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RESOLUTION NO. 24-75

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO H. R. 6219, VOTING RIGHTS ACT, AND CALLING UPON SENATORS JOHN TOWER AND LLOYD BENTSEN TO SEEK TO DEFEAT OR MODIFY SAID ACT AND PETITIONING PRESIDENT GERALD FORD TO VETO SAID BILL IF PASSED WITHOUT MODIFICATION.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Mesquite believe in the right of local government; and

WHEREAS, H. R. 6219, if applicable to the State of Texas, would take from local governments and lodge in the Office of the Attorney General matters of purely local concern; and

WHEREAS, under the holding of the United States Supreme Court in Perkins vs. Matthews, 400 U.S. 382; 91 S. Ct. 431, these purely local matters need not involve racial discrimination at all; and

WHEREAS, jurisdiction over these local matters are lodged in the Federal District Court of Washington, D.C., creating a burden and a hardship upon those local governments distantly removed from the national Capitol, effectively destroying the right of judicial review of decisions of an appointed official; and

WHEREAS, decisions involving municipal annexation, location of polling places and establishment of voting precincts with no racial overtones should remain matters of local concern;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of Mesquite calls upon the Honorable Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen to employ every resource at their disposal to prevent the imposition of this harsh law upon the citizens of the City of Mesquite, the State of Texas and other areas of our Country by:

1. Seeking to defeat the Bill in its entirety;
2. Seeking to prevent the application of H. R. 6219 to the State of Texas;
3. Seeking to obtain modification of the objectionable features of the Bill, including jurisdiction in the District Court of the District of Columbia, correction of the interpretation by the Supreme Court in Perkins vs. Matthews that matters of purely local concern such as annexations, location of polling places and establishment of voting precincts or places not involving racial overtones are included, but condition such matters upon actual discrimination and such other relief possible.

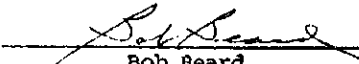
SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Mesquite calls upon all elected officials to inform themselves of the nature of the proposed Act as interpreted by the Supreme Court in Perkins vs. Matthews and to base their decisions and actions upon a full understanding of the effect this Act will have upon the concept of local government entirely separate and distinct from any racial overtone or protection of voting rights.

SECTION 3. The City Council respectfully petitions the Honorable Gerald Ford, President of the United States, to exercise the power of the Presidential Veto should H. R. 6219 pass unless the aforementioned inequities are deleted or modified.

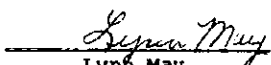
SECTION 4. That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the President and the offices of Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage as the Charter in such cases provides.

DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on this the 21st day of July , A.D., 1975.


Bob Beard
Mayor

ATTEST:


Lynn May
Acting City Secretary