



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** 4/3/2012

**Prepared By/Phone Number:** Lisa Block, Emergency Services, 854-7954

**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Danny Hobby

**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

### **AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

APPROVE PROCLAMATION OF THE MONTH OF APRIL 2012 WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH AND RECOGNIZE RELATED EVENTS IN TRAVIS COUNTY AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS OF TRAVIS COUNTY TO REMEMBER THE 2011 FIRES, BECOME FIRE WISE AND IMPLEMENT NECESSARY CHANGES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF LOSS FROM WILDFIRE.

### **BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:**

Promote Wildfire Awareness Month beginning with a joint press conference with the City of Austin on April 6, this Friday. Also promote awareness by recognizing related events in Travis County. Other promotion efforts will include a press release about the month, a series of Facebook promotional posts and Twitter promotional tweets, Web postings, and media interviews of topic experts, as requested.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

NA

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:** Further media and public knowledge of the risk of wildfire and what they can do to stop it before it starts. Use new Emergency Services social media tools to promote the month.

### **FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

NA

### **REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

Fire Marshal's Office	Hershel Lee	Completed	4/27/2012 3:30 PM
Emergency Services	Danny Hobby	Completed	4/27/2012 3:30 PM

**AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE:** All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, [Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us) by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.

# Travis County Commissioners Court



# Proclamation

WHEREAS, Travis County is a diverse and dynamic place to live, work and recreate, with equally diverse ecological environments, the vast appeal of this location has led to extensive growth and development. The result is an ever increasing urban and wild land interface; and

WHEREAS, this provides ideal conditions for severe wildfire risk, as demonstrated by the 2011 historic fires, because of the habitat and prevalent species of plant growth typical for this region; and

WHEREAS, according to the Texas Interagency Coordinating Council, during Fiscal Year 2011, there were 30,537 fires, statewide, that burned 3,993,716 acres in Texas; and

WHEREAS, by applying contemporary fire wise concepts – making basic modifications, as needed, to landscapes and structures, entire communities can drastically reduce the risk of loss from wildfire; and

WHEREAS, although county authority to require such modifications is very limited, public safety personnel can and do work cooperatively with neighbors and raise the awareness of the wild fire hazard and offer simple solutions to mitigate this widespread risk; and

WHEREAS, the key to understanding the dangers of wildfire is through education and awareness, and past experiences have demonstrated that a well-informed and prepared public can take actions to prevent fires from starting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF APRIL 2012 WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH AND RECOGNIZE RELATED EVENTS IN TRAVIS COUNTY AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS OF TRAVIS COUNTY TO REMEMBER THE 2011 FIRES, BECOME FIRE WISE AND IMPLEMENT NECESSARY CHANGES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF LOSS FROM WILDFIRE.

Signed and entered this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2012.

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SAMUEL T. BISCOE  
Travis County Judge

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RON DAVIS  
Commissioner, Pct. 1

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SARAH ECKHARDT  
Commissioner, Pct. 2

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KAREN HUBER  
Commissioner, Pct. 3

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MARGARET GOMEZ  
Commissioner, Pct. 4