

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In his memoir *Black Klansman*, El Paso resident Ron
2 Stallworth delivers a riveting account of his experiences as an
3 African American police detective leading an undercover
4 investigation into the Ku Klux Klan in the 1970s, and his book is
5 receiving renewed interest since being adapted into an Academy
6 Award-winning film by director Spike Lee; and

7 WHEREAS, Ron Stallworth was born in Chicago and moved to El
8 Paso when he was just four years old; initially, his family lived in
9 the heart of the city's small but proud African American community,
10 which had a long history of advocating for civil rights, including
11 challenging racist voting laws and successfully pushing for
12 desegregation in area schools; he later lived in neighborhoods that
13 were primarily made up of white and Hispanic residents, a situation
14 that forced him to negotiate a less familiar cultural landscape;
15 after graduating from Austin High School in 1971, he moved to
16 Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he joined a cadet program with
17 the city's police department; he was promoted to police officer and
18 then became the first black detective in the history of the agency;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, In the late 1970s, Detective Stallworth initiated a
21 seven-month undercover investigation in which he infiltrated the Ku
22 Klux Klan through phone conversations with local members and KKK
23 Grand Wizard David Duke; for face-to-face meetings with Klan
24 members, a white police officer posed as Mr. Stallworth; this

1 investigation successfully thwarted Klan activities, including
2 several cross burnings and a plan to bomb two gay bars in Denver; it
3 also revealed the presence of KKK members in the United States
4 military and the North American Aerospace Defense Command; and

5 WHEREAS, Shortly after the investigation ended, Detective
6 Stallworth left Colorado Springs, and he went on to work with law
7 enforcement agencies in Arizona, Wyoming, and Utah before retiring
8 and returning home to El Paso; in 2013, he penned *Black Klansman* to
9 chronicle the Colorado Springs investigation; and

10 WHEREAS, A revered law enforcement officer and an acclaimed
11 author, Ron Stallworth has distinguished himself through his
12 efforts to document and combat racism, and his achievements are a
13 source of great pride in El Paso and beyond; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate Ron Stallworth on the success of
16 *Black Klansman* and honor him for his important work; and, be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Mr. Stallworth as an expression of high regard by the
20 Texas House of Representatives.

Fierro

H.R. No. 968

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 968 was adopted by the House on March 26, 2019, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House