



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: OCTOBER 9, 2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: MARK SAWA, 854-9758
MAJOR, ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT BUREAU
TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: GREG HAMILTON, SHERIFF

Commissioners Court Sponsor: COMMISSIONER RON DAVIS

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

- A. RECOGNIZE THE 2011 "LEAP OF THE HEROES" WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT (SHOW VIDEO)
- B. ANNOUNCE THE 2012 "LEAP OF THE HEROES" WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT NOVEMBER 9, 2012 OUTREACH PROJECT.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

MEMO AND FLYER

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONTINUE THE OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

THE "LEAP OF THE HEROES" TANDEM SKY-DIVE IS FOR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN DESIGNED TO HONOR AND EMPOWER OUR AMERICAN HEROES.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

THERE IS NO FISCAL IMPACT. THE PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

MARK SAWA, MAJOR – SHERIFF'S ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT BUREAU
854-9758

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



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October 3, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Sam Biscoe, County Judge
Honorable Ron Davis, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Honorable Sarah Eckhardt, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Honorable Karen Huber, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Honorable Margaret Gomez, Commissioner, Precinct 4

FROM: Sheriff Greg Hamilton

SUBJECT: Wounded Warriors Project "Leap of the Heroes!"

On October 7th 2011, the Travis County Sheriffs Office and Skydive San Marcos hosted an event which we titled, "The Leap of the Heroes II." This event was the second Leap of the Heroes event that occurred in consecutive years at Skydive San Marcos in Fentress, Texas. As you may remember, this event is primarily about providing tandem skydives to Wounded Warriors, however, as it turned out, it became far more than that. The sense of accomplishment and service felt by the members of the Travis County Sheriffs Office, the staff at Skydive San Marcos, students and staff of the Irene Mendez Elementary School and the many police officers and spectators who attend the event was indescribable.

The annual Leap of the Heroes event started off with multiple police agencies meeting at the San Marcos Police Department. The Wounded Warriors caravanned from the Center for the Intrepid in San Antonio (CFI) and joined their partners in Law Enforcement the SMPD. From there a police escort, which stretched well over a mile and involved Police from all over Central Texas, escorted the Wounded Warriors, their families and their staff through the City of San Marcos, Texas to an Elementary School in the heart of San Marcos. At the Irene Mendez Elementary School, the Warriors met with over 300 students that presented them with cards and letters that they personally designed for the Warriors. During the past two events, the students sang the song, "Proud to be an American," and there was not a dry eye in the group of cops, teachers or Warriors in attendance. From the school, the Police escorted the Warriors to Skydive San Marcos. En-route to the dropzone, the City of San Marcos literally came to a standstill as the police escort rolled through their town. After arriving at the dropzone, the Warriors were treated to a tandem skydive, a DVD of the Warriors skydive and digital photographs of the event. Everyone that attended the event was treated to a BBQ lunch that was prepared by an award winning BBQ Team. Every penny of the event was funded by donations from members of the Sheriffs Office, community donations and sponsors. By the end

of the day we fed about 300 people and we had slightly over that number in attendance. The past two events were thoroughly covered by the electronic and written media; to the degree that several news stations not only made it their top story for the day, they provided live feeds from the dropzone during the day! It was an unbelievable success.

We put together a video compilation of both events. Those videos are available for your viewing pleasure on You Tube or I will provide you copies at your request.

The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is a non-profit organization devoted to helping wounded warriors by raising public awareness and offering programs to rehabilitate and reintegrate injured service members from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Specifically, the "Leap of the Heroes" tandem sky-dive is for those wounded warriors and it is designed to honor and empower these heroes.

On November 9, 2012 the Travis County Sheriffs Office and Skydive San Marcos will again host the Wounded Warriors Project, "Leap of Heroes III." Numerous Central Texas law enforcement agencies and the Irene K. Mendez Elementary school will once again participate in making this yet another unforgettable event.



Safety, Integrity, Tradition of Service