



Rosendo Ramirez/Hispanic Triangle News

Students from Fletcher Elementary School await the arrival of former President Bill Clinton outside Carlito's Mexican Restaurant in Beaumont.

# Carlito's hosts President Clinton

By Rosendo Ramirez  
Hispanic Triangle News

BEAUMONT — Carlos Hernandez has always used his restaurant as a political meeting place for local politicians but now he can boast that President Bill Clinton ate there.

Several Hispanic leaders met privately with former President Clinton when he was in Beaumont drumming up support for Hillary Clinton. Before going to a political rally in downtown Beaumont, President Clinton had lunch with 32 Hispanic leaders at Carlito's Mexican Restaurant on College Street.

A Mariachi band began playing as the Clinton motorcade arrived at Carlito's. The Secret Service kept a watchful eye on the large crowd of cheering people gathered outside the restaurant showing their support for Hillary Clinton for President.

Among the crowd was a group of students from Fletcher Elementary School, who were there to get a glimpse of the former president and to show support for their principal, Mike Gonzales.

Gonzales was invited to the meeting because Fletcher Elementary is 80 percent Hispanic and is located a few blocks from Carlito's. Gonzales said he was very pleased to be able to give his students this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



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Students and adults alike wait to get a glimpse of the former president.

"The children will remember the day they took a field trip to see the president of the United States in their neighborhood and not just in a book or on television," Gonzalez said.

Roberto Flores, president of the Beaumont Chapter of League of United Latin American Citizens, said that he was circulating a petition to have the name of the school changed from Fletcher to Cesar Chavez.

"The Hispanic community and the children deserve a school that represents an American Hero like Chavez," Flores said.

Others waiting in the restau-

rant were businessmen and women from the local area and from Houston who felt that for Hillary to win the Democratic nomination she had to win Texas. They also felt happy that Hillary made the effort to meet with the local Hispanic leaders because it showed that she as well as the other candidates knew that the Hispanic vote was going to play an important role in this and future elections.

President Clinton spent about an hour with the Hispanic leaders before leaving for the large rally downtown. As he left the meeting, cheers of "Viva Clinton" and "Viva Hillary" greeted him.

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