

By: Workman

H.C.R. No. 95

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Longhorn Leaders program, an initiative of the
2 Greater Austin Crime Commission, is celebrating its 10th
3 anniversary in 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Lauderdale and Fred Ligarde, both board
5 members of the commission, collaborated with The University of
6 Texas School of Social Work to develop the Longhorn Leaders youth
7 outreach program, which creates a dialogue between university
8 students and seventh graders; and

9 WHEREAS, Middle-school youth are at a crucial point in their
10 development, and the decisions they make during this time in their
11 lives can affect their transition into early adulthood; because
12 they are more susceptible to influence and face peer pressure and
13 greater access to drugs and alcohol, alternative and positive
14 encouragement can go a long way in counteracting potential negative
15 forces; university athletes are especially effective role models
16 for students at this age because of their visibility in college
17 sports, their name recognition, and their proximity in age to
18 participants in the program; and

19 WHEREAS, During the course of a semester, Longhorn Leaders
20 give several presentations at each school, discussing their life
21 circumstances and how the difficult decisions they had to make when
22 they were younger have affected their present-day lives; while
23 making personal connections with the middle schoolers, university
24 students emphasize the importance of setting goals and promote the

1 values of teamwork and discipline; they receive course credit for
2 participating, and they often find themselves transformed as they
3 work to transform the lives of others; and

4 WHEREAS, Since fall 2003, the Greater Austin Crime Commission
5 has partnered with the UT Athletics Department and the Austin
6 Independent School District to offer the Longhorn Leaders program
7 at seven middle schools and three elementary schools throughout
8 Austin and at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center as well; and

9 WHEREAS, More than 300 University of Texas students have
10 participated in the Longhorn Leaders program, including David Ash,
11 T. J. Ford, Cat Osterman, Colt McCoy, Quan Cosby, Erin Phenix, Kevin
12 Durant, Sonya Richards, Aaron Ross, Kasey Studdard, and Vince
13 Young; and

14 WHEREAS, By connecting with Austin youth during a critical
15 period in their lives and encouraging them to see the values of
16 leadership and smart decision-making, the Longhorn Leaders program
17 has made a positive difference in the lives of countless young
18 Texans; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby congratulate the Longhorn Leaders program on its 10th
21 anniversary and commend the Greater Austin Crime Commission and its
22 partners, the Motorola Solutions Foundation and the University
23 Federal Credit Union, for their important work; and, be it further

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