

By: Leach

H.R. No. 802

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents from Collin County are gathering in Austin
2 on March 26 and 27, 2019, to celebrate Collin County Days at the
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Collin County is one of the largest and
5 fastest-growing counties in the state; more than 90 percent of its
6 workforce over the age of 25 hold a high school diploma and about
7 half have earned at least a bachelor's degree; such highly skilled
8 workers also make the county a leader in job growth; and

9 WHEREAS, With a population of 283,000, Plano is the largest
10 city in the county and home to a number of iconic global
11 corporations, including Toyota Motor North America, Liberty Mutual
12 Insurance, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Boeing Global Services, NTT DATA,
13 JCPenney, FedEx Office, Frito-Lay, and Capital One; in 2018, the
14 city was recognized as the best place to live in America by
15 AreaVibes, the best city to buy a house in America by Niche, and the
16 best city for jobs in America by *Forbes*, while maintaining its
17 status as one of the safest cities in America by WalletHub and among
18 the top five best-performing cities in America by the Milken
19 Institute; this thriving municipality boasts nationally recognized
20 schools, award-winning parks, a lively historic downtown district,
21 and multicultural neighborhoods that appeal equally to families,
22 young singles, and retirees; its excellent restaurants, vibrant
23 shopping districts, exciting entertainment venues, and active
24 local arts scene all contribute to the city's high quality of life;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, County seat and home of the McKinney National
3 Airport, the city of McKinney hosts such major employers as the
4 aerospace division of Raytheon Company, Encore Wire Corporation,
5 Emerson Process Management, and Torchmark Corporation; recent
6 relocations include PACCAR and Moss Construction, and the community
7 continues to cultivate its own businesses, including Playful, a
8 virtual reality gaming company; in addition, Independent Bank is
9 completing construction of its new headquarters; furthermore, the
10 city's historic downtown encompasses more than 130 boutiques; this
11 rapidly growing community currently has a population of nearly
12 188,000, a 230 percent increase from 2011; the McKinney National
13 Airport maintains its status as an economic engine with a \$16
14 million construction project that will update and expand its
15 facilities, including a new state-of-the-art FBO terminal and an
16 additional 40,000-square-foot hangar; and

17 WHEREAS, Allen is a dynamic and welcoming home to more than
18 103,000 residents and has been ranked among the safest, most
19 affordable, and most family-friendly cities nationwide, and the
20 city continues to enhance the Texas workforce through the addition
21 and expansion of such international companies as NETSCOUT, Boss
22 Fight Entertainment, and CyrusOne; in 2017, the city was named the
23 number two "Best Place to Live" and number one "Best Place to Live
24 in the South" by *Money* magazine, and the city received the coveted
25 National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Award in 2016
26 for its creation and stewardship of more than 1,100 acres of
27 parkland, 67 parks and facilities, and 62 miles of hike-and-bike

1 trails; moreover, its volunteer efforts were recognized with the
2 2016 Keep Texas Beautiful Governor's Community Achievement Award
3 for efforts in environmental education, community beautification,
4 and litter prevention; and

5 WHEREAS, Defining "Progress in Motion," Frisco is one of the
6 fastest-growing cities in the country and the fastest-growing
7 community over the past decade, according to the United States
8 census bureau; it has maintained its quality of life amid rapid
9 development, and the *Dallas Morning News* named Frisco among its top
10 10 suburbs for schools, safety, families with children, young
11 adults, empty nesters, and "Best Overall" neighborhoods; known for
12 top-notch public safety services, the city received the highest
13 rating for fire protection, and it enjoys one of the lowest crime
14 rates, as well as low taxes; this once-small town is home to Collin
15 College, Preston Ridge Campus, world-class venues, and seven
16 professional sports organizations, namely the Frisco RoughRiders,
17 Dallas Stars, FC Dallas, Texas Legends, Dallas Rattlers, Dallas
18 Cowboys, and the PGA of America; active residents have access to 49
19 parks, 86 miles of trails, and an athletic center featuring an
20 outdoor water park; health care facilities include three hospitals,
21 and the favorable business climate supports more than nine million
22 square feet of retail and restaurants; among the cultural amenities
23 are three museums and hundreds of public and private art
24 installations displayed throughout Frisco's approximately
25 70-square-mile area; and

