



MAYOR
Oscar Leeser

**INTERIM
CITY MANAGER**
Cary Westin

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Brian Kennedy

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

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Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Chris Canales

**NEWS
RELEASE**

07/ 12/ 2024

City of El Paso Announces City Manager Finalists

Community Invited to Meet and Greet Event

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso has narrowed the search for the next City Manager to four highly qualified candidates.

The finalists are listed below in alphabetical order by their last name:

- Robert Cortinas, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager for Internal Services
- Mario D'Agostino, Deputy City Manager for Public Safety
- Nicole Ferrini, Community and Human Development Director
- Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager for Quality of Life

“We are pleased to announce the selection by the City Council of four exceptional finalists for the City Manager position, each bringing a wealth of experience and dedication to El Paso,” said Mayor Oscar Leeser. “These four candidates have risen above more than 80 qualified applicants from across the nation in a rigorous selection process. Their inclusion underscores the strength of our internal talent pool, reflecting our commitment to nurturing leadership from within who know and love El Paso. As we move forward in this critical process, we look forward to engaging our community in selecting the individual who will guide us into the future, ensuring our City continues to thrive.”

ABOUT THE PROCESS

In March 2024, the City opened a national search, which included the opportunity for local leadership to apply.

Prior to opening the search, the City selected the national recruitment firm, Baker Tilly, to conduct an extensive search that resulted in an impressive candidate pool of more than 80 applications.

As part of the process—in order to identify essential characteristics for the City’s next City Manager—Baker Tilly hosted two community meetings, launched a bilingual online community survey, and conducted feedback sessions with the Mayor, Council, and key stakeholders.

The Mayor and Council reviewed 14 semifinalists who were selected based on the community’s criteria, and each council member submitted their top four candidates and one alternate. Based on the Mayor and Council’s independent responses, the top four candidates (in no order) were identified as finalists.

—more—



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Among All Members of the Community

Media contact: Laura Cruz-Acosta
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NEXT STEPS

The next step will be to host the interview process on August 7 and 8, 2024, to include multiple interview panels and a public reception.

The Mayor and City Council will interview the candidates and there will be two, nine-member, Council-appointed community interview panels:

Citizen Advisory Committee Panel

Panel Focus: Public perception, transparency, and the candidate's vision for community improvement.

Community Leaders/Stakeholders Panel

Panel Focus: Community engagement, responsiveness to public needs, and the ability to build strong community relationships.

The City will also host a Community Meet & Greet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, August 7, 2024, at the El Paso Convention Center.

In order to ensure the integrity of the hiring process no media interviews will be provided prior to the public reception.

During the Community Meet & Greet, the City will feature a brief candidate forum and each candidate will be given two-minutes to answer the same set of questions submitted by the media.

Each media outlet is asked to submit three questions for consideration via e-mail to Laura Cruz Acosta at Cruz-AcostaLA@EIPasoTexas.gov, no later than Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

Following the forum, residents will be able to individually meet and greet each of the candidates.

Residents who attend the Meet and Greet will be able to fill out a short survey to provide feedback on their experience. Computers and a QR code will be made available during the reception.

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