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**NEWS
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Independent Review Charts Path to Strengthen Internal Audit and Improve City Transparency

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso has completed an independent review of its Internal Audit Department, providing a clear roadmap to strengthen accountability, improve audit practices, and enhance public trust in City operations.

The assessment evaluated how effectively the department supports responsible use of taxpayer dollars and how well it aligns with national industry standards.

The review determined that the Internal Audit function is currently operating at the “Repeatable” level of maturity, meaning it has solid foundational practices in place and meets required professional standards, with room for growth. The report also identifies targeted improvements that will make audit work more consistent, more strategic, and easier for decision-makers and the public to understand.

Key opportunities include strengthening communication between Internal Audit, City Council, the Financial Oversight and Audit Committee, and City management; better connecting audit planning to the City’s most significant risks and goals; improving how performance is tracked and shared; increasing transparency in the audit process; and transitioning from paper-based methods to secure digital tools.

The assessment provides a step-by-step plan to strengthen the department, calling for enhanced training, clearer reporting protocols, updates to the City’s employee hotline, expanded oversight training for committee and Council members, and the use of stakeholder feedback to support improvements over time.

“This review makes it clear that strengthening our internal audit function is essential to protecting taxpayer dollars and delivering the transparent and accountable government our community expects,” said Mayor Renard U. Johnson. “This work lays the foundation for a stronger system of oversight and helps ensure we are building a City government that earns the trust of every El Pasoan.”

City Representative and Financial Oversight and Audit Committee Chair Dr. Joshua Acevedo, noted that the roadmap provides direction for both immediate improvements and long-term success.

“Internal Audit is an important safeguard for our residents,” Dr. Acevedo said. “As we prepare to hire a new Chief Internal Auditor, these recommendations give us a clear path forward to strengthen accountability and improve the way we review, report, and respond to risks across the organization.”

City leadership emphasized that the review reinforces the City’s commitment to responsible financial management and open government. Strengthening the Internal Audit function will help protect public resources and ensure residents continue receiving high-quality services.

Implementation of the recommendations will begin in the coming months with support from the Council, City administration, and the Internal Audit team. The improvements will also help create a stronger foundation for the next Chief Internal Auditor once the position is filled.

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Media Contact: Laura Cruz Acosta
Strategic Communications Director
Cruz-AcostaLA@elpasotexas.gov
915.212.1071