

*Resolution in Support of*  
*“Walking Southern Roads to Freedom”*  
*March 3, 2025 - March 9, 2025*

*Whereas* the “Walking Southern Roads to Freedom” event is taking place to increase awareness about the resilience and resolve of freedom seekers of African ancestry who participated in underground railroad-like activities through south Texas and into Mexico as well as to bring awareness to the Rio Grande Valley about the importance of the valuable shared history of our region; and

*Whereas* the County of Hidalgo recognizes the national attention brought to our region through the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom designation of the Jackson Ranch Church and Martin Jackson Cemetery that facilitates the importance of learning the under-told stories of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas by encouraging our population to embrace these historical facts and commend the strength and fortitude set forth by those who, selflessly and at great risk, assisted freedom-seekers as they successfully traversed our county in search of freedom; and

*Whereas* promotion of this symbolic 64.5 mile walk to freedom will include several state-recognized historic sites and landmarks within Hidalgo County, such as La Sal del Rey, Restlawn African American Historic Cemetery, City of Alamo Central Park, Webber Ranch Cemetery, Jackson Ranch Church & Cemeteries, and Bethel Garden Community Park while learning important aspects of our region’s past that specifically recount the historic experiences of people of color; and

*Whereas* the event will take place during Women’s History Month and will celebrate the formerly enslaved black women that include the matriarchs and daughters of the mixed-race Jackson and Webber trailblazing families who provided vital efforts to assist self-emancipators over the Rio Grande to gain freedom once they set foot on Mexican soil; and

*Whereas* the County of Hidalgo encourages the municipalities of Edinburg, San Juan, Pharr, Hidalgo, and McAllen to show their support and commitment to the ‘Walking Southern Roads to Freedom’ event by highlighting their respective sites of historical significance and acknowledging approval by an elected official of the respective cities; and

*Whereas* Hidalgo County also encourages the community to support and participate in the “Walking Southern Roads to Freedom” event.

*Now, therefore, be it resolved* that the Hidalgo County Commissioner’s Court supports the “Walking Southern Roads to Freedom” event to raise awareness of African American history in the region and will make efforts to help ensure this walk is a success.

***Approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.***

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**

County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO “EDDIE” CANTU**

County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**EVERARDO “EVER” VILLARREAL**

County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**ELLIE TORRES**

County Commissioner, Pct. 4

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**

County Clerk