

By: Leach

H.R. No. 697

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents from Collin County are gathering in Austin
2 on April 1 and 2, 2025, to celebrate Collin County Days at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Collin County is one of the largest and
5 fastest-growing counties in the state; more than 90 percent of its
6 workforce over the age of 25 hold a high school diploma and about
7 half have earned at least a bachelor's degree; such highly skilled
8 workers also make the county a leader in job growth; and

9 WHEREAS, With a population of over 292,000, Plano is the
10 largest city in the county and home to more than 70 iconic global
11 corporations, including Toyota Motor North America, Liberty Mutual
12 Insurance, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Boeing Global Services, NTT DATA,
13 JCPenney, FedEx Office, Frito-Lay, Samsung, and Capital One
14 Finance; the city is consistently ranked as one of America's safest
15 cities, and it has been named one of the best places to live in
16 America and one of the best cities to buy a house in America by
17 Niche; it has also been recognized as one of the best places to
18 raise a family by WalletHub, one of the healthiest cities in America
19 by SmartAsset, and one of the best cities in America for jobs by
20 *Forbes*, while maintaining its status as one of the best-performing
21 cities in America by the Milken Institute; this thriving
22 municipality boasts nationally recognized schools, award-winning
23 parks, a lively historic downtown district, and multicultural
24 neighborhoods that appeal equally to families, young singles, and

1 retirees; its excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping districts,
2 exciting entertainment venues, and active local arts scene all
3 contribute to the city's high quality of life; and

4 WHEREAS, The county seat and one of the fastest-growing
5 cities in the country with a current population of over 224,000, the
6 city of McKinney continues to thrive as a hub of innovation,
7 opportunity, and exceptional quality of life; major employers such
8 as Raytheon, Emerson, SRS Distribution, Globe Life, and Encore Wire
9 anchor a diverse and expanding economy; upcoming projects include a
10 20,000-seat open-air amphitheater and a new terminal at the
11 McKinney National Airport to accommodate commercial service by
12 2026; nearly 50 technology startups have received funding to grow
13 their businesses in the community through the city's
14 internationally recognized Innovation Fund; the city has also
15 positioned itself on the global map for next-generation industries
16 by bringing one of the world's leading innovation platforms, Plug
17 and Play, to the local business community; more than 2,300
18 single-family permits and 76 non-residential permits were issued
19 last year; furthermore, the city's award-winning historic downtown
20 encompasses over 170 unique small businesses and restaurants; the
21 community is recognized among the best places to live in the U.S.,
22 and residents enjoy more than 70 parks, over 100 miles of trails,
23 and premier recreational facilities; and

24 WHEREAS, Allen is a dynamic and welcoming home to more than
25 113,000 residents and has been ranked among the safest, most
26 affordable, and most family-friendly cities nationwide, and the
27 city continues to enhance the Texas workforce through the addition

1 and expansion of such international companies as NETSCOUT, Boss
2 Fight Entertainment, and Amphenol Fiber Systems International; in
3 2017, the city was named the number two "Best Place to Live" and
4 number one "Best Place to Live in the South" by *Money* magazine, and
5 the city received the National Recreation and Park Association Gold
6 Medal Award in 2016 for the coveted stewardship of its parkland,
7 which today includes more than 1,864 acres, 67 parks and
8 facilities, and 83 miles of hike-and-bike trails; moreover, its
9 volunteer efforts were recognized with the 2012, 2016, and 2022
10 Keep Texas Beautiful Governor's Community Achievement Award for
11 efforts in environmental education, community beautification, and
12 litter prevention; the city is also part of the Six Cities trail
13 plan, a blueprint for creating a regional trail system connecting
14 Allen, Plano, McKinney, Richardson, Frisco, and Garland; and

15 WHEREAS, Defining "Progress in Motion," Frisco is one of the
16 fastest-growing cities in the country and the fastest-growing
17 community over the past decade, according to the United States
18 Census Bureau; it has maintained its quality of life amid rapid
19 development, and the *Dallas Morning News* named Frisco among its top
20 10 suburbs for schools, safety, families with children, young
21 adults, empty nesters, and "Best Overall" neighborhoods; known for
22 top-notch public safety services, the city received the highest
23 rating for fire protection, and it enjoys one of the lowest crime
24 rates, as well as low taxes; this once-small town is home to Collin
25 College, Preston Ridge Campus, world-class venues, and a number of
26 professional sports organizations, namely the Frisco RoughRiders,
27 Dallas Stars, FC Dallas, Texas Legends, Dallas Cowboys, and the PGA

