

By: Fierro

H.R. No. 968

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.