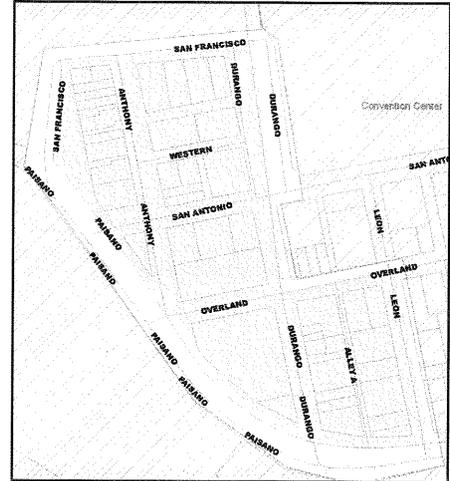


Kathryn B. Dodson, Ph.D. Director
Economic Development Department

EXHIBIT "A"

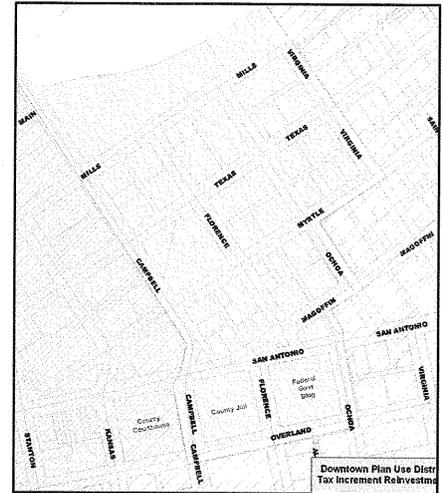
Union Plaza area:

From the intersection of San Francisco Street and Durango Avenue, west on San Francisco to Coldwell; south on Coldwell to Paisano Drive; generally southeast on Paisano Drive to the intersection with Leon Street; north on Leon to the intersection of Overland Avenue; west on Overland to Durango; and north on Durango to San Francisco.



Northeast Portion of the Historic Incentive District area:

From the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Overland Avenue, east on Overland to Ochoa Avenue; north on Ochoa across San Antonio Avenue to Magoffin Avenue; northeast on Magoffin to Ochoa; northwest on Ochoa to Myrtle Avenue; northeast on Myrtle to Virginia Avenue; northwest on Virginia to Mills Avenue and extending northwest beyond Mills toward the railroad tracks; westerly along the railroad tracks to Campbell near the intersection with Main Avenue; and south on Campbell to Overland.



South Portion of the Downtown Historic District area:

From the intersection of Paisano Drive and Santa Fe Avenue, south on Santa Fe to the Santa Fe Railroad train yard; southeasterly on a line between the edge of the buildings on east side of Santa Fe Avenue and the adjacent parking lot to the intersection of Sixth Street; east on Sixth Street to the alley between El Paso Street and Oregon Street; north along the alley to Paisano Drive; and west on Paisano to Santa Fe Avenue.

