



A Proclamation by Ellis County Commissioners' Court in Recognition of the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Founding of the City of Ennis

WHEREAS, the Houston & Texas Central Railway Company began laying track in 1856 with a vision of connecting Houston to St. Louis, America's junction of civilization and frontier; and

WHEREAS, to establish its northern Texas headquarters, railroad Cpt. W.H. Veale chose a site in Ellis County, where the company purchased 647 acres of land in 1871; and

WHEREAS, railroad workers advancing the line through Ellis County loved its bluebonnets and cotton fields so much that they formed a community around the railway headquarters, and railroad engineer Theo Kosse mapped out the town's first streets; and

WHEREAS, the community that was formed around the railway headquarters formally established itself as a city on June 8th, 1872 and was named after Col. Cornelius Ennis – the renowned mayor of Houston, infamous Civil War blockade runner, and pioneering Texas railroad baron; and

WHEREAS, by the end of 1874, the City of Ennis had elected Charles Pannil as its first mayor, established J.M. Dickinson as postmaster, and enjoyed the society provided by *The Evening Argus*, the Temperance Council, and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Ennis incentivized further settlement by offering free plots of land to any church that would build a congregation, and by 1890, the population had multiplied by a factor of ten; and

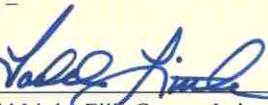
WHEREAS, since its incorporation, Ennis has continued to grow as an agricultural and industrial community, attracting residents and visitors alike for its famous bluebonnet scenery and known by its Chamber of Commerce as "the place where railroads and cotton fields meet;" and

WHEREAS, located near the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, the City of Ennis remains one of the few, true small towns that envelops visitors in a unique kind of Texas heritage they will not find elsewhere; and

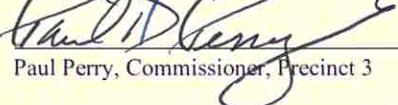
WHEREAS, after 150 years of providing Ellis County with "the bluebonnet spirit of Texas," the City of Ennis ought to be recognized for its continued legacy of commerce, friendship, and hospitality;

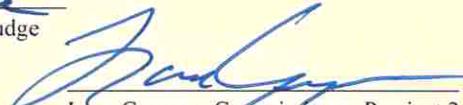
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Ellis County Commissioners, hereby recognize and celebrate the Sesquicentennial birthday of our esteemed City of Ennis on June 8th, 2022.

In witness thereof, signed the 17th of May, 2022 –

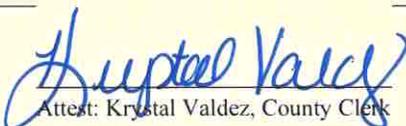

Todd Little, Ellis County Judge


Randy Stinson, Commissioner, Precinct 1


Paul Perry, Commissioner, Precinct 3


Lane Grayson, Commissioner, Precinct 2


Kyle Butler, Commissioner, Precinct 4


Attest: Krystal Valdez, County Clerk