1 of America; active residents have access to 49 parks, 86 miles of
2 trails, and an athletic center featuring an outdoor water park;
3 health care facilities include three hospitals, and the favorable
4 business climate supports more than nine million square feet of
5 retail and restaurants; among the cultural amenities are three
6 museums and hundreds of public and private art installations
7 displayed throughout Frisco's approximately 70-square-mile area;
8 recently, the University of North Texas opened a campus in Frisco,
9 becoming the first four-year college in Collin County; and

10 WHEREAS, The City of Wylie, Wylie Independent School
11 District, Wylie Chamber of Commerce, and Wylie Economic Development
12 Corporation work in concert to build a strong community that
13 strives to honor the past, embrace the present, and plan for the
14 future, while valuing unity, relationships, and trust; known as
15 "Wide Awake Wylie," the town of more than 63,000 residents fosters a
16 spirit of cooperation and features a thriving business environment
17 as well as outstanding schools; it is a place people treasure and
18 proudly call home, set apart by its strong sense of community and
19 long history; and

20 WHEREAS, The city of Richardson, which is known globally for
21 its high-tech business leadership, is home to the Telecom Corridor
22 area and was named the International Business Capital of North
23 Texas by the 82nd Texas Legislature; Richardson is a major
24 employment center, with companies including Blue Cross and Blue
25 Shield of Texas, Fossil, RealPage, Fujitsu Network Communications,
26 and Cisco Systems having headquarters in the city; other major
27 employers include State Farm, Raytheon, UnitedHealthcare, Texas

1 Instruments, and AT&T; Richardson offers a high quality of life, a
2 diverse array of neighborhoods, and easy access to a multimodal
3 transportation infrastructure; the city has repeatedly been
4 recognized as one of the top places to live, work, and obtain an
5 education by national and local media; in 2018, CBS News ranked
6 Richardson the 16th-best city in the United States to live, and it
7 finished ninth nationally among top cities for STEM workers by
8 Livability; Richardson is home to The University of Texas at
9 Dallas, one of the fastest-growing universities in the state, and
10 the city remains dedicated to continued improvement as well as to
11 the principles of open government and two-way communication with
12 residents; and

13 WHEREAS, The city of Murphy, a diverse, historically
14 significant residential community in southeastern Collin County,
15 continues to create a distinctive ambience of homeowner pride and
16 neighborhood vitality, and it has been designated multiple times as
17 a Top 10 Best Suburb by *D Magazine*; Murphy's commitment to an
18 enhanced quality of life is reflected in the number and level of
19 excellence in its parks system, as well as its highly regarded
20 year-round special events; the business community offers a wide
21 range of desirable retail and culinary options, and residents enjoy
22 the safety and security of professionally managed public safety
23 functions; and

24 WHEREAS, With approximately 46,000 residents, Prosper is
25 dedicated to high-quality development while promoting a strong
26 sense of community; located where the rapidly expanding Dallas
27 North Tollway meets the booming U.S. 380 Corridor, the town is

1 poised for continued commercial, office, retail, and residential
2 development that aligns with the Town Council's Strategic Vision;
3 more than \$500 million in pediatric medical care facilities have
4 been built in Prosper, such as Cook Children's Medical Center and
5 Children's Health Specialty Center; the establishment of major
6 retailers, including the Gates of Prosper, Costco, and H-E-B,
7 contribute to the city's economy, and the acceleration of
8 infrastructure is at the forefront of its growth strategy, which is
9 reflected in the town's multimillion dollar Capital Improvement
10 Plan; the town has implemented several projects downtown to enhance
11 existing businesses and attract new ones, and it recently adopted a
12 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan and a Library Master
13 Plan to serve the growing community; Prosper is utilizing
14 leading-edge technology to prevent crime through the deployment of
15 the Flock program; the Prosper Independent School District serves
16 over 29,000 students, and thanks to its excellent programs and
17 highly qualified teachers, it is one of the top school districts in
18 Texas and the nation; Prosper has a CAPRA-accredited Parks and
19 Recreation Department with more than 727 acres of parks and open
20 space and over 62 miles of hike-and-bike trails, and the town offers
21 such community engagement programs as the Prosper Citizens Academy,
22 the Citizens Police and Fire Academies, and special events for all
23 ages and interests; Prosper continues to live up to its name and
24 motto as "a place where everyone matters"; and

25 WHEREAS, Embracing its natural setting, the town of Fairview
26 has distinguished itself as a platinum-level Scenic City in Texas
27 since 2011; it has also been recognized as a Tree City USA community

