

June 11, 2006

Dear Neighbor,

For nearly two-hundred years, our community has maintained its distinct historic and cultural identity. We began as a humble river crossing on the Medina River and to this day, our community serves as the gateway to San Antonio. Over the last two centuries, we have grown close as a community; many of us today can call our neighbors family. As you may know, the City of San Antonio has annexed down to the Medina River and any further annexation will swallow up our loved community. For those of us who call Von Ormy home, it is a special place and worth preserving. We, the Committee to Incorporate Von Ormy (CIVO), are a group of neighbors who wish to preserve our beloved community by incorporating Von Ormy into a town, with our own Mayor and City Council. We hope that you will join us in saving Von Ormy from annexation by joining our committee, signing our petitions, and voting to create a City of Von Ormy. We have put together this pamphlet to address some of the issues and concerns surrounding our effort.

#### **Why Incorporate:**

The choice we are presented with is no longer between staying unincorporated or becoming a town. The choice has now become allowing San Antonio to annex us or starting our own town. If we remain as we are, unincorporated, the City of San Antonio will annex us within the next 10 years. As we all know, the City of San Antonio has always neglected the West and South sides of town. The North side gets all the development, the jobs, the infrastructure, and the attention of the City, while the West and the South sides suffer from neglect. If the City annexes us, we will be only a small community of 500 voters on the Southwest side of town. How do you think they will respond to our needs? Do you think they will invest in our community? Do you think they will listen to us or respond to us any differently than the much larger and more organized community groups on the West and South sides of San Antonio? We don't.

#### **How do we become our own city?**

The Texas Constitution grants all Texans the right to local self-government, as well as, the right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner they may think expedient. In furtherance of these rights, the Texas Legislature has written into the Local Government Code the procedure to incorporate a city. The procedure is this: First, we must define our city limits, which must include 200 or more persons within 2 square miles. Second, we must gather signatures to petition the City of San Antonio to allow a vote on incorporation. Third, we must gather signatures to petition the County hold an election on the question of incorporation. Fourth, the county holds an election and we vote. If the vote is in favor, we have a city. We must ask permission of the City of San Antonio because we are within their extra-territorial jurisdiction, which is a five mile area beyond their city limits.

#### **What city services will the City of Von Ormy be required to provide?**

The city of Von Ormy will only be required to maintain the roads within the city limits that are not maintained by the State (I-35). All other services that the County currently provides will continue to be provided, including police and fire protection.

Committee to Incorporate Von Ormy  
PO Box 377, Von Ormy, TX. 78073, 210-857-6848 (Art)

### **What city services can the City of Von Ormy provide?**

The City of Von Ormy, if the voters choose to allow it, can potentially provide all kinds of city services: Public parks, local police, municipal fire department, library, a community center, assistance to the elderly or sick and many more. Alternatively, the voters could choose to keep taxes to a minimum and simply maintain the roads and keep things as they are.

### **Taxes:**

Will our taxes go up as a result of becoming our own city? The answer is yes. But let's consider the alternative. If the City of San Antonio annexes our community the tax rate will also be higher. However, due to the recent school tax restructuring that passed the Legislature, property taxes will be lowered significantly over the next two years. Our increase will be smaller than the amount being lowered. Therefore, in two years we can have our own City and still be paying less in property taxes than we are today. Furthermore, as a city we are allowed to impose up to a 1 ½ percent sales tax. We can capitalize on our location as a frequent stopping point for travelers between Laredo and San Antonio by collecting a sales tax. This would allow us to lower our property taxes or provide more city services.

If we join the City of San Antonio we will be included within their tax liabilities, their roads, sports stadiums, pet projects, social services, etc. If we become our own City we can continue to enjoy all those services for free.

### **Local Representation:**

If we allow the City of San Antonio to annex Von Ormy, each of us will become one vote/voice out of 1.1 million. If we create the City of Von Ormy, each of us will be one vote/voice out of 300. Our mayor and city council will be local people who share our concerns and our situation. And we will know where they live. The Texas constitution guarantees the right of local self-government because only local representatives can effectively govern. If we join the city of San Antonio, we will be governed and taxed by wealthy career politicians who have little concern about Von Ormy or those of us who live here.

### **Our Heritage:**

Von Ormy will lose its identity if we are annexed by San Antonio. We will slowly become just another neglected neighborhood on the southwest side of a large city. If we value our heritage, our family history, our pride in being the crossroads of the Texas Revolution, we can preserve that for future generations by incorporating Von Ormy. Our actions today will speak to future generations. We can let them know that we loved our community enough to take action and preserve its unique heritage for the future.

God Bless Texas and God Bless Von Ormy.

Sincerely,

Committee to Incorporate Von Ormy