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**NEWS
RELEASE**

08/ 14/ 2024

City Contests Ruling on Franchise Fee to Support Street Maintenance Costs

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso is preparing to appeal a recent court ruling challenging the validity of the City's Environmental Franchise Fee, which appears on water bills.

The City will be asking the 8th Court of Appeals to review the outcome of the 384th District Court's recent ruling.

As a home rule city, El Paso has historically implemented franchise fees to address the wear and tear caused by utility on our streets. Studies have demonstrated that large vehicles, such as those used by our Environmental Services Department for garbage collection, inflict significant damage to roadways.

City officials are optimistic that the 8th Court of Appeals will uphold the legality of the City's fee-setting practices and fiscal policies after reviewing the evidence and legal framework. The City maintains that its financial practices and fee structures adhere to legal and budgetary standards.

In a continued effort to ensure transparency and fairness, the City Council recently approved a No-New-Revenue tax rate ordinance on August 1.

This measure proposes a budget without any increase in the City's portion of the tax bill.

The City Council is set to adopt the FY 2025 Budget and Tax Rate on August 20, with the new fiscal year beginning on September 1, 2024.

The City appreciates the ongoing support of its residents and is committed to upholding the highest standards of financial integrity and transparency.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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