

Pleasanton Express

Judge Cude Article 6/21/23

Greetings, amigos! Last month on May 18, Atascosa County, in collaboration with nine other South Texas Counties, came together to show support and promote our shared goal of our resident's safety and security during the ongoing border crisis. In a previous article following that meeting, I spoke about how the County would be progressing with the effort to ensure the mission would grow. I mentioned that the other nine counties would pass similar resolutions to what Atascosa County passed on May 18 during our Public Meeting at the Justice Center. The Resolution is essentially a call to action for the State. Several Counties passing the same Resolution aim to show the solidarity of the County leadership working together during the border crisis and call for more robust border security measures in Texas from the Office of the Governor. Since I last spoke about this effort, we have received notice from eight other Counties who passed their resolutions through their Commissioner's Courts. I understand the final two (of the original ten Counties) will follow suit in the coming weeks to complete the effort of gathering the support of ten Texas County Judges. Something I did not mention that I believe is an essential piece of this story is that of the original ten County Judges in this Coalition, are eight brand new Judges, myself included. I mention this because back in 2021, U.S. Immigration policy change allowed for less strict guidelines on border crossings due to the change in U.S. Presidential Administration policies. Since 2021, more than fifty Counties have passed an 'invasion' or 'disaster' declaration regarding the border crisis. Also in 2021, DPS Highway Patrol activated the Operation Lone Star (OLS) initiative, called upon by Governor Abbott, which enables State police to be stationed across the border region to assist with retrieving illegal drugs off the streets, and to provide assistance to border patrol on apprehensions of illegal immigrants, etc. The eight new County Judges of the original Ten County Coalition are brand new to their offices and new to showing support for more robust border security measures. The effort of this Coalition is to reactivate similar efforts in 2021 and 2022, where Counties across the State passed the invasion and/or disaster resolutions as previously mentioned. We are new leaders who understand the importance of border security and want to continue the efforts and call upon more Counties across the State to join. Since we started this effort, several County Judges have communicated their support of the Coalition and will be passing resolutions in their Commissioner's Courts. As the Coalition expands across the State, we anticipate an increase in travel and time to continue the growth of the mission. To help with this, we created the Atascosa County Border Expense Fund to raise funds to support the travel costs associated with the initiative. I do not believe it is the responsibility of Atascosa County Taxpayers to contribute to the costs associated with this effort, therefore we have solicited several businesses across the region to help. If you are a business that would like to contribute to the Atascosa County Border Expense fund, you can contact me at countyjudge@atascosa.tx.us or 830-769-3093. I will continue to say that now is the time to act and keep Atascosa residents and all Texans safe. Please join this conversation and follow our progress as we continue this effort for a stronger, safer Texas. Together we are Atascosa Proud!