

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 1860

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Recognizing her significant contributions to the
2 city of Dallas, the North Texas Chapter of the American Society for
3 Public Administration has named Dallas city manager Mary K. Suhm as
4 the 2007 North Texas Public Administrator of the Year; and

5 WHEREAS, After receiving her bachelor's degree from Lamar
6 University, Ms. Suhm earned two master's degrees, in business
7 administration and library science, from the University of North
8 Texas; she taught high school biology and served as director of the
9 Allen Public Library before entering Dallas city government in
10 1978; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Suhm's long tenure as a public servant includes
12 experience at nearly every level of municipal government; she has
13 been the manager of three Dallas branch libraries, the manager of
14 the Urban Information Center at the Dallas Public Library, an
15 assistant to the mayor and the city manager, and the director of
16 Court Services; moreover, as executive assistant director of the
17 Dallas Police Department, she earned the distinction of being the
18 first non-sworn female executive in the history of the DPD; and

19 WHEREAS, During her 10 years as first assistant city manager
20 and assistant city manager, Ms. Suhm was responsible for management
21 of the daily operations of such key departments as financial
22 services, public information, housing, street services,
23 sanitation, code enforcement, aviation, and others; and

24 WHEREAS, In June 2005, she was appointed Dallas city manager,

1 and assumed responsibility for overseeing the daily operations of a
2 major city with 13,000 employees and a yearly budget of more than \$2
3 billion; and

4 WHEREAS, Well-known for her creative and innovative
5 leadership, she has been instrumental in reorganizing the delivery
6 of city services and fostering a citywide customer service ethic;
7 she has established a permanent efficiency team to simplify
8 procedures and reduce costs, centralized the procurement system,
9 and increased the involvement of historically underutilized
10 businesses; and

11 WHEREAS, Devoting her energies and talents as well to
12 long-term strategic planning, Ms. Suhm has coordinated state and
13 federal lobbying efforts for the \$1.2 billion Trinity River Project
14 and negotiated agreements between neighboring cities to share the
15 tax revenues of DFW International Airport; her promotion of
16 cultural improvement has ranged from ensuring funds and community
17 support for the Latino Cultural Center to helping establish Raymond
18 Nasher's world-famous collection of sculpture as a permanent
19 exhibit in Dallas; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Suhm led the city's response to Hurricanes
21 Katrina and Rita, ensuring the establishment of two major
22 evacuation centers, setting up a Disaster Recovery Center to
23 facilitate governmental services for evacuees, and implementing
24 Project Exodus, a temporary housing project; and

25 WHEREAS, Her efforts to mentor and advance women in city
26 government have been recognized by the Linda Keithley Award for
27 Women in Public Management from the North Central Texas Council of

1 Governments, and she was named the 2006 Woman of the Year by the
2 Women's Council of Dallas County; and

3 WHEREAS, Mary Suhm is an exemplary public administrator who
4 has devoted nearly 30 years to the efficient and capable governance
5 of the City of Dallas, and it is fitting that her considerable
6 contributions to her fellow Texans be honored by this award; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate Dallas city manager Mary K. Suhm on
10 her selection as the 2007 North Texas Public Administrator of the
11 Year by the North Texas Chapter of the American Society for Public
12 Administration and extend to her best wishes for her continued
13 success; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Ms. Suhm as an expression of high regard by the Texas
16 House of Representatives.