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El Paso Times

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 | ELPASOTIMES.COM

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Rendering of how the first phase of the planned Sky Park El Paso industrial park is to look.
PROVIDED BY GREEN POINT PROPERTY CO.

Construction starts on 200-acre industrial park

Vic Kolenc
El Paso Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Work has finally started on only the second industrial park to be built on El Paso International Airport land, and the first in more than 40 years.

A groundbreaking ceremony for Sky Park El Paso was held Wednesday on an unseasonably warm afternoon — about two years later than Dallas developers David Karr and Jeremy Rydberg originally had planned.

It was delayed while the developers waited for lower interest rates for financing the project, Karr said after the groundbreaking ceremony.

“I feel the El Paso market is very healthy,” and can still handle more warehousing and distribution buildings, he said.

This is only the second industrial park done by Karr and Rydberg’s Green Point Property Co. The other one is the 231-acre GTX Logistics Park in the Austin area.

Green Point’s 40-year land lease was approved by El Paso City Council in March 2023. Lease terms remain unchanged, Karr said. The lease will generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in rent to help pay for airport operations and improvements.

Sky Park will be built in four phases on about 200 acres of vacant land along Walter Jones Boulevard and the end of George Perry Boulevard in East El Paso. It’s kitty-corner from the Marshalls



El Paso Mayor Renard Johnson, center, flanked by David Karr, left, and Jeremy Rydberg, right, partners in Green Point Property Co., East-Central city Rep. Deanna Maldonado-Rocha, and Tony Nevarez, El Paso airport aviation director, far right, at Green Point’s Sky Park groundbreaking Nov. 12.
EL PASO TIMES/VIC KOLENC

clothing chain’s massive warehouse and distribution center opened in January 2023.

Marshalls’ facility has 2 million square feet, making it one of El Paso’s largest industrial buildings. That got the Green Point partners interested in the airport’s other untapped land, they have said.

Sky Park is expected to eventually

have several warehouse/distribution buildings with about 3 million square feet of space.

El Paso industrial parks’ warehouses and distribution centers are mostly built to serve factories in Juárez, and other areas of Mexico. Some factories also are built in El Paso

See CONSTRUCTION, Page 4A

Council to hear update on \$2.37M in unpaid hotel taxes

Adam Powell
El Paso Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The city of El Paso is missing out on millions in Hotel Occupancy Tax dollars.

The El Paso City Council will get an update on delinquent Hotel Occupancy Tax funds during its regular meeting Tuesday, Nov. 18. The City Council voted in August to receive quarterly updates on delinquent HOT funds, which were recently allocated to fund a planned expansion of the Downtown convention center.

As of Oct. 31, El Paso hotels owe more than \$2.37 million in HOT payments, according to a document accompanying Tuesday’s agenda.

City Council documents do not reveal the name of the hotels — only the owners or management companies. Following is a breakdown of some of the most egregious offenders:

- A location owned or managed by Reliance Yar LLC (Quality Inn Airport East) at 900 N. Yarbrough Drive currently owes \$404,174.78 that is being pursued by an external legal collection firm;
- A location owned or managed by LF3 El Paso University Trs LLC (Hilton Garden Inn) at 111 W. University Ave. currently owes \$335,708.20 that is being pursued by the Office of the Comptroller and an external legal collection firm;
- A location owned or managed by LF3 El Paso LLC (Holiday Inn) at 900 Sunland Park Drive currently owes \$271,353.13 that is being pursued by the Office of the Comptroller and the city’s Internal Audit Department;
- A location owned or managed by Bapa Sitaram LLC (Comfort Suites) at 5034 N. Desert Blvd. currently owes \$230,774.97 that is currently in the Office of the Comptroller collection process.

The City Council will hear an update on the delinquent payments, but will not take any action Tuesday. However, the City Council is expected to approve a \$360,000 increase to its contract with Delgado, Acosta, Spencer, Linebarger & Perez, LLP, and Appraisal and Collection Technologies, LLC, for delinquency tax collection services, though the specific tax payments to be collected are not specified.

See COUNCIL, Page 4A

Border priest who helped the poor considered for sainthood

Maria Cortes Gonzalez
El Paso Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The late Rev. Richard M. Thomas, a priest that served in El Paso, Juárez and Las Cruces during the 1960s, has advanced in the first step of being considered for sainthood.

The bishops of the United States met at their November Plenary Assembly

and voted in the majority to support for the advancement of the cause of beatification and canonization at the diocesan level. The votes were 206 in favor, 4 votes against, and 1 abstention.

The bishops held a canonical consultation on the possible cause of beatification and canonization for Rev. Thomas, a Jesuit priest known for his austere lifestyle, and charity work with the poor in Juárez.

He is not the first priest from the Borderland to be considered for sainthood. The Rev. Pedro de Jesus Maldonado was canonized by Pope John Paul II on May 21, 2000. He is the first saint and martyr from Chihuahua, Mexico, and began his religious life in El Paso. He was ordained a priest at St. Patrick Cathedral on Jan. 25, 1918. It was during the time of the persecution of Catholics by the Mexican government.

His remains are now venerated at St. Patrick Cathedral in El Paso, after an urn containing some of his relics was donated by the Archdiocese of Chihuahua.

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, and Bishop Peter Baldacchino

See THOMAS, Page 4A

