BE IT RESOLVED THAT ON THE 20th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2012, THE CAMERON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ COURT CONVENED IN REGULAR SESSION, AND UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CAMERON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE SAID COURT FOR SUCH MEETING, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.041 ET. SEQ., VERNON’S TEXAS CIVIL STATUTES (THE TEXAS OPEN MEETING ACT) TO BE CONSIDERED

“CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BOARD OF REGENTS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A VALLEYWIDE EMERGING RESEARCH FACILITY AND MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY.”

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2012, the Chancellor of the University of Texas, Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa proposed an initiative to the University of Texas System Board of Regents to establish a new university that includes the University of Texas at Brownsville, the University of Texas-Pan American and the future South Texas School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents unanimously approved this initiative which would result in a single institution that spans the entire Rio Grande Valley, with a presence in each of the major metropolitan areas of Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen and McAllen; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents also approved the allocation of $100 million over the next 10 years to accelerate the pace of transitioning the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen to a school of medicine; and

WHEREAS, if approved by the Texas legislature it would make this new institution eligible for revenue from Permanent University Fund (PUF) – a major catalyst for building a world class research facility of higher learning complemented with a school of medicine for the entire Rio Grande Valley; and

WHEREAS, the plan proposed and approved would result in a single institution spanning the Rio Grande valley with a presence in each of the major metropolitan areas of Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen and McAllen; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that this initiative would spur economic growth and create over 10,000 jobs initially; and
WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Cameron County recognizes that this is one of the largest educational and economic development opportunities for our region; and

WHEREAS, this Commissioner’s Court wants to personally thank Chancellor Cigarroa and the Board of Regents for their vision to transform the educational landscape of the Rio Grande Valley and to allow our future generations an opportunity to succeed in a medical profession given the close proximity they will have to an illustrious institution like the University of Texas Medical School in South Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cameron County Commissioners’ Court unanimously expresses its strong support to establish a valley wide emerging research facility and a medical school in the Rio Grande Valley and respectfully requests that all elected leaders in Austin support this initiative which has been a priority of this body and has been at the forefront for many leaders in the region for many years.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on this 20th day of December, 2012.

COMMISSIONERS’ COURT OF CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

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CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

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SOFIA C. BENAVIDES
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

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DAVID A. GARZA
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

__________________________________________
ERNIE L. HERNANDEZ, JR.
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

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DAN A. SANCHEZ
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

ATTEST: __________________________
JOE G. RIVERA, COUNTY CLERK