

By: Turner of Tarrant

H.R. No. 729

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Jeff Williams is concluding his distinguished
2 tenure as the mayor of Arlington in May 2021, and this occasion
3 provides a fitting opportunity to honor him for his outstanding
4 service to the city; and

5 WHEREAS, First elected in 2015, Mayor Williams has
6 spearheaded a number of exceptional programs during his three terms
7 in office; he launched the Kindness Initiative and formed a
8 Community Relations Commission to encourage the virtue, and public
9 and private schools from the elementary to college level have
10 embraced the emphasis on acts of kindness, as has the faith-based
11 community; the positive effects have also extended to civic
12 organizations and the business sphere; moreover, Mayor Williams has
13 promoted community service through Unite Arlington Weekends; and

14 WHEREAS, Mayor Williams was instrumental in establishing a
15 Unity Council to study equity and equality in the city, and with the
16 city council, he developed the most aggressive Minority/Women
17 Business Enterprise policy in Arlington's history; officials
18 coordinated with the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, the
19 Community Influence Leaders Roundtable, and the Fort Worth
20 Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, resulting in monumental
21 participation of M/WBE firms on the Globe Life Field and Texas Live!
22 projects, among others; and

23 WHEREAS, Committed to vibrant tourism and job creation, Mayor
24 Williams guided such downtown revitalization efforts as a new

1 library, the expansion of Levitt Pavilion, and the advancement of
2 the Urban Union mixed-use development, which has been a catalyst
3 for redevelopment on the Division Street Corridor; an expansive new
4 entertainment complex encompasses a venue with daily events, and it
5 is served by an adjacent luxury hotel; the mayor's endeavors and
6 advocacy were crucial to the agreement by the Texas Rangers to
7 remain in Arlington, playing in a new ballpark, Globe Life Field;
8 financed by a successful sales tax election, the complex will also
9 host the world headquarters of Six Flags; he has helped to attract a
10 wide array of new businesses to the area as well, among them the
11 headquarters of Fortune 500 company D. R. Horton, Nanoscope
12 Technologies, a UPS regional distribution hub, General Motors'
13 Arlington Automotive Logistics Center, and GM Financial; and

14 WHEREAS, The mayor has long championed education and
15 galvanized effective partnerships with school districts, Tarrant
16 County College, and The University of Texas at Arlington;
17 previously, he was a member of the 2008 Arlington City Bond Election
18 Committee and the 2014 Arlington ISD School Bond Election
19 Committee; over the years, he has benefited his community in
20 numerous other leadership roles, including chair of the Greater
21 Arlington Chamber of Commerce and president of the River Legacy
22 Foundation; at the national level, he has served as president of the
23 prestigious U.S. Metro Economics Committee of the United States
24 Conference of Mayors; and

25 WHEREAS, A graduate of Texas Tech University, Mayor Williams
26 was inducted into the university's Civil, Environmental, and
27 Construction Engineering Academy; his many accolades include the

1 Vandergriff Community Leadership Award, the PTA Lifetime
2 Achievement Award, and the Comprehensive Planning Award from the
3 Texas Section of the American Planning Association; he and his
4 wife, Karen, shared in the 2018 Greater Arlington Chamber of
5 Commerce Star Award; they are the proud parents of three AISD
6 alumni; and

7 WHEREAS, Mayor Williams has kindled a renewed civic pride
8 during his tenure, best captured by his well-known catchphrase,
9 "It's a great day in Arlington!"; and

10 WHEREAS, Through his visionary leadership, Jeff Williams has
11 helped to build an even more prosperous future for the citizens of
12 Arlington, and the impact of his remarkable achievements will
13 resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
15 Legislature hereby honor Jeff Williams on the occasion of his
16 retirement as mayor of Arlington and extend to him sincere best
17 wishes as he begins the next exciting chapter of his life; and, be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Mr. Williams as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.