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**NEWS
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City Advances Comprehensive Housing Strategy to Confront Affordability Challenges and Expand Housing Options for Residents

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso is taking strong action to evaluate community housing needs as part of the Envision El Paso Comprehensive Plan update. As one of the major components of the plan, the City is advancing a comprehensive housing strategy guided by data, public engagement, and long-term planning.

The strategy is supported by a detailed Housing Needs Assessment and a proposed Housing Strategy Implementation Cross Functional Team (CFT). Together, these efforts aim at helping the City better understand current pressures and identify possible approaches for Council consideration.

The Housing Needs Assessment presented to City Council identifies significant pressures on residents, including housing costs rising faster than wages, slowing production within city limits, and limited choices for households across several income ranges. The assessment shows an immediate shortage of more than 18,000 units tied to current issues such as overcrowding, temporary housing situations, and long commutes for workers. It also projects the need for approximately 17,000 additional units over the next decade to support anticipated job growth and prevent further strain on families.

These findings indicate that El Paso will need to examine a range of housing strategies in a deliberate and coordinated way within the Comprehensive Plan framework.

To support this work, the Council approved to establish the Housing Strategy Implementation CFT, a multi departmental team responsible for developing policy recommendations that expand housing opportunities. The CFT will review potential updates to zoning and development codes, identify incentives to encourage new construction, strengthen tools that support preservation and rehabilitation, and streamline processes that affect builders and homebuyers. The team will meet monthly through the adoption of Envision El Paso, the City's Comprehensive Plan update.

"We cannot afford to be passive when it comes to housing," City Manager Dionne Mack said. "El Paso families deserve access to safe and attainable homes in every part of our city. This strategy gives us the structure, urgency, and accountability needed to remove barriers, support responsible growth, and make real progress for the community."

The City's approach is informed by extensive engagement with neighborhood groups, developers, housing providers, design professionals, and community representatives. Their input has helped shape a strategy that addresses immediate pressures while preparing for future growth.

Next steps include refining the policy recommendations for Council consideration, continuing outreach with community and industry partners, and creating a public Housing Dashboard that will allow residents to track housing conditions and progress toward citywide goals.

Through this initiative, the City of El Paso is working to strengthen its planning practices and evaluate strategies that support a sustainable and accessible housing environment for the community.

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