



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** 8/28/2012

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

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

**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** County Commissioner Karen Huber

### **AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

APPROVE PROCLAMATION OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2012 NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH IN TRAVIS COUNTY AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS OF TRAVIS COUNTY TO REMEMBER THE 2011 FIRES ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, BECOME FIRE WISE AND IMPLEMENT NECESSARY CHANGES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF LOSS FROM WILDFIRE, HURRICANES, FLOODS AND OTHER DISTRUCTIVE EVENTS THAT CAN IMPACT THE COUNTY.

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

Promote National Preparedness Month through the County proclamation and recognition of the one-year anniversary of the 2011 Labor Day fires. Promote emergency preparedness through social media efforts on Facebook and Twitter and by recognizing related events in Travis County, such as Firewise national designation for Steiner Ranch and Barton Creek Lakeside. (Other Travis County communities that became Firewise in 2012 include, Jonestown, Lago Vista and Sunset Valley. The Estates at the Overlook, Long Canyon, West Lake Hills, The Reserve at Lake Travis, River Place and Meadow Mountain have previously obtained Firewise designation.) Include emergency preparedness information on County Web pages, and provide topic experts for media interviews, as requested.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

NA

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:** Further media and public knowledge of the risk of wildfire and other natural disasters and what they can do to prepare for emergencies. Use Emergency Services social media tools, the County Web and emergency preparedness events to promote the month.

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

NA

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

Fire Marshal's Office	Hershel Lee	Completed	8/22/2012
Emergency Services	Danny Hobby	Completed	8/22/2012

**WHEREAS**, September is National Preparedness Month, a time set aside annually to encourage Americans to take necessary steps to prepare for any and all emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the anniversary of last year's wildfires is a reminder that we should become and remain prepared for emergencies in Travis County. Wildfires, tornadoes, and flashfloods all have the potential for massive destruction to Travis County and its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, this event aims to increase public awareness concerning the importance of preparing for emergencies and to persuade individuals to take action; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of September, the Travis County Department of Emergency Services will urge residents to take measures to make themselves and their families better prepared for emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, being prepared includes creating an emergency supply kit containing items that will allow you and your family to survive for at least three days in the event of an emergency, developing a plan that addresses sheltering in place or evacuating the area, staying informed about different threats that could affect your community; and

**WHEREAS**, those who are prepared for emergencies recover faster and can help others who also may be affected, demonstrating community spirit in the face of adversity; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous communities in Travis County are recognized for obtaining the national designation of *Firewise* Communities, by making their neighborhoods and properties less likely to be damaged by wildfire; and

**WHEREAS**, Travis County's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal responsibility to increase their emergency preparedness efforts by following their example and the advice of programs such as *Ready, Set, Go!*;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Travis County Commissioners Court, do hereby recognize September 2012 as **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH** in **TRAVIS COUNTY**, a time to remember and a time to prepare, and we

encourage all citizens to be ready for emergencies by taking steps to prepare for emergencies at home, at work and in our community.

SIGNED AND ENTERED ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 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