

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN ILLEGAL DUMPING EDUCATION
AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the County of Hidalgo and our County Commissioners Court is committed to improving the quality of life in our County's communities by combating illegal dumping and enforcing our illegal dumping laws; and

WHEREAS, the LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, through funding from the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, awarded the County of Hidalgo a competitive Regional Solid Waste Grant to assist efforts in the prevention of illegal dumping through education and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the dangers of illegal dumping range from the creation of habitat/breeding grounds for rodents and insects; the exposure of residents to sharp objects, medical wastes, fire, toxic chemicals and possible hazardous wastes; and may pose a high risk for children playing in the area; and

WHEREAS, illegal dumping may cause a diversion of staff and equipment resources from other local public needs and may cause property devaluation with the potential loss of opportunities to develop land and attract additional business; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Budget Management, in collaboration the Department of Public Affairs, and County Constable's Offices, are working to inform the public of these dangers and hazards through an educational campaign targeting television, print, social media and visible signage at illegal dumping hotspots; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Budget and Management, in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department and County Constables have identified chronic illegal dumpsites and developed a database that will assist in the evaluation and statistical analysis of illegal dumping in Hidalgo County; and

WHEREAS, Precinct 3 Constables Office, in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office have conducted an Environmental Enforcement training and certification course to uniformly interpret Texas Health and Safety Codes and reinforce Basic Criminal Investigation techniques and practices regarding Illegal Dumping; and

WHEREAS, the County of Hidalgo, our County Judge's Office, Precincts, District Attorney's Office, and County Constables have determined surveillance cameras may assist in providing intelligence and evidentiary material that may aid in the issuance of citations, fines and potential arrests to help reduce the incidence of illegal dumping.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court supports current and enhanced efforts for the prevention of illegal dumping through education and law enforcement to protect public health, the environment, and County resources.

Approved this 24th day of January 2017.

RAMON GARCIA
County Judge

DAVID FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDDIE CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct.3

JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4