

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARIS, TEXAS,  
CENSURING COUNCIL MEMBER BENNY PLATA PURSUANT TO SECTION  
2-302 OF THE CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT FOR CITY COUNCIL,  
EMPLOYEES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES, FOR  
ENGAGING IN CONDUCT PREJUDICIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
CITY OR THAT REFLECTS DISCREDIT UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
CITY**

**WHEREAS**, on or about Monday, May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an African American man, died while in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which death has been subsequently ruled as a homicide; and

**WHEREAS**, since that time, there have been protests nationwide, including a peaceful protest in Paris, Texas on Saturday, May 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Benny Plata, District 3, has posted a comment on social media in response to a post on the George Floyd situation and the ensuing protests to wit: "Why don't you leave America if it's so bad"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mr. Plata's statement violates the Code of Ethics and Conduct for City Council, Employees, Boards, Commissions and Committees as contained in Chapter 2, Article IX of the City of Paris, Texas Code of Ordinances, to wit: Sec. 2-303, "Standards of Conduct," subsection (a)(10), which provides that no council member shall knowingly engage in any conduct prejudicial to the government of the city or that reflects discredit upon the government of the city; and

**WHEREAS**, Sect. 2-302 provides that a city council member who has violated the Code of Ethics shall be subject to admonishment or censure by the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that Council Member Plata's statement is inappropriate and divisive and in no way reflects the opinions or policies of the City Council or of the City of Paris, and that Council Member Plata should be censured for his conduct in making the social media comment, particularly at a time of social and political crisis in our country;

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

**RESOLUTION OF CENSURE**

**Section 1.** That the findings set out in the preamble to this resolution are hereby in all things approved.

**Section 2.** That Council Member Benny Plata's social media comment in response to a post concerning George Floyd's death and the ensuing social and political unrest that "Why don't you leave America if it's so bad," is inappropriate and divisive and violates the Code of Ethics and Conduct for City Council, Employees, Boards, Commissions and Committees as contained in Chapter 2, Article IX of the City of Paris, Texas Code of Ordinances, to wit: Sec. 2-303, "Standards of Conduct," subsection (a)(10), which provides that no council member shall knowingly engage in any conduct prejudicial to the government of the city or that reflects discredit upon the government of the city.

**Section 3.** That Council Member Plata's social media post in no way reflects the views, opinions or policies of the City Council or of the City of Paris, and that no American citizen should ever be told to leave the country because he or she has expressed an opinion as to social or political conditions that exist herein.

**Section 4.** That pursuant to Sec. 2-302 of said Code of Ethics, the City Council hereby censures Council Member Benny Plata for said comment on social media, for the reasons stated herein above.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 2nd day of June, 2020.**

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Steven J. Clifford, M.D., Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Janice Ellis, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Stephanie H. Harris, City Attorney