

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF GILBERTO ZEPEDA FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE  
WITH THE PSJA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, for nearly 40 years, Gilberto Zepeda has helped create a legacy in the PSJA ISD Theater Department offering a venue for young students to gain hands-on experience in theater productions even before they enter high school; and

WHEREAS, under his tenure, Mr. Zepeda has helped grow the theater department from a cast of seven in his first children's production of "Reynard the Fox" nearly 40 years ago to about 150 cast and crew working on "Seussical Jr." which has its final two performances December 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the PSJA North Auditorium; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Zepeda has mentored students to use their theater experience and training to move on to jobs in the entertainment industry as well as in other careers. Student graduates have been recruited to attend some of the nation's top drama and theater arts schools throughout the country. Some of his former students have gone on to star in television shows and motion pictures including Cristela Alonzo, star of the ABC sitcom Cristela, David Barrera who has appeared in American Horror Story, Mom, Castle and The Big Bang Theory, Michael Ray Escamilla, who has directed and starred in films such as Hot Pursuit (2015), Frontera (2014), and a Night in Old Mexico (2013), and playwright, screenwriter and actor Mando Alvarado whose first feature film Cruzando, which he co-wrote and co-directed with Michael Ray Escamilla, has won praise at notable film festivals such as HBO New York International Latino Film Festival, Newport Beach International Film Festival and London Latino International Film Festival; and

WHEREAS, among his many awards include the national winner of the 2000 The Arts Disney American Teacher Award; 2001 Governor's Texas Medal of Arts; 2013 Scenarios USA Real Deal Educator Award in New York City; and winner of the UIL One-Act Play Zone and District Contests 30 out of 35 years; and

WHEREAS, after working with the PSJA Independent School District since 1979, first at PSJA Early College High School before transitioning to PSJA North Early College High School when it opened in 1990. Mr. Zepeda will retire this year, leaving the powerhouse theater program and his legacy for others to continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby congratulates Gilberto Zepeda for his success in building the theater department at PSJA Independent School District and mentoring students for nearly 40 years and encourages all Hidalgo County residents to attend his final children's production this week.

Approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 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