

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSESSMENT OF A FEE TO HELP FUND A NEW HIDALGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Courthouse was originally constructed in 1954 to accommodate five courts serving a small rural community. Since then, the County has grown to become the eighth largest in the state of 254 counties with a population nearing 900,000 residents, and;

WHEREAS, today the County has 24 judicial courts and the existing building has serious health and safety issues and can no longer adequately support the needs of the county, and;

WHEREAS, the residents of Hidalgo County need a courthouse that serves the community and provides a safe and secure environment for judicial and county business, and;

WHEREAS, a new courthouse will not only accommodate the County's needs, but will also serve as one of three economic drivers, along with the City of Edinburg and UT-RGV, and;

WHEREAS, being fiscally responsible is a priority and a cornerstone of good county government, and;

WHEREAS, Commissioners Court is seeking ways to provide for the County's needs without increasing taxes, such as assessing a fee on business conducted at the courthouse, and;

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County judiciary conduct business on a daily basis and have first-hand knowledge of the need for a new courthouse building. The Hidalgo County judiciary strongly supports the construction of a new courthouse and this resolution so long as taxes are not raised, and;

WHEREAS, legislation is required to allow Hidalgo County to assess a user fee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby supports legislation amending statutes to authorize Hidalgo County to assess filing fees on certain court cases to help fund the construction of a new Hidalgo County Courthouse.

Dated this 3rd, day of March 2015.

RAMON GARCIA
County Judge

A.C. CUELLAR, JR.
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct.3

JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk