

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Texas State Board of Education is preparing to write new social studies curriculum standards for public schools and is considering omitting references to civil rights leaders Cesar Chavez and Thurgood Marshall; and

WHEREAS, removing those references would neglect the major contributions that these two historical figures have made to American democracy and for their work to ensure equality for all citizens in the state of Texas and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez is widely recognized as a national hero for his actions to better the lives of migrant workers everywhere, to empower Mexican Americans and to open the doors of Higher education to Texas' minority students. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, his face appeared on a U.S. Postage stamp and his birthday is an official holiday in 8 states; and

WHEREAS, Thurgood Marshall was a prominent civil rights leader who became the first African American Supreme Court Justice and was instrumental in shaping the landmark 1954 school desegregation case Brown v. Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Chavez and Marshall represent the minorities who are increasingly becoming the majority in the state of Texas and they paves the way for generations of Hispanics and African Americans to organize politically, pursue higher education and earn the equality that every citizen deserves.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the City Council urges the Texas State Board of Education to reject recommendations that references to Cesar Chavez and Thurgood Marshall be omitted from social studies curricula in Texas public schools.

Dated this 19th day of January 2010.

CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk



Charlie F. McNabb
City Attorney