

ITEM 4



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: November 13, 2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: Christy Moffett 854-3460

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:

Sherri E. Fleming, County Executive of Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Approve proclamation regarding Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to be held November 10, 2012 through November 17, 2012 at various locations throughout Travis County.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

The Ending Chronic Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) is hosting Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This is an annual event that includes a week of events designed to educate the Austin community on the root causes of hunger and homelessness in Central Texas. This week of events will be held Saturday, November 10 through Saturday, November 17, 2012.

To learn more about ECHO's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, visit: <http://www.austinecho.org/hhweek/>.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval of the proclamation.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is the largest annual event that connects policy makers, local business leaders, service providers, faith based organizations, and community members to engage in implementing active solutions and prevention methods for hunger and homelessness in Central Texas.

The *Hunger by the Numbers: A Blueprint for Ending Hunger in Texas Report* indicates that 158,270 Travis County residents experienced a time in the previous year when they had difficulty meeting their food needs,

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placing them at risk of hunger. Furthermore, ECHO's 2012 homeless count showed that there were 2,244 homeless people in Travis County, with a little less than half of those people counted in shelters.

The Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week calls attention to those less fortunate while furthering ECHO's vision to create a community fiercely focused on ending homelessness.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

None.

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Travis County Commissioners Court



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) of Austin/Travis County is hosting Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week;

WHEREAS, ECHO's 2012 homeless count showed that there were 2,244 homeless people in Travis County, with a little less than half of those people counted in shelters;

WHEREAS, 158,270 Travis County residents experienced a time in the previous year when they had difficulty meeting their food needs placing them at risk of hunger;

WHEREAS, The National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness co-sponsor Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week nationally;

WHEREAS, ECHO organizes and executes the activities of Travis County's contribution to Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, to be held in 2012 from November 10th to November 17th;

WHEREAS, the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week calls attention to those less fortunate while furthering ECHO's vision to create a community fiercely focused on ending homelessness;

WHEREAS, this week will include events that advocate for the homeless who face economic, psychological devastation and lack the means for the provision of their basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the Travis County Commissioners Court and ECHO are dedicated to ending homelessness and eliminating the effects of poverty in Travis County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT TO OBSERVE NOVEMBER 10 – 17, 2012 AS

"HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK"

AND ENCOURAGE ALL WHO ARE COMMITTED TO ENDING HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS IN TRAVIS COUNTY TO SUPPORT THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT AND ECHO'S EFFORTS TO END HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS IN TRAVIS COUNTY.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS _____ DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

SARAH ECKHARDT
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

KAREN HUBER
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4