



October 4, 2023

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
Sent via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor
P.O. Box 12068 Austin,
TX 78711
Sent via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Dade Phelan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
Sent via Electronic Mail

Re: Placing Liberty County & Colony Ridge in State Conservatorship

Dear Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, and Speaker Phelan:

On September 25, 2023 we released a joint statement requesting the Legislature be convened immediately in special session to address the ongoing invasion on our southern border. We are following up to that request with a specific plan addressing cartel activity in the Colony Ridge community.

Among the achievements of Biden’s Open Border is the catastrophe unfolding in Liberty County known as Houston El Norte (HEN), a series of six “master planned” subdivisions developed by Colony Ridge Land, LLC. An estimated 40,000-75,000 people live in these subdivisions, many of them in substandard or partially constructed housing. These communities are among the fastest growing in the country.

The threat to public safety present in these developments is well documented:

- Liberty County Sheriff Bobby Rader says his department is overwhelmed with crime and drug overdoses in the Colony Ridge developments.¹
- The Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) reports that the number of HEN residents illegally present in the United States is “in the thousands and headed toward the tens of thousands.”²

¹ <https://ktrh.iheart.com/featured/houston-texas-news/content/2023-09-27-sheriff-colony-ridge-is-overwhelmed-with-crime-and-drug-overdoses/>

² <https://www.texaspolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Oliver-Broken-Border-Local-Impact-Liberty.pdf>

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- The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) reports “the Gulf and Sinaloa cartels invested in Colony Ridge from its earliest inception . . . financing lots for local operatives” to traffic drugs and people.³
- FOX 26 Houston reports that Cleveland ISD has requested an ambulance on 8 occasions since school began in August to respond to suspected overdoses. Cleveland ISD believes these overdoses may be connected to fentanyl-laced pills.⁴

The conditions in Liberty County warrant immediate consideration in the forthcoming special session, alongside strengthening border security and providing school choice to every Texan.

As members of the House Appropriations, County Affairs, Public Health, and Criminal Jurisprudence committees, respectively, we propose:

1. Budgeting money necessary to establish a Department of Public Safety substation to multiply law enforcement presence in the Colony Ridge community.
2. Consider expanding the call to include legislation to place Liberty County under a state conservatorship, if facts warrant it.

New information is coming to light daily and suggests that Liberty County's Commissioners Court may have failed to protect their citizens by supporting the Colony Ridge developments.⁵ By establishing a conservatorship, the State could coordinate law enforcement operations and county restrictions to clean up and clean out Colony Ridge.

Your consideration and support of these matters is appreciated.

For Texas,



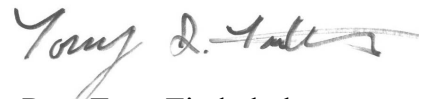
Rep. Steve Toth
House District 15



Rep. Nate Schatzline
House District 93



Rep. Brian Harrison
House District 10



Rep. Tony Tinderholt
House District 94

³ <https://cis.org/Bensman/Texas-Massacre-Happened-Americas-Largest-Illegal-Immigrant-Colonia-and-Major-US-Media-Wont>

⁴ <https://www.fox26houston.com/news/its-an-epidemic-cleveland-isd-teacher-speaks-on-rash-of-overdoses>

⁵ <https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/cleveland/news/article/Commissioners-split-vote-supports-MMD-in-Colony-10978524.php>