26 WHEREAS, The city of Wylie, Wylie Independent School
27 District, Wylie Chamber of Commerce, and Wylie Economic Development

1 Corporation work in concert to build a strong community that
2 strives to honor the past, embrace the present, and plan for the
3 future, while valuing unity, relationships, and trust, as evidenced
4 by a recent report naming Wylie the best small city in the country
5 in which to raise a family and the hottest suburb in Texas; Wylie
6 fosters a spirit of cooperation, and with a thriving business
7 environment and outstanding schools, it is a place people treasure
8 and proudly call home; and

9 WHEREAS, The city of Richardson, which is known globally for
10 its high-tech business leadership, is home to the Telecom Corridor
11 area and was named the International Business Capital of North
12 Texas by the 82nd Texas Legislature; Richardson is a major
13 employment center, with companies including Blue Cross and Blue
14 Shield of Texas, Fossil, RealPage, Fujitsu Network Communications,
15 and Cisco Systems having headquarters in the city; other major
16 employers include State Farm, Raytheon, UnitedHealthcare, Texas
17 Instruments, and AT&T; Richardson offers a high quality of life, a
18 diverse array of neighborhoods, and easy access to a multimodal
19 transportation infrastructure; the city has repeatedly been
20 recognized as one of the top places to live, work, and obtain an
21 education by national and local media; in 2018, CBS News ranked
22 Richardson the 16th-best city in the United States to live, and it
23 finished ninth nationally among top cities for STEM workers by
24 Livability; Richardson is home to The University of Texas at
25 Dallas, the fastest-growing university in the state, and the city
26 remains dedicated to continued improvement as well as to the
27 principles of open government and two-way communication with

1 residents; and

2 WHEREAS, The city of Murphy, a diverse, historically
3 significant residential community in southeastern Collin County,
4 continues to create a distinctive ambience of homeowner pride and
5 neighborhood vitality, and it has maintained its designation as a
6 Top 10 Best Suburb by *D Magazine* since the inception of the ratings;
7 Murphy's commitment to an enhanced quality of life is reflected in
8 the number and level of excellence in its parks system, as well as
9 its highly regarded year-round special events; the emerging
10 business community offers a wide range of desirable retail and
11 culinary options, and residents enjoy the safety and security of
12 professionally managed public safety functions; and

13 WHEREAS, Recognized by *D Magazine* as a top 10 suburb, Prosper
14 ranked number one on the *Dallas Business Journal's* 2018 list of
15 fastest-growing cities and is currently experiencing a 13 percent
16 annual growth rate; located where the northern edge of Dallas'
17 Golden Corridor meets the booming U.S. 380 Corridor, the town is
18 poised for explosive commercial, office, and retail growth and
19 continued residential development, issuing 915 single-family
20 housing permits and permits for 865,000 square feet of commercial
21 development in 2018, with an additional million square feet of
22 shovel-ready projects due to break ground in 2019; Prosper is home
23 to several top housing developers, including Blue Star Land,
24 LandPlan Development, and the Tellus Group; the Prosper Independent
25 School District has been voted by the *Dallas Morning News* as one of
26 the Top 10 Places to Work in Dallas/Fort Worth for five consecutive
27 years, and the district continues to be one of the state and

1 national leaders in student growth; recognized as a Tree City USA
2 and certified as a Scenic City silver-level community, Prosper has
3 more than 350 acres of open space and over 22 miles of hike-and-bike
4 trails; moreover, the city's outstanding police department offers
5 such community outreach and crime prevention programs as Citizens
6 on Patrol, the Citizens Police Academy, the Community Safety
7 Initiative, and Smart911; and

