



MAYOR
Oscar Leeser

**INTERIM
CITY MANAGER**
Cary Westin

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Brian Kennedy

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Chris Canales

**NEWS
RELEASE**

06/21/2024

City Names Public Health Director

El Paso, Texas—The City of El Paso is pleased to announce the appointment of Veerinder “Vinny” Taneja, MBBS, MPH, as the new Director of the Department of Public Health, effective August 2024.

Dr. Taneja joins the City of El Paso from his notable tenure as Health Director for Tarrant County Public Health, where he has led the department since September 2014, successfully guiding initiatives in strategic planning and public health accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Under Dr. Taneja's leadership, Tarrant County Public Health was honored as the Large Local Health Department of the Year by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in 2017, marking a testament to his strategic vision and operational expertise in public health. With over two decades of experience spanning local, regional, and state levels, Dr. Taneja brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to his new role in El Paso.

“Dr. Taneja's extensive background and proven track record in public health leadership make him an invaluable addition to our city,” said Interim City Manager Cary Westin. “His dedication to community health and innovative approaches will undoubtedly advance our efforts to enhance public health outcomes across El Paso.”

Dr. Taneja will take over the Director's duties from City-County Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza, who has served as the interim Director since May 2022. Dr. Ocaranza will continue serving as the City-County Health Authority.

“We are pleased to welcome Dr. Taneja to El Paso and we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Hector Ocaranza for his steadfast support and leadership as the interim Health Director over the last two years,” D’Agostino said. “Dr. Taneja's leadership in strategic health initiatives and commitment to excellence will greatly benefit our community as we work to promote wellness and ensure the well-being of our residents.”

Dr. Taneja earned his medical degree (MBBS) from Manipal Academy of Higher Education in India and holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. He furthered his expertise as a fellow of the Mid-America Regional Public Health Leadership Institute (MARPHLI) at the University of Illinois Chicago, focusing on Public Health Leadership under the Affordable Care Act. His contributions to public health extend beyond Texas, including pivotal roles in Wisconsin's electronic health records adoption and disease surveillance systems.

—more—



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

Media contact: Laura Cruz-Acosta
Strategic Communications Director
(915) 212.1071



MAYOR
Oscar Leoser

**INTERIM
CITY MANAGER**
Cary Westin

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Brian Kennedy

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Chris Canales

In addition to his leadership at Tarrant County Public Health, Dr. Taneja has held prominent positions at the state and national levels, serving as President of the Texas Association of City and County Health Officials (TACCHO) and Chair of the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC), among other distinguished board roles.

In his new role, Dr. Taneja will lead the City of El Paso Department of Public Health in advancing comprehensive public health strategies that promote the health and well-being of all residents. He will oversee all public health programs including: the 211 Texas Rio Grande Region Area Information Center; Epidemiology; Food Inspection; Health Education & Promotion; HIV Prevention; Immunization Program; Laboratory; Medicaid Waiver Program; Preventive Medicine Clinic; Public Health Emergency Preparedness; Rawlings Pediatric Dental Clinic; Tuberculosis Program; and Women, Infants and Children.

For more information about the Department of Public Health, visit ElPasoTexas.gov/Public-Health/

###



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

Media contact: Laura Cruz-Acosta
Strategic Communications Director
(915) 212.1071