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NEWS RELEASE

City of El Paso to Move Select Items to Temporary Memorial at Ponder Park

Remaining artifacts to be cataloged, archived

EL PASO, Texas — Beginning Tuesday, the City of El Paso will be removing items from the makeshift community memorial near the Cielo Vista Walmart that honors the victims of the August 3 shooting.

The process involves two phases; selecting and moving a variety of items to a temporary memorial located at Ponder Park, 7500 W. H. Burges Drive, and removing and cataloging the remaining them for historical purposes.

"As our region continues to heal, we are working to honor the sentiment and wishes behind the items that were brought to the makeshift community memorial," said Quality of Life Deputy City Manager Tracey Jerome. "Ponder Park became the place where our community gathered in the immediate hours following this horrific act, and we hope the park will continue to be a place where people can go to reflect and heal."

Temporary memorial

Professionals from the El Paso Museum of Art, the El Paso Museum of History and the Public Art Program will install various select items on a structure that has been installed at Ponder Park, a couple of blocks from the Cielo Vista Walmart.

Archiving artifacts

Museum archival experts and volunteers will be working with the Central Transportation and International Moving Warehouse to carefully disassemble the makeshift memorial. Every item will be cataloged and archived in order to document this part of El Paso's history.

Central Transportation and International Moving Warehouse are assisting with the process as a donation to serve the El Paso community. The donation is an example of the outpouring of donations and assistance, both large and small, from businesses and individuals throughout the region's heartrending experience.

The City of El Paso developed the process for the move after consulting with experts from other communities that were impacted by similar acts of violence. The City received invaluable guidance from Pittsburgh, Orlando, Boston, Las Vegas and the 9/11 Memorial Museum in order to determine the next steps to move forward.

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Media Contact:
Laura Cruz-Acosta
915.212.1071