8 WHEREAS, Having been a platinum-level Scenic City in Texas
9 since 2011, Fairview has also been recognized as a Tree City USA
10 community and earned a Growing Green Cities Award, and it is home to
11 the first street in Texas to be illuminated by LED lighting; the
12 town is a three-time recipient of the Texas Municipal League
13 Municipal Excellence Award and on an annual basis continues to earn
14 the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial
15 Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association; the
16 Fairview Economic Development Corporation was awarded a
17 Certificate of Achievement for Economic Excellence by the Texas
18 Economic Development Council in 2017, and the Texas Chapter of the
19 American Planning Association honored Fairview with a Certificate
20 of Achievement for Planning Excellence in 2015, 2016, and 2017; in
21 addition, the town's Veterans Park has been recognized with a
22 Patriotic Achievement Award from the Military Order of the World
23 Wars; Fairview also features two of the Top 25 Best School Districts
24 in Texas as ranked by Niche and continues to be ranked as one of the
25 safest and most desirable places to live in Texas; and

26 WHEREAS, With 78 square miles of land, Celina has the second-
27 largest geographic footprint of any city in Collin County;

1 strategic growth plans allow the city to manage new development
2 along the Dallas North Tollway, Preston Road, and future Collin
3 County Outer Loop corridors; Celina is one of the fastest-growing
4 communities in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, having issued 1,249
5 single-family housing permits in 2018; the city's robust "Texas
6 historic" downtown is filled with a number of unique shops,
7 offices, and award-winning restaurants, including Tender
8 Smokehouse, which was rated the number two best place to eat on
9 Yelp; its school district was recognized for its academic
10 achievements with a prestigious "A" rating, and the city has
11 received numerous accolades for its outstanding budgeting and
12 financial reporting; residents and visitors come together to enjoy
13 a number of special events throughout the year, including Movie
14 Nights on the Square, Oktoberfest, Splash & Blast, and Cajun Fest;
15 Celina's natural rural beauty, coupled with its exquisite
16 recreational fields and amenities, creates a welcoming, small
17 country-feel culture; and

18 WHEREAS, Lucas has maintained a peaceful, rural lifestyle,
19 helping to sustain a high quality of life for its citizens; the city
20 is pleased to offer 25 miles of trails along Lake Lavon for
21 equestrian enthusiasts and continues to focus on wildlife habitat
22 preservation, making it the perfect home for the Blackland Prairie
23 Raptor Center; moreover, exceptional schools and a vibrant
24 residential market, combined with one of the lowest tax rates in
25 Collin County, make Lucas an excellent value for its residents; and

26 WHEREAS, The citizens of Parker are proud to be living in *D*
27 *Magazine's* number two suburb in the DFW Metroplex, and they also

1 enjoy a low municipal tax rate; the residents number more than
2 5,000, and they cherish their uniquely "country" lifestyle;
3 characterized by its large lots and comfortable atmosphere, Parker
4 is known to millions of television viewers as the home of the
5 legendary Southfork Ranch from *Dallas*; and

6 WHEREAS, Boasting an area of 64 square miles and the access of
7 three major highways, Anna is a family-friendly community with
8 hometown appeal; the city, Anna Independent School District, Anna
9 Community Development Corporation, and the Greater Anna Chamber of
10 Commerce often collaborate to maintain a small community atmosphere
11 as the area undergoes rapid urbanization, and it was ranked among
12 the safest cities in Texas in 2018 by a SafeWise report; Collin
13 McKinney, one of the 5 drafters and 59 signers of the Texas
14 Declaration of Independence, lived in Anna for a number of years;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Farmersville, located 15 miles east of McKinney,
17 took its name from the primary occupation of its original
18 residents; established in 1849 as a settlement on the
19 Jefferson-McKinney Road and near the Republic of Texas National
20 Road, the town was incorporated in 1873; agriculture kept pace as it
21 became a trade center, and in the 1930s, Farmersville shipped over
22 1,000 carloads of onions annually, earning the nickname "Onion
23 Capital of North Texas"; the city may be best known for native son
24 Audie Murphy, who listed Farmersville as his hometown when he
25 enlisted in the army during WWII and returned home to a hero's
26 welcome in 1945; he had earned every army citation for valor, was a
27 recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and was posthumously

