

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE  
BIG CITY MAYOR'S LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE  
DEALING WITH HOMELESSNESS**

**WHEREAS**, on August 29, 2008 the "Big City Mayors" group met in Fort Worth for its quarterly meeting. Of the eight members in attendance on August 29<sup>th</sup>, were the mayors of Arlington, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and El Paso. Absent were the Mayors of Austin, San Antonio and Corpus Christi although they were represented by staff; and

**WHEREAS**, homelessness is an issue which impacts cities throughout Texas as evidenced by the fact that on a single day in January 2007, 44,492 homeless Texans were counted and it is estimated that 247,500 Texans become homeless each year; and

**WHEREAS**, in discussing a potential legislative agenda for the Big City Mayors, one vitally important issue that was discussed was the issue of homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, there are two matters of concern:

1. Creation of strategic partnerships with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to better link the re-entry population from Texas custody, and the operational and service subsidies that come with them, to supportive housing projects; and
2. Seeking from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or Department of Public Safety the pre-release issuance of a Texas ID Certificate for everyone discharged from a Texas jail or prison; and

**WHEREAS**, HillCo Partners, a government affairs consulting firm in Austin, Texas, has expressed a willingness to work with the Big City Mayors, on a pro-bono basis, in addressing the two homelessness issues outlined above; and

**WHEREAS**, certain members of the "Big City Mayors" group have elected to join forces to address these two issues, and in doing so, wish to enlist the services of HillCo Partners to assist with the successful implementation of measures which will effectively address these issues.

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

**THAT** the City of El Paso, Texas, as member of the Big City Mayors consortium, does hereby adopt as a part of its legislative program for 2009 and will support the following two initiatives:

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1. Creation of strategic partnerships with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to better link the re-entry population from Texas custody, and the operational and service subsidies that come with them, to supportive housing projects; and
2. Seeking from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or Department of Public Safety the pre-release issuance of a Texas ID Certificate for everyone discharged from a Texas jail or prison; and

**THAT** the City of El Paso, Texas does hereby specifically agree and consent to the firm of HillCo Partners of Austin, Texas representing them in addressing these two issues during the 2009 legislative session on a pro-bono basis; and

**THAT** the City of El Paso, Texas will, in support of the efforts of HillCo Partners, provide additional council resolutions, correspondence from appropriate municipal officials or testimony, either written or oral, at such time as requested to do so by HillCo Partners.

**ADOPTED** this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2008.

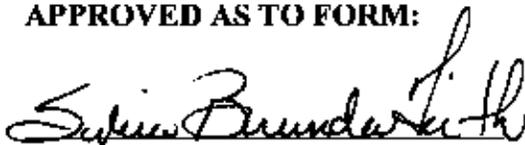
**THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**

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John F. Cook  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Richarda Duffy Momsen  
City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Sylvia Borunda Firth  
Senior Assistant City Attorney

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