

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A MEXICAN AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS HERITAGE & CULTURAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the current conversations across the United States include *equity for all* who reside in this country, where there is a long history of discrimination against non-white people, including the disruption of ancestral burial sites and taking of ancestral remains, the taking of their lands and displacement of communities, suppression of their history, languages, culture and traditions, and

WHEREAS, these communities are seeking to preserve their neighborhoods by elevating awareness and recognizing their historical and cultural value, thereby halting massive gentrification which changes the culture and character of neighborhoods and eventually displaces longtime residents; and

WHEREAS, there is historical documentation of four Mexican American neighborhoods (barrios) established from Hopkins Street at City Park along the San Marcos River and east of IH 35 to Durango Street and Staples Road, south to Ellis Street and west to Purgatory Creek; and

WHEREAS, The City of San Marcos imposed eminent domain and eradicated the homes from the first barrio, El Barrio del Jorobado, (within the East Guadalupe Neighborhood) from Hopkins Street at City Park to Cheatham Street to Guadalupe Street, displacing many businesses and all of the residents who lived in these neighborhoods including those located at Rio Vista Park; thereby erasing the important history and contributions of many of the original pioneer Mexican American families, and

WHEREAS, the community seeks to preserve the rich history and cultural heritage of the remaining original three Mexican American neighborhoods/barrios by establishing a *Heritage and Cultural District*, thereby elevating the awareness of the historical significance of these neighborhoods and the families that established them; and

WHEREAS, the cultural and community contributions of the Sociedad Mutualista and Cuauhtemoc Hall, with origins dating to the Mexican Revolution, are highly valued and recognized as a cultural icon located in El Barrio de la Victoria (Victory Gardens); and

WHEREAS, Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, established in the historical Southside School, formerly known as the “Mexican School” and located in El Barrio de la Nalga Pelona, (East Guadalupe Neighborhood) continues to be a cultural hub for the community; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Cultures Institute, established in 2006, has been providing educational, economic and historical programming for our communities, and seeks to preserve and educate the community about the heritage and rich cultural contributions of the Indigenous People that have occupied this area for over 14,000 years, and

WHEREAS, the City of San Marcos is the local governing authority of the municipality where the Heritage & Cultural District is defined and requested, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the City Council of San Marcos, Texas, does hereby establish a ***Heritage & Cultural District*** for the areas recognized as the first four established Mexican American neighborhoods:

El Barrio del Jorobado and El Barrio de la Nalga Pelona, now known as East Guadalupe Neighborhood,

El Barrio de la Victoria, known as Victory Gardens Neighborhood, and

El Barrio del Pescado, known as Wallace Addition,

thereby recognizing, acknowledging and preserving the rich history and cultural contributions made to the City of San Marcos by the pioneer families and current residents of these neighborhoods.