

RESOLUTION NO. 09-2011

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 56 BY THE 82ND TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM UNFUNDED MANDATES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

WHEREAS, the rising costs of providing local government services are driven by two main factors: growth in demand following population growth and growth in required services or levels of service mandated by the state; and

WHEREAS, many in state government rightly oppose unfunded federal mandates on the states, yet new unfunded state mandates on local governments are passed during every legislative session; and

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates require either a reduction of other services currently provided or an increase in the local property tax rate to pay for them; and

WHEREAS, due to the time delay between the legislature mandating a certain level of services and the setting of local budgets to provide those services, Mesquite residents often do not know whom to hold accountable for the budget decisions that must be made to accommodate unfunded mandates; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 56 (HJR 56) provides protection of cities, counties and community colleges against unfunded mandates by providing that a mandate on local government requiring the spending of additional local funds has no effect unless the state provides the necessary funding or reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, HJR 56 is modeled on the same practice the legislature has followed for many years in establishing new mandates on state agencies, that if a proposed mandate increases local costs, a legislator must include sufficient funds in the appropriations act or identify a new funding source to pay for the new mandate; and

WHEREAS, HJR 56 is a budgetary reform measure compelling the legislature to tie funding to mandates passed on to local governments; and

WHEREAS, HJR 56 will improve accountability to taxpayers and voters, and represents common sense reform that both statewide and local constituents are demanding.

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

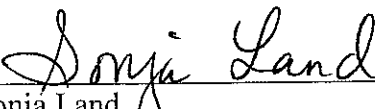
SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, hereby supports the passage of House Joint Resolution 56 by the 82nd Texas Legislature as filed by Representative Solomons to provide relief from unfunded mandates for local governments.

DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 21st day of February, 2011.



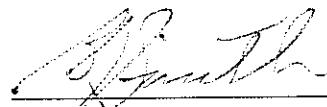
John Monaco
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sonja Land
City Secretary

APPROVED:



B. J. Smith
City Attorney