

DEE MARGO  
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ  
CITY MANAGER



**CITY COUNCIL**

PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1  
ALEXANDRA ANNELLO, DISTRICT 2  
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3  
DR. SAM MORGAN, DISTRICT 4  
ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5  
CLAUDIA ORDAZ PEREZ, DISTRICT 6  
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7  
CISSY LIZARRAGA, DISTRICT 8

**January 8, 2019**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **El Paso Recognized as Gold Level Healthy Community**

Department presented award by Texas Department of State Health Services

**EL PASO, Texas** – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health received the Gold Level Healthy Community award during today's City Council meeting for reducing the risk factors of chronic disease and promoting healthy lifestyles.

This gold level achievement comes just one year after El Paso received back-to-back bronze level recognitions in 2016 and 2017.

"This recognition is a testament to our staff and their dedication to providing a high quality of life that we strive to provide for our residents," said Dionne Mack, Deputy City Manager for Public Safety. "Promoting a healthy lifestyle is essential to ensuring a healthy and vibrant community."

Joy Leos, Health Training and Promotions Manager, said the department is proud of the City staff's efforts in obtaining the recognition; but was also grateful to the community partners who played a key role in achieving the gold level recognition.

"Promoting healthy food options, mother-friendly work sites, and implementing a comprehensive tobacco control program and 100 percent smoke free city ordinance demanded a lot of hard work, but we were able to do this in a few short years, thanks to our many partners," Leos said.

In addition, the state commended El Paso for having hospitals, clinics, and other health care providers promote prevention and treatment in regards to cardiovascular disease and stroke. This includes campaigns to help residents identify the signs and symptoms of these conditions in order to keep the population healthy.

Other initiatives that lead to the gold status award include, development of the City's Active Living Plan, working with school districts on recess policies to encourage physical activity, and implementing healthy vending policies at the five largest worksites in the region.

*Background:*

*The Texas Healthy Communities Program assists communities to assess their existing environments, implement changes in local environmental and policy infrastructure and adopt priority public health practices to reduce risk factors for chronic diseases, and honors cities that advance recognized best practices for preventing and controlling heart disease, stroke and other chronic diseases.*

###

**Media Contact:** Soraya Ayub Palacios  
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator  
915.212.1040 or 915.781.4386

*Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community*