

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, STATING ITS OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 2 AND ANY OTHER HARMFUL LEGISLATION IMPOSING REVENUE CAPS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT INHIBITING THE CITY'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE BASIC PUBLIC SERVICES.

WHEREAS, current state law allows qualified voters to petition for an election if the rollback rate exceeds eight percent; and

WHEREAS, numerous bills have been filed during the 85th Legislative Session of the Texas Legislature to reduce the rollback rate to four percent and require a mandatory election on any increase over four percent; and

WHEREAS, there has been misleading and incorrect communications to the public suggesting that property owners could see major cost savings through revenue caps as a result of the proposed reduction in the rollback rate; and

WHEREAS, the City has a long-standing record of being good stewards of taxpayers' dollars by holding the tax rate through the recession and cutting back services instead of burdening Mesquite residents with increased taxes; and

WHEREAS, the passage of the proposed legislation cripples the ability of growing cities like Mesquite to provide basic public services including fire and police protection, parks and badly needed infrastructure maintenance; and

WHEREAS, had a four percent revenue cap been in place in 2016, the City would have had to forfeit \$2,500,000 in revenues and not could not have hired six critical police positions as well as other essential services demanded by Mesquite residents; and

WHEREAS, had a four percent revenue cap been in place in 2016, the City would not have been able to offer the \$125 million bond issuance for residential street improvements, a measure that was overwhelmingly passed by 84 percent of Mesquite voters in November 2015; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials are the most knowledgeable about the level of local governmental services desired by their constituency and the amount a city's residents are willing and able to pay for such services and should have the discretion to establish the level of funding required to provide the services demanded by its residents;

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 adopts and incorporates into this Resolution the recitals set forth herein as the legislative findings and intent of the City Council.

SECTION 2. That the City Council urges members of the Texas Legislature to oppose Senate Bill 2 and any bill that reduces the rollback rate and/or requires an automatic tax ratification election if the rollback rate is exceeded.


DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 6th day of March, 2017.

Stan Pickett
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Sonja Land
City Secretary



B. J. Smith
City Attorney