



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: January 21, 2014

Prepared By/Phone Number: Melissa Velasquez, Judge's Office, x49555

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

APPROVE PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2014 AS "MENTORING MONTH" IN TRAVIS COUNTY. (JUDGE BISCOE)

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Judge Biscoe's Office is working with Leroy Nellis, retired county employee, to bring forward a proclamation recognizing mentoring month in Travis County.

Leroy Nellis will be present to discuss opportunities for residents and employees to become involved in mentoring.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend approval.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

n/a

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

n/a

WHEREAS, the education of the children of Travis County, Texas is one of the most important priorities in the county because that education will prepare our children to be future leaders, scientists, doctors, scholars, citizens, judges and County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, all elementary, middle and high school students living in Travis County benefit greatly when community volunteers work in their schools;

WHEREAS, teachers and staff in Austin, Pflugerville, Del Valle and Eanes Independents School Districts welcome the involvement of community volunteers;

WHEREAS, community volunteers working in schools are known to improve the attendance, the academic performance, the behavior, and the overall atmosphere of schools that help students envision their individual and academic goals, model effective study habits, improve students' organizational skills, assist students with homework and test preparation, and encourage them to pursue high levels of achievement;

WHEREAS, Austin Partners in Education and the Seedling Foundation have developed programs which can be customized to support both community volunteers and children;

WHEREAS, Travis County has an estimated 4,700 children who have one or both parents who are incarcerated and who are six to ten times more likely than their peers to end up in the juvenile or adult justice systems; and

WHEREAS, many children in Travis County schools require intensive support and encouragement that can be best provided in a small group setting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners Court of Travis County hereby expresses its support of these programs, honors the community volunteers who give unselfishly of their time and their gifts, and declares January as

“Mentoring Month”

in Travis County. The Commissioners Court encourages Travis County employees to volunteer to work with students in such programs and instructs supervisors of employees to allow Travis County employees to use a flexible approach to their daily schedule so that volunteering in our community’s schools would be possible. The Commissioners court further invites all elected and appointed officials of Travis County both to participate themselves as volunteers in the schools and to encourage the employees in their offices to become involved as mentors or classroom coaches.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 21ST DAY OF JANUARY, 2014.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
Travis County Judge

RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Pct. 1

BRUCE TODD
Commissioner, Pct. 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
Commissioner, Pct. 3

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4