

By: Strama

H.C.R. No. 190

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Founded in 1997, the Greater Austin Crime Commission  
2 has contributed to the quality of life in Central Texas with  
3 innovative and outstanding public safety programs such as the  
4 Longhorn Leaders; and

5           WHEREAS, Developed by the commission and The University of  
6 Texas School of Social Work, in cooperation with the UT Athletic  
7 Department and the Austin Independent School District, the Longhorn  
8 Leaders youth outreach program facilitates dialogue between  
9 university athletes and seventh grade students; and

10           WHEREAS, Middle school youth are at a crucial developmental  
11 point as they prepare to transition into later adolescence and  
12 early adulthood, and at the same time, they face a variety of new  
13 stressors, from stronger peer influences to greater access to drugs  
14 and alcohol; positive reference groups, however, can go a long way  
15 in counteracting potential negative forces, and university  
16 athletes are especially effective role models because of their  
17 visibility in college sports and their proximity in age to the  
18 students; and

19           WHEREAS, During the course of a semester, Longhorn Leaders  
20 give several personal presentations at each school, emphasizing the  
21 importance of strong goals, academic excellence, and successful  
22 life skills; moreover, they promote the values of teamwork,  
23 discipline, and living drug-free; athletes receive course credit  
24 for participating in the program, which, since fall 2003, has been

1 offered at seven middle schools and three elementary schools in  
2 areas all over Austin; and

3 WHEREAS, Current and former Longhorn Leaders include  
4 LaMarcus Aldridge, D. J. Augustin, Cedric Benson, Jamaal Charles,  
5 Kevin Durant, Daniel Gibson, Cedric Griffin, Michael Griffin,  
6 Damion James, Seth Johnson, Derek Lokey, Cory Redding, Terrence  
7 Rencher, Sonya Richards, Aaron Ross, Kasey Studdard, Limas Sweed,  
8 Roy Williams, and Vince Young, to name but a few; and

9 WHEREAS, Encouraging meaningful community interaction  
10 between UT athletes, students, parents, teachers, and law  
11 enforcement, the Longhorn Leaders program has benefited countless  
12 participants, and the Greater Austin Crime Commission is truly  
13 deserving of recognition for its exemplary efforts to support  
14 public safety and youth development; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
16 hereby congratulate the Greater Austin Crime Commission on its 10th  
17 anniversary and commend all those associated with it for their work  
18 to develop and implement public safety programs such as the  
19 Longhorn Leaders; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for the Greater Austin Crime Commission as an expression  
22 of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.