

Austin Resolution

WHEREAS, 1898 Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States as a result of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the Spanish- American War; and

WHEREAS, 1998 will mark the one-hundredth year of the arrival of United States troops on the coasts of Puerto Rico. Since then, thousands of United States citizens who are residents of Puerto Rico have served valiantly in every conflict in which our nation has participated in this century; and

WHEREAS, in 1917 the Jones Act extended United States citizenship to the residents of Puerto Rico but did not give them the right to vote for President of the United States and did not provide them representation in the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico is the fourth largest container cargo port in the Americas, in addition to being the world crossroads to Europe, the Pacific, and the Far East; and

WHEREAS, as we approach a new millennium, we recognize that the time has come for Puerto Rico to have the opportunity to express itself regarding its desire to attain full self-government within the context of a Congressionally mandated plebiscite, NOW, THERFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City of Austin requests that the United States Congress consider and schedule a Congressional vote on H.R. 856, the "Unites States Puerto Rico Political Status Act," that would provide the people of Puerto Rico the opportunity to choose their future political status.

ATTEST:

ADOPTED: January 15, 1998

James E. Aldridge

City Clerk