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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City Approves Settlement, Focuses on Healing and Continuing Improved Community Safety and Security

El Paso, Texas—The El Paso City Council approved a settlement to a lawsuit brought forward by the Ramirez family.

“The City has spent a significant amount of time and resources defending itself and Officer Escajeda regarding the allegations made by Mr. Daniel Ramirez’s family, as a result of his death. On two occasions, during the course of this lawsuit, the City participated in settlement discussions with the Ramirez family and their lawyers,” said City Attorney Karla Nieman. “As a result of those negotiations, it became apparent that it was in everyone’s best interest to settle the case to allow those involved the opportunity to move forward and begin to heal. The settlement is not an admission of wrongdoing by the City, its Police Department, nor Officer Escajeda—who was dismissed from the lawsuit by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which found no wrongdoing by the officer. While we believe the City could prevail at trial, the settlement represented a financial consideration made in the best interests of the taxpayers and community.”

The El Paso Police Department continues to embrace the opportunity for learning and continuous improvement. Public safety improvements deployed over the past decade include:

- Implementation of a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)
- Added and Improved Officer training, exceeding State and National Programs
- Police Academy is a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) Model Academy (Academy leads the State of Texas in testing pass ratio)
- Funded body-worn cameras with state, federal and local funding
- Updated Use of Force policies and expanded, dedicated Use of Force training
- Established new tools expanding the availability of Use of Force data for review by all members of the public
- Prioritized equipment replacement
- Created a proactive vehicle replacement program
- Overhauled more than 200 policies and procedures, and added website enhancements for more transparent communication with the community
- Enhanced training for City’s Discipline/Review Board members
- Implemented new, innovative ways to recruit new Discipline Review Board Civilian members
- Enhanced, community-wide volunteer recruitment efforts to ensure diversity/representation of demographics, ensuring equity

In the past, the City has worked with community members, including members of the Border Network for Human Rights Police Accountability Taskforce, to develop and expand public safety improvements.

The El Paso Police Department continues to review the work of the El Paso Discipline Review Board and the Shooting Review Board. The City will continue working with all stakeholders to address challenges, identify and implement best practices, improve training, and enhance reporting improvements to the public.

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Among All Members of the Community

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