

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE TEXAS RECREATION & PARKS ACCOUNT LOCAL PARK GRANT PROGRAM AND THE TEXAS STATE PARK SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department ("TWPD") administers the Texas Recreation & Parks Account Local Park Grant Program ("TRPA") and manages 114 State parks and historical sites in Texas; and

WHEREAS, TPWD has a separate account in their general revenue fund referred to as the TRPA for the purpose of providing matching grants to political subdivisions for parks and recreation projects; and

WHEREAS, the matching grants provided by the TPWD are utilized for the planning, acquisition, and development of local park, recreation and open space areas to be owned an maintained by political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, funds granted to political subdivisions under the TRPA guidelines have funded 1,029 projects of the 2,851 submitted over 25 years delivering over \$623 million dollars to the local Texas economy; and

WHEREAS, political subdivisions throughout the State of Texas depend on grants from TPWD through the TRPA to stimulate the acquisition and development of parks and recreational areas for the benefit and enjoyment of their citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the TRPA and State parks are funded from sales tax on sporting goods and that the development of new parks stimulates the purchase of sporting goods; and

WHEREAS, continued cutbacks in appropriations for State park and historic sites have resulted in a backlog of deferred maintenance issues, park closures, reduced hours and days of operation, staff layoffs, the conversion of some parks to day use only and elimination of important visitor services, regardless of the growing need for new parks due to the State's expanding population and extensive tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the development of parks encourages and promotes public health, economic development, job creation, education; corporate relocations, an improved quality of life, and juvenile crime prevention; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this County Commissioner's Court that a copy of this resolution with appropriate names affixed be presented to the Governor of Texas and the leadership of the 80th Texas Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS:

- 1. That members of the 80th Legislature of Texas seek passage of legislation maximizing the use of revenue from the sporting goods sales tax to increase funding for parks and recreation programs fairly for both Local and State parks and that all TRPA funded park projects be subject to the established TPWD competitive scoring system.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the _____ County Commissioner's Court on this the _____ day of _____ 2007.

APPROVED:

Hidalgo County Judge

ATTEST:

County Clerk

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
Resolution No. _____

**ADOPTING THE AMENDMENT OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN (2004-2008) -
AMENDMENT 01/07 – COUNTY OF HIDALGO PRIORITIZATION – FIVE YEAR PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Hidalgo, hereafter referred to as "County" previously adopted the Hidalgo County Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, Hereafter referred to as "Plan" as the County's Official Parks and Recreation Planning Guide; and

WHEREAS, the existing prioritization – five year plan does not support the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission's approved changes related to the Texas Recreation and Parks Account grant programs grant application submission deadlines; and

WHEREAS, the "County" shall submit an outdoor and an indoor park grant application to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on July 31st of each year and follow the prioritization – five year plan schedule; and

WHEREAS, the "County" recognizes the need for a completed review and update to Hidalgo County's Prioritization – Five Year Plan for the targeted years of 2006 - 2010, to provide for and continually improve parks and recreational facilities, open space and recreational opportunities is being submitted for the County's adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO, THAT:

SECTION 1: The recommended changes to the Hidalgo County Parks Master Plan are adopted.

SECTION 2: This resolution is effective immediately upon passage.

Signed this 30 day of January, 2007.

County of Hidalgo

Attested by:

By: _____

Arturo Guajardo, Jr.
Hidalgo County Clerk

By: _____

J.D. Salinas
Hidalgo County Judge