



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: December 20, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number: Sara Krause/512-854-9230

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Commissioner Bruce Todd

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Commissioner Bruce Todd

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Consider and take appropriate action on the appointment of Mike Howe to the Emergency Services District #2 Board of Commissioners for the two year term beginning 1/1/2014.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS: See attached letter and biography.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: N/A

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS: N/A

November 26, 2013

Honorable Bruce Todd
Travis County Commissioner Precinct 2
PO Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

Dear Commissioner Todd:

I am writing to request to be appointed to an upcoming vacancy on the Board of Directors of Travis County ESD#2, which serves northern Travis County including Wells Branch and the City of Pflugerville.

As a continuing resident of Wells Branch for nearly 30-years, I served as Treasurer of ESD #2 for eighteen years until January of 2012. Since then, I have remained active with ESD #2 including helping to establish and now serving as President of the Pfirst In Foundation to help solicit community support for the Fire Department.

During my previous tenure on the Board, the Board managed the expansion of ESD # 2 during the major growth of the community and successfully met the growing demand for services while building a very solid reserve fund. We also were successful in securing an additional one-half cent sales tax from the voters to continue to support the fire fighters and the community. These factors have allowed ESD #2 to sustain operations during the recent downturn but the economic impacts of the last few years have illustrated the need for additional funding mechanisms for the future.

I also represented all ESDs on the Austin-Travis County EMS Transition Team which resulted in the first contract between Austin and Travis County for EMS Service. Since then, I remained engaged in the ongoing issues and efforts to bring an equitable resolution to meeting the increased demand for EMS services throughout Travis County.

I believe my record of service and commitment to the residents of North Travis County are evident and I would appreciate your consideration for this appointment.

Sincerely,


Mike Howe

Mike Howe, Executive Director
Texas Section AWWA
P.O. Box 80150
Austin, TX 78708
512-238-9292
512-238-0496 FAX
mikehowe@tawwa.org

Mike Howe has been Executive Director of the 3,300 member Texas Section of the American Water Works Association since 1997. The organization sets standards for protection of public health in drinking water systems and represents utilities and suppliers to the water industry.

In 2005, after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Mr. Howe developed the TXWARN utility to utility mutual aid program in conjunction with a number of other water and wastewater associations in Texas.

Mike's previous work included over eight years with the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility and the Austin City Manager's Office. Prior to his work with the City, he was a producer/director for KVUE Television. He is a nationally recognized expert and instructor in risk communication as well as a trained public policy mediator and negotiator.

Mike has lived in the Austin area for over 45 years, and is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Communication. He served six years as the president of the Wells Branch Municipal Utility District, eighteen years as the Treasurer of Travis County ESD #2, and was the Charter President of the State Association of Fire and Emergency Services Districts, or SAFE-D, the only organization in Texas approved to provide training to ESD Commissioners Statewide.

He and his wife Donna live in Wells Branch and have three grown children.