

By: Munoz, Jr.

H.C.R. No. 219

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Border safety is a matter of vital importance, and  
2 South Texas has a growing need for highly trained law enforcement  
3 professionals to ensure the security of the citizens of the Lone  
4 Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, Studies derived from Texas Workforce Commission  
6 data indicate that the need for law enforcement personnel such as  
7 police and sheriff's officers, detectives, and criminal  
8 investigators will see a 21 percent increase between 2012 and 2021;  
9 accordingly, approximately 2,000 new law enforcement positions  
10 will be required in Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Starr, Willacy, and  
11 Zapata Counties; and

12 WHEREAS, In order to prepare for the law enforcement  
13 challenges ahead, the City of Pharr, South Texas College, the Pharr  
14 Police Department, and the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School  
15 District have united to work for the development of a  
16 state-of-the-art training complex, the proposed Regional Center  
17 for Public Safety Excellence, in Hidalgo County; this complex will  
18 benefit the entire region by launching innovative programs in  
19 public safety and security, providing initial and continuing  
20 education of law enforcement personnel in the Rio Grande Valley;  
21 individuals will be able to attain basic peace officer  
22 certification and credit toward an associate of applied science  
23 degree, or to work toward a wide range of certificates, associate  
24 degrees, and bachelor's degrees; and

1           WHEREAS, The City of Pharr has committed 40 acres for  
2 construction of the center, which would be funded by local  
3 community college bond proceeds; the RCPSE would be administered by  
4 South Texas College in partnership with political subdivisions and  
5 participating school districts in the Rio Grande Valley, and  
6 through a memorandum of understanding with the city, the police  
7 department, and the school district; currently, PSJA ISD offers  
8 academic and workforce programs leading to certificates and degrees  
9 in public safety and criminal justice; the Pharr Police Department  
10 is licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer  
11 Standards and Education to offer a police academy, and the  
12 department will ensure that RCPSE programs and course curricula  
13 satisfy any TCLEOSE requirements for approved training providers;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, Establishment of a center for public safety  
16 excellence received overwhelming support in the Texas house, which  
17 passed House Bill 2883, 83rd Regular Session, with 145 aye votes;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, All those who are working on this important endeavor  
20 are making a valuable and lasting contribution to public safety,  
21 and it is most fitting to recognize them for their commitment to a  
22 strong and safe Texas; now, therefore, be it

23           RESOLVED, That the 83rd Texas Legislature hereby commend the  
24 City of Pharr, South Texas College, the Pharr Police Department,  
25 and the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District for their  
26 outstanding collaborative efforts to develop the Regional Center  
27 for Public Safety Excellence and to address the critical and

1 growing need for highly trained law enforcement personnel in the  
2 South Texas border region; and, be it further

3       RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared  
4 for the city, the college, the police department, and the school  
5 district as an expression of high regard by the 83rd Texas  
6 Legislature.