

By: Lucio III

H.C.R. No. 132

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In recent years, the City of Brownsville has carried
2 out an innovative program to promote bicycling, and in so doing, the
3 city has become a well-known center for this healthy and
4 environmentally friendly activity; and

5 WHEREAS, Originally started as a way to promote exercise
6 among the city's residents and to combat obesity and diabetes, this
7 unique effort has helped to make bicycling an important part of
8 recreation and tourism in Brownsville as well as a more viable form
9 of local transportation; and

10 WHEREAS, The city has passed a number of ordinances to make
11 the community more bicycle friendly, and it has created 64 miles of
12 bicycle trails and on-street bike routes, including the Historic
13 Battlefield Trail; designated as a National Recreational Trail by
14 the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2013, this nine-mile route
15 runs through the heart of the city and ends at the Palo Alto
16 Battlefield National Historic Park, the site of the first clash in
17 the Mexican-American War; and

18 WHEREAS, Since 2012, Brownsville has also sponsored several
19 CycloBia events; during these gatherings, certain streets are
20 closed to motor vehicles, and as many as 10,000 bicyclists,
21 runners, and walkers turn out to enjoy the less congested roadways;
22 moreover, the city has partnered with volunteers to create the
23 Brownsville Bicycle Barn, which offers residents lessons in bike
24 safety and maintenance, and the Earn-a-Bike Program, which allows

1 people of all ages to receive a bike in exchange for completing 25
2 hours of community service; and

3 WHEREAS, The city has benefited from the growth of private
4 groups of bike enthusiasts as well, including the Velociraptors
5 Cycling Team, the Brownsville Bike Brigade, and the Brownsville
6 River Rockets Cycling Club; in addition, four locally owned bicycle
7 shops operate in Brownsville; and

8 WHEREAS, To build on the success of its efforts, the city has
9 adopted a bicycle and trail master plan, Connecting Brownsville, to
10 create a network of bicycle and pedestrian routes and other
11 facilities that will enable bicyclists and walkers to travel
12 throughout Brownsville; future plans include the development of new
13 trails, extensions and improvements to current bike routes, and the
14 installation of more bike racks around the city; Brownsville's
15 efforts have already earned it recognition as an All-America City
16 by the National League of Cities, as well as a Culture of Health
17 Prize from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; and

18 WHEREAS, By successfully promoting bicycling, Brownsville
19 has become a model for other Texas communities, attracting
20 additional visitors to the region and encouraging a fun,
21 beneficial, and sustainable way of life for its residents; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby designate Brownsville as the official Bicycling Capital of
25 the Rio Grande Valley; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
27 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect

1 until the 10th anniversary of its designation.