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# City of El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens Announces Birth of Male Baby Giraffe

**EL PASO, Texas**—The City of El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens is thrilled to announce the birth of a healthy male giraffe to our Zoo family.

This marks the first time that a giraffe has been born at the El Paso Zoo in the City's history. Staff worked closely with the Species Survival Plan (SSP) to ensure a safe and healthy pregnancy. Mom, Gigi, was closely monitored throughout the entire pregnancy, which lasted around 15 months and delivered the baby boy on Wednesday, April 19, at about 9 p.m. in the Zoo's hoof stock barn with dad, Juma, watching the entire time.

In preparation for the arrival of the baby, Zoo staff worked tirelessly to prepare the area for mom and baby. The entire giraffe barn has been "baby-proofed" including adding extra padding to the floor and to any area where the baby might hurt himself.

"In the last 30 years, the giraffe population in Africa has declined by more than 40% to approximately 100,000 animals. Giraffes are now extinct in seven African countries and all giraffe species are critically endangered," said El Paso Zoo Director Joe Montisano. "This birth is significant not only for the El Paso Zoo but also for the overall giraffe population. Mom and baby appear to be doing great and the zoo couldn't be more excited! It is not every day you have a 6-foot, 110-pound baby born."

The zoo will be suspending the popular giraffe feeding encounters until the giraffe family settles in. The giraffe family, including the baby, will be on display as soon as the family is comfortable with the barn and each other, and the outside world.

To learn more about the El Paso Zoo, visit [www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org).

## **MEDIA**

Media that would like to capture footage and meet our newest resident must make an appointment with Rick Isaias and Sarah Borrego, marketing specialist, at the El Paso Zoo. Appointments will only be on Wednesday, April 26, and will be limited to a maximum of 2 or fewer at a time, scheduled every 30 minutes. Please send an email to [IsaiasRA@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:IsaiasRA@elpasotexas.gov) and [BorregoSC@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:BorregoSC@elpasotexas.gov) to set up a time.

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