

THE STATE OF TEXAS :
COUNTY OF HIDALGO :

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 18TH day of JUNE, 1993, after due notice having been given, there was begun and holden, a SPECIAL MEETING of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom of the Administration Building in the City of Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas with the following members of said Court present and participating:

Hon. J. Edgar Ruiz
County Judge

Hon. Samuel Sanchez
County Commissioner, Precinct #1

Hon. Lalo Arcaute
County Commissioner, Precinct #2

Hon. Juan Rosel
County Commissioner, Precinct #3

Hon. Leonard Camarillo
County Commissioner, Precinct #4

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings

were had, to-wit:

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COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEMBERS PRESENT

COMMISSIONER JUAN ROSEL
COMMISSIONER LEONARD CAMARILLO
COMMISSIONER ABELARDO (LALO) ARCAUTE

BOARD OF JUDGES MEMBERS PRESENT

STATE DISTRICT JUDGE JOE B. EVINS
STATE DISTRICT JUDGE JUAN PARTIDA
STATE DISTRICT JUDGE RAUL LONGORIA
STATE DISTRICT JUDGE MARIO RAMIREZ
STATE DISTRICT JUDGE HOMER SALINAS
STATE DISTRICT JUDGE FIDENCIO GUERRA
COUNTY COURT AT LAW JUDGE LETICIA HINOJOSA

The meeting was opened with remarks from Commissioner Juan Rosel, regarding the communication between the Commissioners' Court and the Board of Judges. He felt that the lines of communication should remain open and the rest of the panel concurred.

ITEM 3. HIDALGO COUNTY JURY PANELS

Commissioner Rosel explained that there were some people who were being called for jury who were either exempted or had legal residency in the State and were getting reimbursed for their services. Mary Lou Codina, a representative from the District Clerk's Office, explained that there was a new law that stated that if a person was issued a driver's license then that person was qualified to serve in a jury panel. District Judge Joe B. Evins concurred with the Commissioner and added that if there was some way to go around this then the Board of Judges would issue an order whereby only registered voters would be able to serve on the panels. Judge Evins then recommended that they do some research on the State level.

NO ACTION.
SEE "EXHIBIT A"

ITEM 1. DISCUSSION ON VISITING JUDGES - COST

Commissioner Rosel brought up the issue of visiting judges and the cost incurred in this line item. District Judge Mario Ramirez explained that the visiting judges were brought in to help in alleviating the criminal caseload. He continued by saying that there were instances when the District Judges would have civil cases that would last for days, in the meantime the criminal cases would be piling up. The visiting judges would assist in both expediting the criminal cases and reducing the number of inmates at the County Jail. Commissioner Camarillo then stated that had the District Judges given a reason behind their budget requests there would have been no problem and he concurred with Commissioner Rosel that the lines of communication should remain open. Commissioner Arcaute then explained the reason for the Commission to research all budget amendments and also the reasoning behind the budget cuts that were made at the beginning of the year. After further discussion NO ACTION was taken on this item.

NO ACTION.

ITEM 2. HIDALGO COUNTY JAIL OVERCROWDING

Bob Davis and Mario Salinas, from the Sheriff's Department supplied the members of both the Commission and the Board with a handout that listed the number of inmates that were being held at the County Jail and what Court they were being assigned to. Mario Salinas stated that presently the population exceeded the limit set by the Jail Commission. Commissioner Rosel then entertained any comments from the Board members and District Judge Fidencio Guerra felt that they were not getting jury waivers as needed and also the Narcotics Courts were not helping to alleviate the problem. Judge Evins added that the increase in population, within the County, also accounted for the rise in crime. Commissioner Rosel commented that he would like to work out a solution and Judge Evins responded that building a new facility was not the answer to the problem. He stated that the only way to alleviate the problem was to process the cases as they came into the jail, because he felt that the paperwork was not being processed rapidly at either the District Attorney's Office or at either of the Clerks' Offices. He added that if there was some way to have some type of legal counsel and a clerk at the jail who would process the defendant swiftly then the problem would be alleviated somewhat. Bob Davis then suggested that they look into how other counties were handling this problem and maybe later work out a solution.

NO ACTION.
SEE "EXHIBIT B"

There being no further business to come before the Court it was hereby adjourned.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME

BEFORE SAID COURT, the meeting of the Commissioners' Court was adjourned.

J. Edgar Ruiz _____ A B S E N T _____
County Judge

Samuel Sanchez _____ A B S E N T _____
County Commissioner, Precinct #1

Lalo Arcaute _____
County Commissioner, Precinct #2

Juan Rosel _____
County Commissioner, Precinct #3

Leonard Camarillo _____
County Commissioner, Precinct #4

Dated this 18TH day of JUNE, 1993.

ATTEST:

WILLIAM R. LEO, County Clerk
Hidalgo County, Texas

By: _____
Jennifer Castillo, Deputy

