

By: Crockett

H.R. No. 1436

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Vikki J. Martin has greatly benefited residents of
2 Far East Dallas as founder and executive director of the Ferguson
3 Road Initiative; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Martin established the nonprofit organization
5 in 1998 to engage residents in addressing crime problems that had
6 led to urban blight, causing property values to diminish and
7 businesses to abandon the area; the group participated in the Weed
8 and Seed program of the U.S. Department of Justice from 2000 to
9 2011, "weeding" out crime and "seeding" economic development and
10 social services; and

11 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Ms. Martin, FRI has
12 partnered with local law enforcement agencies and neighborhood
13 organizations to reduce crime substantially, and it has pressured
14 absentee landlords to improve substandard conditions; in addition,
15 it has formed relationships with public schools to promote family
16 involvement, recruit volunteers, and provide after-school
17 programming and academic enrichment opportunities; the FRI bond
18 committee has secured more than \$40 million over the years to
19 improve streets, bridges, and parks, mitigate flooding, and add
20 such amenities as a branch library and recreation center; and

21 WHEREAS, Signs of revitalization now abound in Far East
22 Dallas, with investment in retail and housing developments and
23 rising property values; supporting a diverse population of more
24 than 93,000, FRI continues to focus on quality of life while also

1 managing programs to stabilize vulnerable families; today, FRI
2 includes nearly 40 neighborhood associations, crime watch groups,
3 and other stakeholders; and

4 WHEREAS, An artist and retired educator, Ms. Martin taught
5 studio art and advanced placement art history at The Episcopal
6 School of Dallas for 34 years before her retirement in 2017; she has
7 resided in Far East Dallas for more than three decades; and

8 WHEREAS, Vikki Martin has made a lasting, positive difference
9 in her community through her vision, leadership, and unyielding
10 dedication, and her exceptional accomplishments have earned the
11 deep admiration and appreciation of her fellow citizens; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
14 Legislature hereby honor Vikki J. Martin for her service as founder
15 and executive director of the Ferguson Road Initiative and extend
16 to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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