

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL 21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Graham Reiney, Commissioner
Michael Smith, Commissioner
Lyda Steadman, Commissioner
Luis Suazo, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Shannon Powell, Assistant City Manager
Karina Reyna, City Clerk
Harry Hess, Chief of Police
Jerry Branch, Deputy Chief of Police
Brittany Marmol, Director of Finance
Ellen Powell, Creative, Marketing & Communications Director

Meeting Called to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Graham Reiney motioned to adopt the meeting agenda. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Recognition on Years of Service for Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Shortell and Commissioner Lionel Laratte
Appreciation was expressed to Commissioners Lionel Laratte and Lisa Shortell for their eight years of service, leadership, and lasting impact on the City of Avondale Estates. Commissioner Reiney, Commissioner Smith, Mayor Elmore and City Manager Bryant noted that the city's recent progress reflects their dedication, vision, and the difficult decisions they made, often with little compensation and significant personal sacrifice. The Board presented certificates of appreciation and framed local artwork as parting gifts. Gratitude was also extended to their families for supporting their service.

Swearing In of New Commissioners Lyda Steadman and Luis Suazo
The newly elected commissioners were formally sworn in. Each commissioner took the oath of office, affirming that they would faithfully and impartially serve as Commissioner of the City of Avondale Estates, Georgia. Upon completion of the oath, the commissioners were congratulated, and the proceedings concluded with pictures of the new board.

Adjournment
Commissioner Lyda Steadman motioned to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Luis Suazo seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously. The Special Called Meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.

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Karina Reyna, City Clerk