

By: Krusee

H.C.R. No. 89

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The city of Hutto has long cherished as its symbol
2 one of the earth's most impressive animals, the hippopotamus; and

3 WHEREAS, A reported news story holds that in 1915 a passing
4 circus train stopped at the Hutto railroad station and a hippo from
5 the show escaped into the muddy environs of nearby Cottonwood
6 Creek; recovering the hippo from such a spot proved no small feat,
7 and the adventure with the exotic animal became enshrined as a
8 legend in local lore; and

9 WHEREAS, The hippo serves as the community identifier for all
10 of Hutto, as well as the official mascot of Hutto High
11 School--believed to be the only high school in the country
12 represented by this massive creature--and of the Hutto Independent
13 School District; the high school's costumed mascot has appeared at
14 numerous sporting events, parades, and other special occasions,
15 drawing media attention and representing both the school and
16 community in a unique, fun, and positive manner; and

17 WHEREAS, Hutto Olde Tyme Days, an annual three-day event
18 sponsored by the Hutto Chamber of Commerce, is also known as the
19 Hippo Festival; now in its 18th year, the festival provides
20 abundant family recreation and serves as a unifying force in the
21 community, while bringing additional revenue into the Hutto area;
22 the city council has decreed that during the course of the
23 festivities, each third weekend in October, the town of Hutto shall
24 be known as Hippo, Texas; and

1 WHEREAS, The name hippopotamus is derived from the Greek
2 phrase meaning "river horse"; one of the largest land animals, the
3 adult hippo weighs almost five tons and yet is quite agile in the
4 water; though herbivorous, it is ferocious when threatened or angry
5 and is considered to be the most dangerous animal, other than man,
6 in all of Africa; and

7 WHEREAS, According to an African folk tale, God created the
8 hippopotamus and told it to cut grass for the other animals; when
9 the hippo discovered how hot Africa is, it asked God to let it stay
10 in the water during the day and cut grass during the cooler night;
11 God agreed reluctantly, fearing the hippo would eat the fish in the
12 river, but the hippo pledged to feed only on vegetation and remained
13 true to its word; and

14 WHEREAS, For roughly a century, the imposing hippopotamus has
15 been treasured by the people of Hutto as an emblem of their town and
16 the surrounding area; inspiring pride and community solidarity, the
17 hippo symbol has further played a significant role in promoting
18 economic development and tourism in Hutto; and

19 WHEREAS, This imposing mammal is so ingrained in the identity
20 of this fine community that when the name "Hutto" is mentioned, the
21 natural response is "Hippos"; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
23 hereby designate Hutto as the "Hippo Capital of Texas" and commend
24 the citizens of this fine community for their outstanding civic
25 achievements and public spirit.