

**RESOLUTION**  
**Council of Judges, Parker County, Texas**

**WHEREAS**, Parker County, Texas is a vibrant and growing county in Texas; and,  
**WHEREAS**, Parker County has a quality of life second to none; and,  
**WHEREAS**, one reason for said quality of life is quality law enforcement and respect for the law; and,  
**WHEREAS**, Parker County is now experiencing a virtually exponential population growth not previously experienced; and,  
**WHEREAS**, numerous single and multi-family real estate developments are in progress or approved by the Parker County Commissioners Court; and,  
**WHEREAS**, real estate values also are increasing virtually exponentially; and,  
**WHEREAS**, in view of the significant growth in population of Parker County, the rate of which is near the highest in Texas, there should be sufficient facilities for the courts, law enforcement, and juries; and,  
**WHEREAS**, recent statistics from the District Clerk of Parker County indicate a fifteen percent (15%) increase in total cases in the district courts from 2018 to 2019 and a twenty nine percent (29%) increase in total cases from 2015 to 2019; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the judicial system including all support agencies should operate efficiently to assure respect for the law remains; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Texas provides for the judicial system to be a separate and co-equal branch of state government; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the right to a speedy jury trial is guaranteed multiple times in both the Constitution of the United States and the Texas Constitution; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the courts in Parker County as well as those agencies supporting the functions of the judicial branch of government should be able to conduct the functions constitutionally guaranteed to the citizenry; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the courts and support services cannot maintain efficiency and service to the public with these growth rates; and,  
**WHEREAS**, available land for facilities will become more scarce over time coupled with a corresponding increase in land costs; and,  
**WHEREAS**, some county facilities are relegated to municipal-owned properties; and,  
**WHEREAS**, current facilities are not adequate to accommodate the court personnel, court clerks, advanced electronic technology, litigants, security inmate management, and juries; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the usable space in current court facilities present a safety and security risk to occupants and the public, and,  
**WHEREAS**, there is virtual unanimity among all who work in the civil and criminal justice fields that there is an immediate need for a comprehensive justice center for Parker County; and,  
**WHEREAS**, a new and modern justice center with adequate parking is needed immediately; and,  
**WHEREAS**, said justice center should be large enough to accommodate all current and foreseeable future needs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Council of Judges, Parker County, Texas adopted and submitted similar resolutions on September 15, 2009, January 8, 2015, October 2018, March 4, 2020, and September 1, 2021; and,

**WHEREAS**, pandemic events caused significant damage to the functions of the judicial branch of government; and,

**WHEREAS**, recent pandemic events and resulting mandates from the Texas Supreme Court made conducting some court functions impossible, including jury trials, because of spacing requirements, the need for adequate space within court facilities is now more acute; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is no facility in Parker County wherein jury trials can be conducted effectively and efficiently if personal spacing requirements are again implemented; and,

**WHEREAS**, effective management of court dockets was significantly hindered by pandemic events; and,

**WHEREAS**, the damage was magnified by the pre-existing inadequacy of Parker County court facilities and the lack of a comprehensive justice center; and,

**WHEREAS**, the useable space in current court facilities presents a safety and security risk to occupants and the public; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is no space for additional courts and support offices; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional courts will be necessary along with space for support personnel; and,

**WHEREAS**, space continues to be unavailable for courts and law enforcement functions; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is no currently vacant or available county building space to house any court or prosecutorial facility; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Council of Judges, Parker County, Texas supports the Commissioners Court of Parker County in the planning and ultimate building of a justice center, and,

**WHEREAS**, every Parker County elected official and mayor of every municipality in Parker County supports the referenced project, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Council of Judges of Parker County, Texas previously informed the Parker County Commissioners Court of the lack of space with which to conduct the normal day-to-day activities of the Parker County courts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Parker County Commissioners Court neither responded to nor took any action in response to the aforementioned resolutions; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is no current plan by the Parker County Commissioners Court for any facility whatsoever that would accommodate future law enforcement and judicial operations; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Council of Judges of Parker County, Texas finds the Parker County Commissioners Court has not met its responsibility to plan, perform, and fund this essential function of county government.

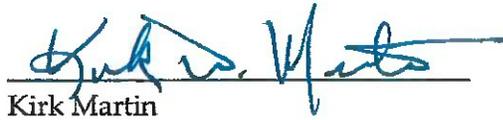
**Now therefore, be it RESOLVED that:**

The Council of Judges of Parker County, Texas determines the matter covered herein is of the utmost urgency and thus supports the immediate acquisition of land in Parker County, Texas for the building of a justice center at the earliest possible date and, further, said council will support the Parker County Commissioners Court in its efforts to do so.

Passed unanimously by the below-signed council members 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.



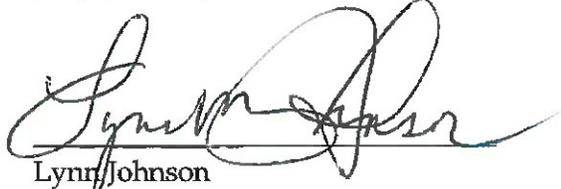
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Craig Towson  
Judge, 43<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court



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Kirk Martin  
Judge, County Court at Law No. 1



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Graham Quisenberry  
Judge, 415<sup>th</sup> District Court



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Lynn Johnson  
Judge, County Court at Law No. 2