

By: Quintanilla

H.R. No. 1733

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

1 endeavor.