



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The office of Constable dates back at least to 1066 and the Norman Conquest of England. William the Conqueror appointed constables to supervise individual communities, or boroughs.

WHEREAS, FOR TEXAS On March 5, 1823, John Tumlinson, the newly elected alcalde of the Colorado District in Stephen F. Austin's first colony in Texas, wrote to the Baron de Bastrop in San Antonio that he had "*appointed but one officer who acts in the capacity of Constable to summon witnesses and bring offenders to justice.*" That appointee, Thomas V. Alley, thus became the first Anglo law enforcement officer in the future republic and state of Texas. Thomas V. Alley was part of Austin's "Old Three Hundred"

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Republic of Texas (1836) provided for the election in each county of a Sheriff and "*a sufficient number of Constables.*"

Shortly after Texas became a state, an act passed by the legislature specified that the Constable should be "*the conservator of the peace throughout the county,*" adding that "*it shall be his duty to suppress all riots, routs, affrays, fighting, and unlawful assemblies, and he shall keep the peace, and shall cause all offenders to be arrested, and taken before some justice of the peace.*"

Constables were the most active law-enforcement officials in many counties during the early statehood of Texas.

WHEREAS, Texas Constitution allows for 4-8 elected Constables per county.

The Texas Constables began in March 1823

12 Years before the Texas Rangers (informally August 1823, formally 1835)

14 years before the Sheriff (1837)

6 years before the "Bobbies" of the London Metropolitan Police (1829) who modern day policing is based on.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court recognize on March 7th the Bicentennial anniversary of the creation of the Constable's office in the great state of Texas.

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: _____

Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court Members