

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 81

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Oak Cliff, the venerable community on the south bank
2 of the Trinity River, marks the 114th anniversary of its annexation
3 to Dallas on March 17, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, Originally known as Hord's Ridge, Oak Cliff traces
5 its roots to the 1845 arrival of the William H. Hord family and to
6 the farming community that subsequently grew up in the vicinity; in
7 the 1880s the area of Hord's Ridge was bought by Thomas Marsalis and
8 John Armstrong, who dreamed of creating an exclusive residential
9 development there and who gave the site its present name; and

10 WHEREAS, After the pair successfully launched the sale of
11 lots, Thomas Marsalis gained control of the project and undertook
12 several ventures to add to the attractiveness of the new town; these
13 included the introduction of a steam-powered railway to connect the
14 development with downtown Dallas, the establishment of Marsalis
15 Park, now home of the Dallas Zoo, and the erection of a fine hotel
16 featuring several mineral baths; and

17 WHEREAS, Oak Cliff enjoyed a period of favor as an upscale
18 residential and resort community before the depression of 1893
19 drove Mr. Marsalis into bankruptcy; a number of lots once owned by
20 his company were then subdivided and sold; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1903, after rejecting several overtures from
22 Dallas and still struggling with a sluggish economy, Oak Cliff
23 voters finally agreed to annexation to their larger neighbor;
24 development over the next several decades included the construction

1 of hundreds of modest homes as well as the grand residences of
2 Kessler Park; and

3 WHEREAS, Set on rolling hills a few miles from downtown
4 Dallas, Oak Cliff today is home to a broadly inclusive population,
5 with residents representing a variety of ethnic and cultural groups
6 and economic backgrounds; and

7 WHEREAS, These citizens are acting through a number of
8 organizations, such as the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, Old Oak
9 Cliff Conservation League, Oak Cliff Foundation, and various
10 neighborhood groups, to promote the preservation and
11 revitalization of their community; their efforts have figured
12 prominently in the rebirth of Jefferson Boulevard, West Davis
13 Street, and Fort Worth Avenue, in the renovation of the historic
14 Texas Theatre, and in the flowering of the Bishop Arts District; and

15 WHEREAS, Members of close-knit communities within the larger
16 embrace of Oak Cliff, the residents of this unique section of Dallas
17 are holding fast to their rich history while forging an ever
18 brighter and more promising future; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
20 Legislature hereby commemorate the 114th anniversary of Oak Cliff's
21 annexation to Dallas and extend to the citizens of Oak Cliff sincere
22 best wishes as they build on their notable heritage.