

EL PASO COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART)
EL PASO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT ORDER

Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 351.252, on this 25th day of April, 2022, the El Paso County Commissioners Court does hereby establish the adult sexual assault response team by County Order which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a serious issue impacting the public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, according to a statewide prevalence study, 6.3 million or 33.2% of adult Texans have experienced some form of sexual assault in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault continues to be a severely underreported crime — only 9.2% of victims report their experience to the police according to the Institute of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and

WHEREAS, in Texas, in 2020, there were over 30,000 sexual assaults reported to law enforcement, and over 50,000 survivors sought services at a rape crisis center; and
WHEREAS, sexual assault victims must live with the emotional and medical consequences of their assault, which are often chronic and severe; lifetime prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in women who are sexually assaulted is estimated to be 50%; and

WHEREAS, in their 2020 audit report to the Legislature on investigations and prosecutions of sexual assault statewide, the State Auditor's Office identified that only 32% of all reported sexual assaults in a 5-year period resulted in an arrest; and

WHEREAS, in their 2020 audit report to the Legislature on investigations and prosecutions of sexual assault statewide, the State Auditor's Office noted a lack of reliable data on sexual assault case dispositions and a lack of multidisciplinary responses to adults; and

WHEREAS, the 87th Texas Legislature has recognized the serious nature of this crime by passing SB476 requiring all 254 counties in Texas to form a Sexual Assault Response Team ("SART"); and

WHEREAS, even prior to the passage of SB476, El Paso County established a Sexual Assault Response Team which currently includes over 80 members from local law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office, University Medical Center, Emergence Health Network and multiple non-profit organizations serving victims; and

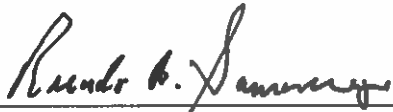
WHEREAS, El Paso County, Texas recognizes that work must continue to be done at a societal and local level to reduce the incidence of sexual assault, hold offenders accountable and to help heal victims;

WHEREAS, the El Paso County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) has appointed the following individuals to serve on the SART, which include:

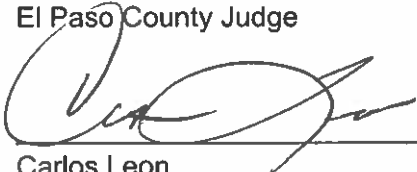
- The Chief Administrator or their designee of sexual assault programs that provides services for El Paso County;
- A prosecutor with jurisdiction over adult sexual assault cases in El Paso County;
- The Sheriff of El Paso County, or their designee;
- The chief, or the chief's designee, of the largest population in the county, provided a municipality in the county has a municipal department;
- A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner or Forensic Examiner that provides exams within El Paso County;
- A mental/behavioral health provider within El Paso; and
- As deemed appropriate and upon appointment by the El Paso County Commissioners Court, other persons the presiding officer of the response team considers necessary for the operation of the response team or as recommended by the response team.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners Court of El Paso County, Texas that that El Paso County is formally establishing the existence of the El Paso County Regional Sexual Assault Response Team by Commissioners Court Order, which will abide by all of the requirements enumerated by the Texas Legislature in SB476, on this 25th day of April, 2022.

Approved and adopted this the 25th day of April, 2022.



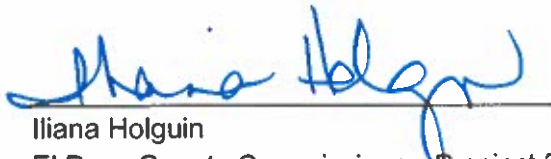
Ricardo A. Samaniego
El Paso County Judge




Carlos Leon
El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 1



David Stout
El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 2



Iliana Holguin
El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 3



Carl Robinson
El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 4

Attest:



Delia Briones
El Paso County Clerk