



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: April 2, 2013
Prepared By/Phone Number: Cheryl Brown, 854-9555
Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: County Judge
Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

APPROVE PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2013 AS "LIGHT OF HOPE – NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH" IN TRAVIS COUNTY.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Approval of this request will not impact the County Budget.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

None

Travis County Commissioners Court



Proclamation

WHEREAS, A society is judged not by how it serves its most powerful members, but by how it protects its most vulnerable members. Every child has a right to live in good health, learn and grow in a safe environment, receive care and protection and develop a positive self-image;

WHEREAS, "Light of Hope" began several years ago as a candlelight ceremony commemorating April as National Child Abuse Awareness Month. It continues to be a collaborative effort of the Travis County Sheriff's Office and local service organizations that are united by the mission of protecting children;

WHEREAS, Surveys have shown that although a majority of Americans believe that everyone should play a role in stopping child abuse, many people admit to witnessing child abuse and doing nothing about it. The reasons for not reporting abuse include not knowing where to call and incorrect assumptions regarding what will happen once a report is made to police or a child protective services agency;

WHEREAS, Last year, Child Protective Services found that 7,991 investigations were completed; there were 3,045 confirmed victims of abuse/neglect; 2 deaths and 647 children removed from their homes in 2012 due to abuse or neglect and 4,036 children were in substitute care;

WHEREAS, Child abuse, like any type of violence, does not discriminate. It occurs within every ethnic, religious and socio-economic group. Our entire community must increase its awareness of present day problems and the resulting impact on children;

WHEREAS, On Thursday, April 11, 2013 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, the Travis County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services along with other community partners will hold our Light of Hope celebration at the Carver Library;

WHEREAS, The theme for this year's Child Abuse Awareness Month is "Be The Light In A Child's Life";

WHEREAS, "Child Abuse Prevention Month" is a perfect opportunity for the community to come together with "Light of Hope" and the Travis County Sheriff's Office to promote the prevention of child abuse and neglect, increase the understanding of its causes and encourage the community to use available resources to protect Travis County children; and

WHEREAS, When we provide for our children, we provide for their future and our future as well. Together as a community, we can truly make a difference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF APRIL AS:

"LIGHT OF HOPE - NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH"

IN TRAVIS COUNTY, AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT "LIGHT OF HOPE" AND THE TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN THE CRUSADE TO END CHILD ABUSE.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 2ND DAY OF APRIL, 2013.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, Pct. 1

SARAH ECKHARDT
COMMISSIONER, Pct. 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, Pct. 3

MARGARET GOMEZ
COMMISSIONER, Pct. 4