



**EDINBURG 2040 COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY**

CITY OF EDINBURG, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Location: City of Edinburg
City Hall-Community Room
415 West University Dr.
Edinburg, Texas 78541

**POST MEETING NOTES
APRIL 20, 2023
6:15 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 6:15 PM.

Committee members present included: Chair Johnny Hernandez; Yvonne Garcia; Eva Guerrero; Danielle Mata; Chris Moore; Jose Maldonado; Sonia Enriquez; Olga Regalado; Rama Chintapalli; and Moises Segovia.

City staff present included: Police Chief Jaime Ayala; Assistant Police Chief Chad Dufner; Assistant Police Chief Michael Cerda; Iris Alvarado; Deputy Fire Chief Ubaldo Perez; and Carlos Garza.

II. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The 2040 Coordinator discussed the follow-ups pending regarding the committee's goals.

The 2040 Coordinator's follow-ups include:

- The 2040 Coordinator will follow up with Assistant City Manager Tom Reyna regarding the budget for digital speed limit signs and locations in the city that need one the most.
 - The 2040 Coordinator will provide the list of locations where the digital speed limit signs are needed to the committee.
 - If there is no list, staff will follow up with the committee to conduct a study of the areas with the most need for digital speed limit signs to decrease vehicle speeding.
- The 2040 Coordinator will follow up with Public Works, Engineering, and Mr. Tom Reyna regarding the budget for traffic lights, fluorescent backboards on the traffic lights, and stop signs that say "cross traffic will not stop."
- The 2040 Coordinator will also follow up with Police Department Chief Jaime Ayala and Assistant City Manager Jesus Saenz concerning the budget, timeline for the new police units, and traffic enforcement resources.

III. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER GOALS AND NEEDS REGARDING:

A. FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department discussed that there is a staffing and equipment need. By 2040, the Fire Department will need or would like to accomplish the following:

- Purchase two additional Fire Trucks
 - Add the installation of a drone to a new fire truck.
- More personal protection equipment to ensure that firefighters have two sets of gear – a primary set and a reserve set.
- A fire station with a training facility and showers. This will assist the department certify the firefighters.
- Additional radios as every firefighter must have a radio. There are currently 81 firefighters in the Edinburg Fire Department and only 68 radios.
- Three to four additional drones and an added 7 staff to operate those drones.
- Edinburg Fire Department to serve as its own EMS responder for the city.

B. POLICE DEPARTMENT

By 2040, the Police Department will need or would like to accomplish the following:

- Hire additional Police Officers. The city currently has 190 sworn officers. The goal is to have two officers per every 1,000 residents.
- Have future office presence in the northern-west part of Edinburg.
- Continue to focus on more equipment and technology.
 - Purchase an additional five drones and hire 10 pilots.
 - Upgrade their tasers, radios, and shields.
 - The department needs about 25 more radios.
 - The department needs 200 tasers in total.
- Invest in a software that will assist in leveraging cameras by registering them.
- Identify land to utilize for a police shooting range or training for the Police and Fire Department. For example, Edinburg's race track would be an option.
- Renovating the activity center to allocate office space for the police department, which will allow for the department to grow.

C. CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Code Enforcement department discussed there is a need for more code enforcement officers. The department also mentioned having the city's own animal control department

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.