



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: December 3, 2013
Prepared By/Phone Number: David Salazar, Executive Assistant
512-854-9558

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: County Judge's Office
Commissioners Court Sponsor:

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

APPROVE RESOLUTION HONORING GAIL RICE ON HER RETIREMENT FROM SAFEPLACE FOR HER SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF TRAVIS COUNTY.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Please see Proposed Resolution attached.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

WHEREAS, Charlotte “Gail” Rice has worked to make Travis County a safer place for the survivors of domestic and sexual violence, since joining the staff of the Austin’s Center for Battered Women in 1983, which later became SafePlace;

WHEREAS, Gail’s dedication to ending domestic and sexual violence helped establish effective community collaborations and responses to survivors of these crimes in Austin and Travis County, and has been instrumental in coordinating more effective services for survivors;

WHEREAS, Ms. Rice’s efforts led to Travis County’s being chosen as one of eight teams from across the United States to receive intensive training and technical assistance on the investigation and prosecution of non-stranger sexual assault cases, leading to far-reaching enhancements in training law enforcement and prosecutors, and education provided to every local Grand Jury;

WHEREAS, in her current position as Director of Community Advocacy for SafePlace, Gail is responsible for building cooperative working relationships with systems of law enforcement, courts, hospitals, and educational and community organizations;

WHEREAS, Ms. Rice brings grace, intelligence, wit, and a collaborative spirit to her work, training thousands of law enforcement, court officials and other key stakeholders, counseling and advocating for countless domestic and sexual violence victims, and providing expert testimony in many legal cases;

WHEREAS, Gail is committed to identifying and exploring the middle ground, resulting in innumerable benefits to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and our community as a whole;

WHEREAS, Gail is a recognized leader and teacher in our community, one who freely works with and shares her expertise and knowledge with others, so that they may better serve victims of violence and work to prevent these devastating crimes;

WHEREAS, she has deservedly received a number of awards from the County’s community partners including the Distinguished Service Award from the City of Austin for her longstanding dedication and service; and

WHEREAS, after 31 years of devotion to providing the highest quality services and responses to serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence, Ms. Rice has announced her intention to retire.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY COMMEND GAIL RICE FOR HER SERVICE AND VISION, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE MADE TRAVIS COUNTY A SAFER AND BETTER PLACE FOR THE SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THEIR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 3rd DAY OF DECEMBER, 2013.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

BRUCE TODD
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

MARGARET J. GOMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4