1 and earned a Growing Green Cities Award, and it is home to the first
2 street in Texas to be illuminated by LED lighting; the town is a
3 three-time recipient of the Texas Municipal League Municipal
4 Excellence Award and continues to earn the annual Certificate of
5 Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the
6 Government Finance Officers Association; the Fairview Economic
7 Development Corporation was awarded a Certificate of Achievement
8 for Economic Excellence by the Texas Economic Development Council
9 in 2017, and for three consecutive years, the Texas Chapter of the
10 American Planning Association honored Fairview with Certificates
11 of Achievement for Planning Excellence; in addition, the town's
12 Veterans Park has been recognized with a Patriotic Achievement
13 Award from the Military Order of the World Wars; Fairview also
14 features two high-ranking school districts and continues to be one
15 of the safest and most desirable places to live in Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, With 78 square miles of land, Celina has the
17 second-largest geographic footprint of any city in Collin County;
18 strategic growth plans allow the city to manage new development
19 along the Dallas North Tollway, Preston Road, and future Collin
20 County Outer Loop corridors; with its population increasing from
21 17,000 in 2020 to 54,000 in 2025, Celina has been named the
22 fastest-growing city in the nation by the United States Census
23 Bureau, and its projected build-out population of 340,000 makes it
24 one of the future population centers of Collin County; the city's
25 robust "Texas historic" downtown is filled with a number of unique
26 shops, offices, and award-winning restaurants, and its business
27 community is growing rapidly; Celina recently celebrated the

1 opening of its first hospital, Celina Methodist, which represents a
2 \$270 million investment into the city; its school district was
3 recognized for its academic achievements with a prestigious "A"
4 rating, and the city has received numerous accolades for its
5 outstanding budgeting and financial reporting; residents and
6 visitors come together to enjoy a number of special events
7 throughout the year, including Movie Nights on the Square,
8 Oktoberfest, Splash & Blast, and Cajun Fest; Celina is focused on
9 being "The City of the Future, Connected to its Past," welcoming new
10 members of the community while maintaining its small-town culture;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Lucas was founded in 1888 and became incorporated as
13 a city government on February 19, 1959; the city is currently home
14 to more than 9,000 residents, and in recent years, it has
15 experienced significant growth spurred by its quality housing,
16 large lot sizes, exceptional education systems, low crime rate, and
17 animal-friendly neighborhoods; the community has maintained a
18 peaceful, rural lifestyle, helping to sustain a high quality of
19 life for its citizens; the city is pleased to offer 25 miles of
20 trails along Lake Lavon for pedestrians and equestrian enthusiasts,
21 and it continues to focus on wildlife habitat preservation, making
22 it the perfect home for the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center; the
23 city's many honors include the 2022 Governor's Community
24 Achievement Award from Keep Texas Beautiful, the Community
25 Partnership Award from the International City/County Management
26 Association, and certification as a silver level Scenic City; each
27 year, area residents enjoy taking part in a number of special

1 events, such as Founders Day, Country Christmas, and an annual
2 trail cleanup; and

3 WHEREAS, The citizens of Parker are proud to be living in one
4 of *D Magazine's* top suburbs in the DFW Metroplex, and they also
5 enjoy a low municipal tax rate; the residents number more than
6 6,000, and they cherish their uniquely "country" lifestyle;
7 characterized by its large lots and comfortable atmosphere, Parker
8 is known to millions of television viewers as the home of the
9 legendary Southfork Ranch from Dallas; and

10 WHEREAS, Boasting an area of 64 square miles, Anna is one of
11 the fastest-growing cities in North Texas, with a current
12 population of more than 27,000, and it is projected to grow to over
13 100,000 by 2050; the city serves as the northern gateway of Collin
14 County, with its strategic location along U.S. Highway 75, State
15 Highway 5, and State Highway 121; Anna's residents enjoy a high
16 quality of life, with expansive parks and trails, vibrant community
17 events, and seamless access to both the DFW Metroplex and Red River
18 corridor; the city has invested in key infrastructure to support
19 its growth, including a new fire station, major roadway
20 improvements, and the forthcoming Anna Community Library; strong
21 partnerships between the City of Anna, the Anna Independent School
22 District, the Anna Community Development Corporation, and the
23 Greater Anna Chamber of Commerce help maintain a welcoming,
24 hometown atmosphere amid rapid development; Anna also honors its
25 historic roots, as it was once home to Collin McKinney, one of the 5
26 drafters and 59 signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence;
27 and

