

*Proclamation Celebrating the  
20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Palenque Grill*

*Whereas* Juan Francisco “Don Pancho” Ochoa’s journey into the restaurant business began in 1975 with the inception of El Pollo Loco in his hometown of Guasave, Mexico; and

*Whereas* Ochoa’s poultry empire rapidly expanded in the 1970’s and 80’s as he opened over 85 locations across Mexico, then in 1980 he opened his first U.S. location in Los Angeles, California; and

*Whereas* When Ochoa moved to the U.S., he quickly discovered another part of the market he could tap into. Ochoa felt that Americans did not have access to quality Mexican food and he devoted himself to changing that; and

*Whereas* In 1987, Ochoa opened Taco Palenque in Laredo, Texas, a fast food restaurant that specialized in authentic Mexican flavors. In 1998, the chain expanded to McAllen, but Ochoa did not stop there; and

*Whereas* In 2005, he and his son Carlos opened Palenque Grill, a full-service Mexican restaurant with a fine dining twist, serving up elevated dishes like no other; and

*Whereas* Ochoa describes Palenque Grill as, “Un rinconcito de nuestra tierra – a little piece of our homeland.” Today, Hidalgo County is home to two Palenque Grills and over 10 Taco Palenques. The restaurants are synonymous with South Texas cuisine and they have become staples in the region.

*Now, therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby congratulates the Mr. Juan Francisco Ochoa and his family on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Palenque Grill, celebrates the more than 25 years of the Palenque Group doing business in Hidalgo County, and wishes them continued success in the future.

***Approved this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August 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