

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Sparks Housing Development Corporation was
2 incorporated on March 28, 1990, with the goal of advancing human
3 rights and social justice in the Sparks colonia and its surrounding
4 areas by mobilizing residents to bring innovative advocacy
5 solutions for basic utility and infrastructure services; and

6 WHEREAS, Sparks has a population of more than 3,500 residents
7 and is located in El Paso County on a desert escarpment a mile
8 outside the El Paso city limits and 10 miles to the north of the Rio
9 Grande along the U.S. and Mexico border; and

10 WHEREAS, Founding members of the Sparks Housing Development
11 Corporation challenged and won a property tax case in the late 1980s
12 that would have otherwise displaced hundreds of families and
13 property owners in Sparks because of delinquent property taxes
14 neglected by a private developer; and

15 WHEREAS, The Sparks Housing Development Corporation is a
16 501(c)(3) nonprofit, community-based organization with a mission
17 to better the health and well-being of children and families
18 residing in the Sparks colonia and its surrounding areas by acting
19 as a grassroots social advocate that provides and promotes programs
20 for infrastructure and housing rehabilitation, new affordable
21 housing construction, educational opportunities, social and human
22 services, medical attention, and health education; and

23 WHEREAS, The vision of the Sparks Housing Development
24 Corporation is to create a movement that will build assets for

1 colonia families and their children in order for them to reach their
2 full potential to become self-sufficient; and

3 WHEREAS, Solutions devised by the organization have helped
4 build community assets through advocating for the implementation of
5 electricity, water/wastewater systems, and natural gas services
6 for more than 1,000 families, the construction and rehabilitation
7 of 16 homes, the development of a community center, the
8 construction of an eight-unit multi-family rental, and the
9 establishment of the first technology center and mini-library in
10 Sparks; and

11 WHEREAS, The Sparks Housing Development Corporation offers
12 programs in early childhood development, arts and crafts, computer
13 literacy, after-school tutoring, commodities distribution,
14 financial literacy, leadership development, and counseling; it
15 also provides ESL and GED classes, senior programs, and medical
16 services; and

17 WHEREAS, Committed to excellence and with a clear vision and
18 a passion for delivering outstanding results, the Sparks Housing
19 Development Corporation has demonstrated that community-based
20 programs that are developed and managed by a community for a
21 community can make a striking impact on those they serve; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize the Sparks Housing Development
25 Corporation for continuing to serve as an advocate for improved
26 provision of public services in the area and extend best wishes for
27 continued success to all those involved in this worthwhile

H.R. No. 1733

1 endeavor.

Quintanilla

H.R. No. 1733

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1733 was adopted by the House on May 25, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House