



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: September 25, 2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: Caryl Colburn, CES Director – 854-4618

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Roger Jefferies, County Executive, JPS – 854-4759

Commissioners Court Sponsor: County Judge, Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 2012 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

On behalf of the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force, CES requests that October 2012, the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), be observed in Travis County by the Commissioners Court by reading the attached proclamation (see Attachment A). The proclamation recognizes all domestic violence victims and the work being done to eliminate this offense in Travis County.

It is important that more awareness is brought to the destruction domestic violence brings to our families and to the community at large, so we can speak out against this violent crime with one voice. More awareness and education will bring about a common philosophy we can share to support the efforts currently being made by the Austin/Travis County Task Force members to reduce this crime and also to support future endeavors to do away with this egregious offense.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends that the DVAM Proclamation be read at Commissioners Court to the Travis County community on September 25, 2012.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: This is an opportunity to encourage all to participate in activities being planned in Austin/Travis County for DVAM such as, the Stand Up for Safe Families Paddle Parade on Lady Bird Lake, October 4th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; The "Football is a contact sport. Love shouldn't be" campaign sponsored by Sheriff Greg Hamilton, Travis County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Advocacy Project, the school districts in Travis County, Austin ISD, Del Valle ISD, Eanes ISD, Lake Travis ISD, Manor ISD, and Pflugerville ISD who will place a Purple Ribbon on the helmets of their varsity football players in October. Announcements will be made before and during each game recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and thanking the football players for uniting together to bring awareness to Domestic Violence.

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 by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: The only fiscal impact to the county is the cost of having 100 domestic violence posters printed in the print shop.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Roger Jefferies, County Executive, JPS - 44579

Caryl Colburn, CES Director - 44618

Gretta Gardner, CES Domestic Violence Director – 45484

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Travis County Counseling & Education Services

Caryl Clarke Colburn, Director, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767 (512) 854-9540

WHEREAS

The family is the foundation of a safe and healthy community. It is Travis County's goal for our citizens to be safe outside of their homes *and* inside of their homes;

WHEREAS

The problem of domestic violence affects all citizens of Travis County crossing all racial, social, religious, ethnic, geographic, and economic groups;

WHEREAS

There were six domestic violence related homicides in 2011;

WHEREAS

Domestic/sexual violence is an immense problem in Travis County, where in 2011, SafePlace received 15,711 hotline calls; 812 victims received emergency shelter; 1,757 victims received 26, 043 hours of counseling; and 5,479 victims received safety and healing services.

WHEREAS

The Travis County Attorney's Office, by and through its Protective Order Division, was granted 887 temporary *ex parte* orders and 663 final protection orders in 2011;

WHEREAS

The Travis County Attorney's Office, by and through its Family Violence Unit, received 3,411 misdemeanor family violence cases in 2011, and filed 3,269 of those cases;

WHEREAS

Domestic violence is widespread, including 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will be victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime;

Now THEREFORE

In recognition of the impact that domestic violence has on the health and well being of our community, I, Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge for the Travis County Commissioners Court, do hereby proclaim October 2012 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Further I reaffirm the commitment of Travis County to reduce violence in our homes, as well as on our streets, I urge all citizens to participate in the activities planned by the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force, SafePlace, and community organizations during this month. Also, let us remember the victims of domestic violence, celebrate survivors, and work together to eliminate violence from our community.