

**April 4, 2017  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EL PASO CITY HALL  
8:00 AM**

**R E S O L U T I O N  
DENOUNCING THE BORDER WALL**

**WHEREAS**, the Camino Real passed through present day El Paso and was traveled by soldiers, traders, settlers, and Don Juan de Onate for nearly three hundred years, and, similar trade routes existed between Mesoamerica, in what is presently central Mexico, and almost certainly passed through the El Paso area for hundreds of years before the arrival of Europeans and the designation of the Camino Real by the Spanish;

**WHEREAS**, the trade that continues now between Mexico and Texas, as well as the other border states of the southwest, is a major and significant portion of our economy, offering employment and other opportunities for many here;

**WHEREAS**, the economic, historic, and cultural connections between our part of the United States and just across the border in Mexico is underscored by the families whose members have been connected across this region for hundreds of years before there was a border between the modern countries of the United States and Mexico;

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso is a historically safe border city, and continues to be one of the safest cities in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, El Paso is the Largest U.S. City on the U.S./Mexico Border, centrally located giving equal access to markets in Canada and Mexico, and El Paso, Texas, New Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez are a tri-state, bi-national region that is the connected to more than 110 million North American Consumers accessible within 24 hours by truck, in 2015 El Paso exported over \$21 billion worth of goods to Mexico ranking the City as the number one largest trading MSA with Mexico, home to more than 2.5 million people, and this region is the largest international metroplex in the world;

**WHEREAS**, construction of a border wall with tightened security will harm our interdependent relationship with our brothers and sisters to the south in Ciudad Juarez who are seeking economic prosperity, as well as U.S. and Mexican businesses dependent on cross-border commerce valued at \$200 billion Texas-Mexico trade and \$584 billion U.S.-Mexico trade in 2015 making Mexico the top trading partner of Texas;

**WHEREAS**, any method devised to pay for such a border wall may require up to \$25 billion U.S. taxpayer funds or subsidies supported by an import tariff or "Border Tax" on Mexican goods imported to the U.S. or U.S. goods entering Mexico resulting in a "trade war" which leads to market instability in terms of job creation, economic development, substantial increases in the costs of goods passed to consumers, and a negative cultural impact;

**WHEREAS**, transnational border crossings require municipal, state, and federal policy solutions applying technology and infrastructure to move people and commerce for true economic and border security, and such an Executive Order leads to more immigrants risking deportation, jail or even death to cross the border, increasing illegal immigration; and

**WHEREAS**, the wall would cause serious environmental damage to the ecosystem of the Chihuahuan Desert by increasing emissions, cutting off natural water flows, and disturbing wildlife migration routes, all of which would contribute to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, it is not just economy that crosses, but language, food, music, art, culture, and most importantly families cross every minute, of every day here along our ports of entry.

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

1. That it denounces the Presidential Executive Order to construct a wall between the United States and Mexico.
2. That TRUE border security IS economic security.
3. That this RESOLUTION shall be transmitted to the Texas Delegates of the U.S. Congress and the President of These United States of America.

Mayor Leeser and Representatives Svarzbein and Tolbert commented.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Mr. Robert Heyman
2. Mr. Fernando Garcia
3. Ms. Claudia Diaz
4. Ms. Gabriela Castaneda
5. Ms. Irma Cruz
6. Ms. Susan Herrera
7. Ms. Miriam Guerrero
8. Ms. Lourdes Hernandez
9. Mr. Judd Burgess

Motion made by Representative Svarzbein, seconded by Representative Limón, and unanimously carried to APPROVE the **Resolution**.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Representatives Robinson and Noe