1 awarded the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor; Farmersville has a
2 nationally recognized Main Street Program, with many historic
3 downtown buildings, eateries, and shopping attractions; near the
4 restored Onion Shed is the trailhead for the 130-mile Northeast
5 Texas Trail, a beautiful site for walking, hiking, and bicycling;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Settled in the mid-1850s, the city of Lavon is
8 nestled along the southeastern shore of Lake Lavon, and it is home
9 to approximately 3,800 residents who enjoy the friendliness of the
10 small-town atmosphere combined with the benefits of living near an
11 exciting metro area; the city's growing parks and trail system,
12 planned capital improvements, attraction of quality business
13 development, growth opportunities, and commitment to service
14 contribute to an outstanding quality of life; and

15 WHEREAS, The city of Melissa is one of the fastest-growing
16 communities in Collin County, gaining roughly one new family per
17 day; residents enjoy a friendly atmosphere and close access to a
18 number of amenities, as well as more square feet per dollar for the
19 price of homes; Melissa is beginning to grow commercially to
20 provide its citizens with even more amenities; and

21 WHEREAS, Other communities add much to Collin County's
22 allure; the growing community of Blue Ridge is committed to
23 revitalizing its downtown by providing a small-town rural feel;
24 with its beautiful rolling hills, open skies with magnificent
25 sunrises and sunsets, and friendly residents, Blue Ridge has a
26 quaint charm all of its own; Cattlemans Cafe, established in 1953
27 and featured in *D Magazine* and on *Texas Country Reporter*, adds to

1 the town's neighborly atmosphere with its outstanding chicken fried
2 steak; known as the "Home of the Last Texas Prairie in Collin
3 County," the drive to Blue Ridge is replete with scenic open spaces
4 dotted with cattle and horses; and

5 WHEREAS, Located in the center of Collin County, the city of
6 Princeton is a planned community that was named the number one place
7 for first-time home buyers in the DFW area by NerdWallet in 2016;
8 the city has continued to lead Collin County as one of its
9 fastest-growing cities with an average 20 percent growth rate since
10 2017, and it issued more than 900 single-family permits in 2018;
11 Princeton cultivates a small-town atmosphere by prioritizing the
12 addition of new parks, trails, and open space, and it maintains a
13 low crime rate by national standards; the city places emphasis on an
14 open and transparent government, and it has been recognized with
15 the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget
16 Presentation Award annually since 2015 and its Certificate for
17 Excellence in Financial Reporting annually since 2013; the
18 Princeton Independent School District earned an "A" rating from the
19 state, and it is home to the CATE Center, which provides vocational
20 training across numerous skill-based fields; moreover, the
21 district participates in the Jump Start Program and offers students
22 the opportunity to receive an associate's degree while attending
23 high school; and

24 WHEREAS, Sachse is a vibrant, diverse, well-educated, and
25 growing community that offers its residents a high quality of life
26 while retaining its small-town charm; recently named the 11th-
27 safest city in Texas, the community prides itself on providing its

1 families with a safe place to live; with its prime location along
2 the President George Bush Turnpike, Sachse has become a regionally
3 significant point of access for the fastest-growing city in eastern
4 Collin County; it is the home of an increasingly large retail trade
5 area that recently announced a \$250 million mixed-used development
6 that includes new residential and more than 400,000 square feet of
7 commercial space; and

8 WHEREAS, Also contributing to the development of Collin
9 County are the residents of Copeville, Lowry Crossing, Nevada, New
10 Hope, Royse City, St. Paul, Westminster, and Weston, along with
11 parts of Dallas and Garland, and these communities play an
12 important part in the county's flourishing, diversified economy and
13 its quality of life; and

14 WHEREAS, The citizens of this notable North Texas county are
15 working to preserve the best of their past even as they look forward
16 to a bright and promising future, and they are sure to figure
17 prominently in the growth and prosperity of the Lone Star State in
18 the years ahead; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
20 Legislature hereby recognize March 26 and 27, 2019, as Collin
21 County Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
22 delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay
23 in Austin.