1 WHEREAS, Farmersville, located 15 miles east of McKinney,
2 took its name from the primary occupation of its original
3 residents; established in 1849 as a settlement on the
4 Jefferson-McKinney Road and near the Republic of Texas National
5 Road, the town was incorporated in 1873; agriculture kept pace as it
6 became a trade center, and in the 1930s, Farmersville shipped over
7 1,000 carloads of onions annually, earning the nickname "Onion
8 Capital of North Texas"; today, Farmersville is a gigabit
9 infrastructure city that is working to advance local industries and
10 railroad projects, and it is home to a number of businesses; in
11 addition, the Farmersville Independent School District and the
12 Collin College Farmersville Campus help strengthen the city's
13 workforce; Farmersville has a nationally recognized Main Street
14 Program, with many historic downtown buildings, eateries, and
15 shopping attractions; near the restored Onion Shed is the trailhead
16 for the 130-mile Northeast Texas Trail, a beautiful site for
17 walking, hiking, and bicycling; and

18 WHEREAS, Settled in the mid-1850s, the city of Lavon is
19 nestled along the southeastern shore of Lake Lavon, and it is home
20 to approximately 10,000 residents who enjoy the friendliness of the
21 small-town atmosphere combined with the benefits of living near an
22 exciting metro area; the city's growing parks and trail system,
23 planned capital improvements, attraction of quality business
24 development, growth opportunities, and commitment to service
25 contribute to an outstanding quality of life; and

26 WHEREAS, The city of Melissa is one of the fastest-growing
27 communities in Collin County, gaining roughly one new family per

1 day; residents enjoy a friendly atmosphere and close access to a
2 number of amenities, as well as more square feet per dollar for the
3 price of homes; in 2024, SafeWise ranked Melissa as the safest city
4 in Texas based on FBI data, demonstrating that safety is not lost in
5 high growth; Melissa is home to such businesses as Buc-ee's, H-E-B,
6 Green Acres Nursery, and Taco Casa, to name but a few, and it will
7 continue to grow commercially to provide its citizens with even
8 more amenities; and

9 WHEREAS, Other communities add much to Collin County's
10 allure; the growing community of Blue Ridge is committed to
11 revitalizing its downtown by providing a small-town rural feel;
12 with its beautiful rolling hills, open skies with magnificent
13 sunrises and sunsets, and friendly residents, Blue Ridge has a
14 quaint charm all of its own; Cattlemans Cafe, established in 1953
15 and featured in *D Magazine* and on *Texas Country Reporter*, adds to
16 the town's neighborly atmosphere with its outstanding chicken fried
17 steak; known as the "Home of the Last Texas Prairie in Collin
18 County," Blue Ridge is replete with scenic open spaces dotted with
19 cattle and horses; and

20 WHEREAS, Located in the center of Collin County, the city of
21 Princeton is a planned community that is currently working to
22 become a Smart City; the community was named the number one place
23 for first-time home buyers in the DFW area by NerdWallet in 2016,
24 and it was recognized as a Prime Designated U.S. Site by Trade and
25 Industry Development in 2022; the city has continued to lead Collin
26 County as one of its fastest-growing cities with an average 20
27 percent growth rate since 2017, and it issued nearly 2,000

1 single-family permits in 2024; with its Certified Scenic City
2 Designation and its new Municipal Center and 100-acre Municipal
3 Park, Princeton has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to
4 cultivating a small-town atmosphere by prioritizing the addition of
5 new parks, trails, and open space, and it maintains a low crime rate
6 by national standards; the city places emphasis on an open and
7 transparent government, and it has been consistently recognized
8 with the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished
9 Budget Presentation Award and its Certificate for Excellence in
10 Financial Reporting; the Princeton Independent School District
11 earned an "A" rating from the state, and it is home to the CATE
12 Center, which provides vocational training across numerous
13 skill-based fields; moreover, the district participates in the Jump
14 Start Program and offers students the opportunity to receive an
15 associate's degree while attending high school; and

16 WHEREAS, Sachse is a vibrant, diverse, well-educated, and
17 growing community that offers its residents a high quality of life
18 while retaining its small-town charm; named as one of the safest
19 cities in Texas, the community prides itself on providing its
20 families with a safe place to live; strategically located along the
21 President George Bush Turnpike, Sachse is home to an increasingly
22 large retail trade area that includes a growing mixed-used
23 development called The Station; and

24 WHEREAS, Also contributing to the development of Collin
25 County are the residents of Copeville, Josephine, Lowry Crossing,
26 Nevada, New Hope, Royse City, St. Paul, Westminster, and Weston,
27 along with parts of Dallas and Garland, and these communities play

1 an important part in the county's flourishing, diversified economy
2 and its quality of life; and

3 WHEREAS, The citizens of this notable North Texas county are
4 working to preserve the best of their past even as they look forward
5 to a bright and promising future, and they are sure to figure
6 prominently in the growth and prosperity of the Lone Star State in
7 the years ahead; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize April 1 and 2, 2025, as Collin County
10 Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation
11 sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.