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**NEWS
RELEASE**

10/ 29/ 2025

City of El Paso Prevails in Federal Lawsuit as Court Dismisses All Remaining Claims

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso and the El Paso Police Department have prevailed in the federal lawsuit *Surface & Chavez v. Pacillas and the City of El Paso*.

U.S. District Judge David Briones granted summary judgment in favor of the City, dismissing all remaining claims and closing the case with prejudice.

Former El Paso Police Department supervisors John Surface and Adan Chavez were terminated following an internal investigation that found multiple corroborated reports of misconduct, including sexual harassment and the exchange of explicit content with female subordinates. The officers were arrested on charges of Official Oppression.

Surface and Chavez filed suit in 2024, alleging wrongful termination, discrimination, and retaliation. The Court found that the plaintiffs' claims were neither plausible nor supported by evidence.

The City's and Police Department's investigations and disciplinary process, which included review by the Civil Service process and the Discipline Review Board, were validated through the ruling.

“This ruling confirms that the City acted appropriately, lawfully, and with integrity,” said City Attorney Karla Nieman. “It affirms the City’s steadfast commitment to due process and accountability in every action we take.”

“This decision is an important reminder that misconduct will not be tolerated,” said Police Chief Peter Pacillas. “The department remains focused on maintaining the public’s trust and ensuring that every member of our department is committed to upholds the highest professional standards.”

The City remains committed to transparency, accountability, and earning the continued trust of the community.

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Promoting Transparent & Consistent Communication
Among All Members of the Community

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