



MAYOR
Oscar Leoser

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Brian Kennedy

District 2
Alexsandra Anello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Chris Canales

**MEDIA
ADVISORY**

05 / 06 / 2023

City Announces Closure of Father Rahm Avenue to Support Public Safety Measures

Closure Requires Temporary Halt to Streetcar Service, Helps Address Public Health and Safety Concerns

El Paso, Texas— Effective immediately the Office of Emergency Management is closing a downtown street adjacent to Sacred Heart Church due to the increase in migrants seeking assistance from local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) as a result of the ongoing federal migrant crises.

The temporary closure of Father Rahm Avenue between S. Oregon and S. Mesa streets is a necessary public safety precaution needed to attend to the growth of migrants who have arrived in the area over the last several weeks. The closure will also allow City staff the opportunity to clean and maintain the area.

As a reminder, the City of El Paso cannot enforce federal immigration laws but is working closely with state and federal partners to provide additional support to the community and local NGOs.

Public Safety Reminder

With this increase in people arriving in El Paso, El Paso Police is reminding the public about necessary traffic safety reminders. Many migrants have been crossing major roadways in large groups. Motorists should use extra caution when traveling on roadways near the border and downtown area. Drivers are asked to slow down and warn other motorists if you see a hazard ahead. It is also important not to pick up or try to give rides to anyone in those areas.

As a general public safety reminder, the community should always be aware of their surroundings. The community should also report any suspicious activity immediately by calling 911. In addition, the community should remember to lock their vehicles and not leave behind items of value. Finally, at home, the community should remember to lock all doors and windows.

Streetcar Closure

Effective tomorrow, Streetcar service along both the Lower and Upper Loops will be suspended until further notice to accommodate the City's response to the humanitarian migrant crisis issue impacting downtown City services.

###



Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

Media contact: Laura Cruz Acosta
Strategic Communications Director
(915) 212-1071