

# **RESOLUTION OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 the City of Round Rock, Texas (“City”), Williamson County, Texas (“County”) and the owners of Kalahari Resorts began negotiating economic development agreements which would ultimately lead to a new Kalahari Resort and Convention Center being built and located in Round Rock, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center boasts 975 hotel rooms, 20 food and drink options, and added \$550 million to the City and County's tax base; and

**WHEREAS**, Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center will create over 1,000 jobs in its 200,000 square-foot indoor and outdoor water park, 150,000 square-foot convention center, as well as their many retail and restaurant spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, Texas Governor Greg Abbott acknowledged Kalahari's contribution to the County when he said, "Texas is the premier economic destination in America, and that's because of companies like Kalahari that choose to invest in our top-notch locals, our world-class infrastructure and the thriving business economy that we have;" and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic, Kalahari opened on time on November 12, 2020 and within budget; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the pandemic, state and local officials have issued orders limiting Kalahari's capacity at its hotel, restaurants, bars, and retail spaces, which has significantly impacted revenue streams; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the pandemic, the governors of other states have instituted travel bans and/or mandatory quarantining upon persons arriving back to their resident states, causing a severe downturn in travel and leisure activities; and

**WHEREAS**, these capacity limits and other government mandated efforts to curb the infection rate of COVID-19 has caused Kalahari Resorts to lose already confirmed and future convention center business, and to lose anticipated revenue from its water park, retail shops, restaurants, bars, and entertainment areas; and

**WHEREAS**, most hotel and travel industry experts anticipate it will be another three to five years before the hotel and travel industry returns to pre-pandemic levels, and this reduction in revenue to Kalahari Resorts means lost revenues for the County for that duration,

**NOW THEREFORE; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS,**

That the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas does hereby support legislative efforts in the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session to extend the timeline for the tax revenue program granted by Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code, for the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center project, for as many years as necessary to allow it to realize the originally intended benefits of the program extended by the Texas Legislature and the State of Texas.

The Commissioners Court hereby finds and declares that written notice of the date, hour, place and subject of the meeting at which this Resolution was adopted was posted and that such meeting was open to the public as required by law at all times during which this Resolution and the subject matter hereof were discussed, considered and formally acted upon, all as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended.

**PASSED, APPROVED, ADOPTED and RESOLVED** as of this 16th day of March, 2021.

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**Bill Gravell, Jr.**  
**Williamson County Judge**

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**Terry Cook**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 1**

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**Valerie Covey**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 3**

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**Cynthia Long**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 2**

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**Russ Boles**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 4**