

By: LaMantia

S.R. No. 497

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The City of South Padre Island is celebrating the  
2 50th anniversary of its founding in 2023; and

3           WHEREAS, Situated at the southernmost tip of Padre Island in  
4 Cameron County, the City of South Padre Island is located in the  
5 vicinity of the Rancho de Santa Cruz de Buena Vista, settled in the  
6 early 19th century by the island's namesake, Padre José Ballí; it  
7 became a resort during the mid-19th century, and a ferry later began  
8 serving the island; in the 1920s, civic leaders tried to attract  
9 more tourists by building several seaside hotels on wooden piers;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, Development finally gained momentum following the  
12 completion of the Queen Isabella Causeway in 1954; nearly two  
13 decades later, dedicated citizens launched a campaign to  
14 incorporate; they filed an application with Cameron County Judge  
15 Ray Ramon in February 1973, and the election was conducted a month  
16 later; on April 10, the judge counted 128 out of 158 ballots in  
17 favor of incorporation; the board of aldermen held its first  
18 meeting that June; and

19           WHEREAS, The community's population surpassed 300 by 1978 and  
20 then more than tripled within a decade; growth proceeded apace as  
21 tourism flourished, and in 2009, the town became the City of South  
22 Padre Island with the adoption of a home rule charter; under its  
23 council-manager form of government, voters elect a city council  
24 composed of the mayor, five district members, and three at-large

1 members; the council appoints the city manager; and

2           WHEREAS, Tourism remains the major engine of the economy,  
3 with more than 9 million people annually drawn by the sandy beaches  
4 and subtropical landscape; city staff works with an extensive  
5 volunteer network of committees, task forces, boards, and  
6 commissions to preserve this lovely setting and support world-class  
7 conservation efforts, including the protection of the Kemp's Ridley  
8 sea turtle and an artificial reef; the South Padre Island Birding  
9 and Nature Center, located on a major migratory route, educates  
10 visitors about the more than 300 avian species in the area, as well  
11 as other native flora and fauna; and

12           WHEREAS, Over the course of a half century, the City of South  
13 Padre Island has distinguished itself as a community characterized  
14 by natural beauty, livability, prosperity, and an active, engaged  
15 citizenry; now, therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature  
17 hereby congratulate the City of South Padre Island on the 50th  
18 anniversary of its founding and extend to its residents sincere  
19 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

20           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for the city as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
22 Senate.