



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** October 16, 2012

**Prepared By/Phone Number:** Melissa Velasquez, County Judge's Office  
**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge  
**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

### **AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

Consider and take appropriate action regarding Travis County Combined Charities Campaign for 2012.

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

On September 4, 2012, the County Judge's Office was notified that our current fiscal agent, Austin Community Foundation, would not be able to provide services for next year's campaign that runs from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. In an attempt to find a quick replacement the County Judge's Office contacted EarthShare of Texas, the City of Austin's Fiscal Agent. EarthShare considered our request, but due to changes in their organization, they had to decline.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

Last year Travis County collected more than \$211,114.22.

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

n/a

### **REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

n/a

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](mailto:agenda@co.travis.tx.us) by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

Updated 10-11-12 at 3:30pm

From: MariBen Ramsey <mbramsey@austincf.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 10:11 PM  
To: Melissa Velasquez  
Cc: MariBen Ramsey  
Subject: Travis County Combined Charities Campaign

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Melissa-

I understand you are handling the Travis County Combined Charities Campaign. My name is MariBen Ramsey. I am the Vice President & General Counsel of the Austin Community Foundation. For the last four years, we have served as the non-profit processor for the Travis County Combined Charities Campaign. We became the processor for the 2008 campaign after the consultant engaged to operate the campaign did not have a non-profit organization that the funds could be paid to by the County. The charity processor then pays funds to the designated charities. We agreed to help out when this happened in 2008 and have done the processing ever since.

Today, we are restructuring here at the Austin Community Foundation. We are changing a variety of things, including minimum size of grants we make, etc. The result is that we will finish the distributions from the 2011 campaign, but we would like Travis County to locate another "vendor" for the distributions to begin in 2013 from the 2012 Campaign. How can we go about this transition?

MariBen Ramsey  
Vice President & General Counsel  
512.472.4483

Sent from my iPad

Updated 10-11-12 at 3:30pm

From: EarthShare of Texas <estx@earthshare-texas.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 7:04 PM  
To: Melissa Velasquez  
Cc: John Hille  
Subject: RE: Charities campaign for Travis County Government employees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
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Melissa,

We have a board meeting this Friday and I had planned to add this to the agenda.

EarthShare of Texas is in a period of transition. I will be leaving effective October 15th and we will have all new staff after that time. I do not think we will be able to serve in this capacity this year. However, it is tempting, as we have worked closely with Travis County and previous campaign managers and fiscal agents and really enjoyed the Travis County employees and campaign. Y'all have a great program.

I understand you may need to move on and solicit help elsewhere.

Please keep us in mind for future campaign years.

Best,

Edie

EarthShare of Texas  
1301 South Interstate 35, Suite 314  
Austin, Texas 78741  
512-472-5518  
800-GREENTX  
Facsimile: 512-472-4930  
www.earthshare-texas.org

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From: Melissa Velasquez [mailto:Melissa.Velasquez@co.travis.tx.us]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 9:38 AM  
To: EarthShare of Texas  
Cc: John Hille  
Subject: RE: Charities campaign for Travis County Government employees

Edie, I'm just following up on my previous email that contained additional information about Travis County's Combined Charities campaign. Have you had a chance to consider acting as the fiscal agent for Travis County?

Thank you,

Melissa Velasquez  
Executive Assistant