

WHEREAS, the United States has long positioned itself in the world as a beacon of freedom and human rights, reflected in the words engraved at the base of the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me;” and

WHEREAS, the United States, the State of Texas, and the County of El Paso have long been enriched by, and are committed to welcome, immigrant families and communities who come to our country seeking better lives, and enrich all of us with their presence and contributions; and

WHEREAS, the announcement of the construction of a new border wall in central El Paso needlessly causes further separation of our bi-national community and puts the lives and wellbeing of migrants and border residents alike at risk; and

WHEREAS, this new wall construction is a symbol of hate aimed toward our friends, allies, trading partners, and families in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the proposed border wall will add to our federal deficit and divert critical resources from needed improvements in our national, state, and local infrastructure while our ports of entry, which promote travel, tourism, and the interdiction of illegal drugs, have billions of dollars in unmet infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the wall in the Chihuahueta neighborhood is especially disturbing to our community’s people and communities of faith because it disturbs and disrupts the sacred ground where the Border Mass has traditionally been celebrated with participants from both sides of the border, and where the “Hugs, Not Walls” event to reunify separated families has been regularly conducted over the last two years; and

WHEREAS, we cannot allow our opposition to the recent uprising of xenophobia and inhumanity to be suppressed or our resistance to the separation of immigrant families to be quashed; and

WHEREAS, in contrast to the wall, the Paso del Norte Region is America’s new Ellis Island, a beacon of hope and humanity to the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court that our community and the communities of the Paso del Norte Region call on the federal government to adopt policies that advance hugs—through the reunification of immigrant families, the decriminalization of migration, the demilitarization of our border, and the facilitation of trade, commerce, and exchange—instead of walls.

SIGNED, this 24th day of September 2018

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Vincent M. Perez, Pct. 3

Commissioner Andrew R. Haggerty, Pct. 4

Ruben Vogt
County Judge