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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City Council Advances Next Phase of Convention Center Expansion

Project Strengthens Downtown, Expands Tourism, and Positions El Paso for Major Events

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso City Council has authorized the purchase of key downtown properties to advance the expansion and modernization of the El Paso Convention Center.

This initiative is part of the City's long-term strategy to strengthen the tourism economy, attract high-impact conventions, and reinforce downtown as a center of economic and cultural activity. Expanding and modernizing the Convention Center has been a component of City Council's strategic plan since 2019, reflecting an ongoing commitment to invest in downtown revitalization and economic growth.

The acquisitions, totaling approximately \$3.17 million, include 311 W. Overland Avenue, 315 W. Overland Avenue, and a portion of Block 25 along West San Antonio Avenue. These sites, located next to the current Convention Center campus, will provide the additional footprint needed for future expansion. This step moves the City closer to creating a modern, competitive facility capable of hosting major state and national events that currently exceed El Paso's capacity.

The purchase will be funded through the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT), which is paid by visitors who stay in local hotels and supports tourism-related projects.

The expansion builds on years of strategic downtown investment, including more than \$250 million in private development that will add over 1,100 new hotel rooms and restore historic properties to support a vibrant tourism district. By increasing capacity and amenities, the Convention Center expansion will drive higher hotel occupancy rates, boost Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues, and create local jobs throughout both construction and operations.

While this action sets the groundwork for future growth, the City is still in the early stages of the process. The purchase of these properties secures the space needed for potential expansion, but detailed design and planning will come later, following a comprehensive evaluation of long-term goals and community priorities.

Beyond its economic benefits, the project strengthens El Paso's position as a premier destination for business, leisure, and cultural gatherings. It reflects the City's commitment to sustainable growth, efficient use of existing infrastructure, and meaningful community engagement through improved and accessible public spaces.

For more information about the El Paso Convention Center and upcoming events, visit www.ElPasoLive.com/venues/convention-center.

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