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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City Council Approves Lease Agreement to Preserve Former Bowling Branch Facility in Northeast El Paso

EL PASO, Texas—El Paso City Council has approved a lease agreement allowing the Carl L. Robinson HEAT Retreat nonprofit organization to operate the former Bowling Branch facility in Northeast El Paso, helping preserve recreation and wellness services for the community.

The agreement covers the City-owned facility at 5509 Will Ruth Ave. and includes a five-year initial term with two optional one-year renewals. The nonprofit will lease the property for \$12,000 a year, compared to an estimated market rental value of about \$448,000 annually. The reduced rate reflects the public benefit the City receives in return, including continued community services, tenant-funded improvements, and the nonprofit taking responsibility for operating and maintaining the facility.

“Today's approval is a big win for Northeast residents. This nonprofit is preserving programming, community services, and wellness for all ages,” said District 4 City Representative Cynthia Boyar Trejo. “I'm also proud it honors the legacy of Carl L. Robinson, a dedicated public servant who cared deeply for this community.”

This partnership represents a significant community investment in the facility while helping reduce future financial obligations for taxpayers. Under the agreement, the nonprofit has committed approximately \$2.2 million in phased, performance-based capital improvements during the first three years of the lease, supporting continued modernization and long-term sustainability of the facility. In addition, the partnership structure helps reduce the City's long-term capital exposure, which is estimated at up to \$12.5 million, avoiding the potential for the full financial burden to fall on taxpayers.

To help support residents during the transition, the City also launched a pilot Community Morning Swim program at Camp Cohen Water Park, 9700 Gateway N. Blvd. The program provides a local option for aquatic fitness while the former Bowling Branch facility transitions to a new operator and while Veterans Pool undergoes repairs.

The pilot program runs through September 7 and is available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7 to 10:30 a.m. for residents ages 14 and older. Participants have access to designated lap lanes, individual water aerobics, and self-guided water exercise. Daily admission is \$5 per session, and City Wave and City Wave+ season pass holders receive complimentary access.

For more information about the Community Morning Swim program, season passes, or swim lessons, visit www.EPWaterParks.com.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
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