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TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



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NEWS RELEASE

City of El Paso Selected as One of the Best Places to Live for Veterans

EL PASO, TEXAS – The City of El Paso is pleased to announce that El Paso ranked 5th statewide and 14th nationwide in Veterans United Home Loans' Best Cities for Veterans Homebuyers study.

The study compared the 100 most populated U.S. cities across four key dimensions: Economic Wellness, Employment, Availability of Veteran Affairs Benefits and Quality of Life for Veterans.

"City staff works hard to make El Paso an exceptional place to live for our military, veteran and civilian community members," said City Manager Tommy Gonzalez. "El Pasoans deserve the best, and we are striving to provide them with an improved quality of life and continued economic growth."

The report looked at 20 metrics relevant to the lives of Veterans to determine how well these cities provide opportunities for Veterans and their families to transition back into civilian life. Cities were scored in each of the 20 variables and the final rankings were determined by calculating the sum of each city's scores, with the lowest score representing the best city for Veterans to live.

The complete list of the "Best Cities for Veteran Homebuyers" is available online at <https://www.veteransunited.com/education/guides/best-cities/>

CITY OF EL PASO'S COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

The City in recent years has focused its efforts on our veteran community by creating new initiatives in honor of our heroes. In addition to hiring a Military Affairs Liaison in 2017, the City has also brought on other veteran specific initiatives.

Veteran Resources Website – The informative website, hosted by the City, provides valuable information in a centralized location to help veterans and their families better find resources and services. The website features information on education, training, employment, childcare, healthcare, food assistance, transportation, and housing.

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee – This committee was formed to serve as a source of information related to the status, resources and services available within the El Paso community to the City's large veteran population. In addition, the committee is asked to evaluate and recommend programs, policies and practices designed to alleviate veterans' difficulties in meeting basic needs related to transportation, housing, employment and other areas affecting veterans.

Annual Veteran City Employee Luncheon – Knowing that veterans are living and working all around us, the City of El Paso has started a new tradition, a Veterans Day Luncheon for its more than 600 employees who are proud veterans. This luncheon allows City leaders to thank our veterans not only for their service to the City of El Paso, but also for their service to our Country.

Veteran Employment Incentive – In 2015, City Council approved an update to its economic development incentive policy which includes a bonus rebate (property or sales tax) for companies that actively employ veterans (15% of their workforce) and establish a formal veteran hiring program.

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Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community