

WHEREAS, *The Commissioners Court of El Paso County recognizes Latinitas on the occasion of the organization's 10th anniversary, which is being celebrated in 2012; and*

WHEREAS, *Latinitas was launched as a non-profit in 2002 by a group of students from the University of Texas at Austin; Latinitas has made a positive difference in the lives of many young girls throughout El Paso and Texas; and*

WHEREAS, *Latinitas aims to empower, inform, entertain and inspire young Latinitas, so that they may become healthy, confident and successful women; the group helps girls overcome the lack of positive Hispanic role models and counteract the common stereotype of Latinas in media; to that end, the group fosters a positive self-image and encourages cultural awareness and pride among local girls; and*

WHEREAS, *This exceptional non-profit organization has become an invaluable mentoring program for local girls; Latinitas offers a number of programs, including LatinitasMagazine.org, the first digital magazine especially for Hispanic girls; It began by publishing a digital magazine written by young Latinas so that they could tell their own stories and strengthen their self-esteem; and*

WHEREAS, *Through the years, Latinitas has broadened its focus beyond the magazine to include workshops, camps and other programs; participants have worked on such projects as developing and producing a stop-motion video based on Mexican folk talk, making an advice radio talk show, writing about their cultural icon, creating poetry, and making artwork inspired by famous Latino artists; and*

WHEREAS, *Latinitas and its corps of volunteers have had a profound impact on the lives of thousands of girls; these volunteers help lead girl empowerment after-school programs, summer camps, conferences and community workshops where girls build confidence through creative multimedia expression; these girls have benefited from the encouragement and empowerment of their mentors; this exemplary organization is truly deserving of recognition for its many achievements and its work in the community; and*

WHEREAS, *For the date of April 28, 2012, Latinitas will be collaborating with Women in Business Association to hold Girl Power Fest; the event will feature informative and inspirational workshops, guest speakers, panelists, a booth fair and multimedia presentations to help youth learn about issues girls face and discover real solutions on how to overcome these challenges through creative expression.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *by the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court that the week of April 23 – 27, 2012 be designated as*

LATINITA WEEK

And encourage every county resident to visit their local events, appreciate and support the importance of youth in our community.

SIGNED, this 23th day of April 2012

Commissioner Annabell Perez, Pct. 1

Commissioner Tania M. Chozet, Pct. 3

Commissioner Sergio Lewis, Pct. 2

Commissioner Daniel R. Haggerty, Pct. 4

*Veronica Escobar
County Judge*