

By: Kent

H.R. No. 608

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Hamilton Park occupies a unique place in Dallas
2 history as one of the city's oldest and most cohesive African
3 American neighborhoods; and

4 WHEREAS, In the years after World War II, commercial
5 development, residential segregation, and mounting racial violence
6 combined to cause a severe housing shortage for African Americans
7 in Dallas; business and community leaders were deeply concerned,
8 and the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce and Dallas Citizens
9 Council formed the Dallas Citizens' Interracial Association to find
10 a solution to this problem; and

11 WHEREAS, The association purchased 233 acres of farmland in
12 North Dallas with a loan from the Hoblitzelle Foundation and
13 borrowed money from three banks to finance infrastructure for a new
14 subdivision; Hamilton Park was named after Dr. Richard T. Hamilton,
15 an African American civic leader and physician, and officially
16 opened in May 1954; within seven years, the well-appointed
17 neighborhood had almost 750 single-family homes, as well as an
18 apartment complex, a shopping center, a park, several churches, and
19 a school; and

20 WHEREAS, The area attracted doctors, teachers, businessmen,
21 and other middle-class professionals, many of them veterans, who
22 took great pride in their new community; they formed such groups as
23 the Civic League, the Parent-Teacher Association, and the
24 Inter-Organizational Council to care for and improve Hamilton Park;

1 focused on church and school, young families enjoyed the friendly
2 atmosphere and a strong neighborhood identity developed; and

3 WHEREAS, The surrounding area has continued to evolve through
4 the years with the growth of the Metroplex, and the subdivision now
5 holds a prime location next to the High Five freeway interchange;
6 commercial developers have made numerous overtures to homeowners
7 through the years, and as the real estate increases in value, both
8 individuals and such organizations as the Hamilton Park Historic
9 Preservation Foundation strive to balance economic considerations
10 and the desire to protect a rich heritage; and

11 WHEREAS, Although Hamilton Park may be on the verge of a new
12 and very different era, a sense of community thrives among its
13 residents, and those who have been privileged to experience this
14 spirit of neighborly cooperation will treasure it always; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize the Hamilton Park neighborhood of
18 Dallas and extend to its past, present, and future residents best
19 wishes for continued happiness.