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**NEWS
RELEASE**

09/ 15/ 2025

City of El Paso Files Lawsuit Against Texas Attorney General to Clarify Records Ruling, Affirms Commitment to Transparency

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso has filed a lawsuit against the Texas Attorney General's Office to seek judicial clarification following a recent ruling regarding the release of legal billing records connected to past and active lawsuits involving the El Paso Police Department.

The City initiated this legal step to ensure its compliance with state law while responsibly handling sensitive information. The lawsuit seeks clarity on what may be released to the public without compromising attorney-client communications or litigation strategies.

“The City remains committed to transparency, but we also have a responsibility to protect sensitive legal information and ensure fairness in ongoing cases,” said City Attorney Karla Nieman. “This action is intended to provide clarity, uphold the law, and maintain the trust of our community by balancing openness with legal obligations.”

Background

- In May 2025, an open records request sought legal billing invoices related to past and active lawsuits involving the El Paso Police Department.
- The requestor did not permit the City to apply redactions to protect privileged or sensitive information, including attorney-client communications and legal strategy details.
- The City sought guidance from the Texas Attorney General on how to handle privileged information while still fulfilling portions of the request.
- In August, the Attorney General ruled that limited redactions including the release of confidential attorney-client communications were appropriate and directed the release of the remaining records.
- Last week, the City filed a lawsuit against the Attorney General's Office to obtain judicial clarification and ensure compliance with state law while protecting taxpayer resources.
- Historically, media has acknowledged and agreed to appropriate redactions to safeguard sensitive information while maintaining transparency, such redactions were not agreed to by the requestor in this matter.

Under Section 552.324 of the Texas Public Information Act, a governmental body may file a lawsuit within 30 calendar days after receiving a ruling. The City received the ruling on August 18, 2025, and met that deadline when it filed its lawsuit on September 11, 2025. The redacted records will be released to the requestor by the end of the week.

The City of El Paso is committed to providing open access to public records, engaging in a transparent process, and maintaining the trust of residents. The decision to seek judicial clarification reflects the City's responsibility to balance transparency with legal obligations to protect sensitive attorney-client communications and litigation strategies.

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Promoting Transparent & Consistent Communication
Among All Members of the Community

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