

By: Gámez

H.C.R. No. 116

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The City of Brownsville has carried out an  
2 innovative program to promote bicycling, and in so doing, the city  
3 has become a well-known center for this healthy and environmentally  
4 friendly activity; and

5 WHEREAS, Originally started as a way to promote exercise  
6 among the city's residents and to combat obesity and diabetes, this  
7 unique effort has helped to make bicycling an important part of  
8 recreation and tourism in Brownsville as well as a more viable form  
9 of local transportation; and

10 WHEREAS, The city has passed a number of ordinances to make  
11 the community more bicycle friendly, and it has created an  
12 extensive system of bicycle trails and on-street bike routes,  
13 including the Historic Battlefield Trail; designated as a National  
14 Recreational Trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2013,  
15 this nine mile route runs through the heart of the city and ends at  
16 the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park, the site of the  
17 first clash in the Mexican-American War; and

18 WHEREAS, Since 2012, Brownsville has also regularly  
19 sponsored CycloBia events; during these gatherings, certain  
20 streets are closed to motor vehicles, and a multitude of  
21 bicyclists, runners, and walkers turn out to enjoy the less  
22 congested roadways; moreover, the city has partnered with  
23 volunteers to create the Brownsville Bike Barn, which offers  
24 residents lessons in bike safety and maintenance, and the

1 Earn-a-Bike Program, which allows people of all ages to receive a  
2 bike in exchange for completing 25 hours of community service; and

3 WHEREAS, The city has benefited from the growth of private  
4 groups of bike enthusiasts as well, including the Velociraptors  
5 Cycling Team, the Brownsville Bike Brigade, the City Cruisers  
6 Cycling Group, and the Brownsville River Rockets Cycling Club; in  
7 addition, numerous locally owned bicycle shops operate in  
8 Brownsville; and

9 WHEREAS, To build on the success of its earlier efforts, the  
10 city updated its bicycle and trail master plan in 2021, outlining  
11 further enhancements to enable bicyclists and walkers to more  
12 easily travel throughout Brownsville; over the years, the city's  
13 focus on biking and walking has helped it earn a Culture of Health  
14 Prize from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as well as  
15 recognition as an All-America City by the National Civic League;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, By successfully promoting bicycling, Brownsville  
18 has become a model for other Texas communities, attracting  
19 additional visitors to the region and encouraging a fun,  
20 beneficial, and sustainable way of life for its residents; now,  
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas  
23 hereby redesignate Brownsville as the official Bicycling Capital of  
24 the Rio Grande Valley; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of  
26 Section 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in  
27 effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is

1 finally passed by the legislature.