



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: February 11, 2014

Prepared By/Phone Number: Laramie Gorbett-48456

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Greg Hamilton *GH*

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

APPROVE PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014 AS "V-DAY" IN TRAVIS COUNTY.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

On February 14, 2013, one billion people in 207 countries rose and danced to demand an end to violence against women and girls. On February 14, 2014 we are calling on women and men in Travis County and everywhere to RISE, RELEASE, DANCE and demand JUSTICE.

ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE is a global call to women survivors of violence and those who love them to gather safely in community outside places where they are entitled to justice-courthouses, police stations, government offices, school administration buildings, work places, sites of environmental injustice, military courts, embassies, places of worship, homes or simply public gathering places where women deserve to feel safe but too often do not. It is a call to survivors to break the silence and release their stories-politically, spiritually, outrageously-through art, dance, marches, ritual, song, spoken word, testimonies and whatever way feels right.

Austin/Travis County will be part of the One Billion Rising for Justice in solidarity with our sisters and brothers from all over the world this V-DAY. WE will Rise up against violence in our homes, schools, workplace, streets, institutions and community. WE will speak, sing, dance, and scream no more! WE will celebrate our strengths and vision, and challenge everyone to get involved in this movement that affects each and every one of us. There will be speakers from leaders in the local non-violence movement, activists, and survivors. Performances from local artists, dancers and The Vagina Monologues cast members. WE will educate, excite, escalate, and engender change!

One Billion Rising For Justice Austin, TX

February 14th 2014 4-6pm

Austin City Hall Plaza

301 W 2nd St

Austin, TX 78701

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend approval.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials should be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, agenda@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

None

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

None

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WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, gender, and socio-economic levels;

WHEREAS, domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women – more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined;

WHEREAS, men who as children witnessed incidents of domestic violence were twice as likely to abuse their own wives than sons of nonviolent parents;

WHEREAS, 114 women in Texas died in 2011 due to domestic violence and 15,694 children received non-residential treatment;

WHEREAS, domestic violence costs the nation an excess of 5.8 billion dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity;

WHEREAS, 11.7 million women and 2.1 million men have been forced to have sex during their lifetime;

WHEREAS, everyday two people report being raped or sexually assaulted in Austin and 90% of Travis County sexual assault survivors know the person who assaulted them; and

WHEREAS, V-Day calls on women, men, and communities everywhere to rise in defiance and in celebration, showing the world the strength of global solidarity and the power of art to educate, transform and transpire.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014 AS

“V-DAY IN TRAVIS COUNTY”

AND INVITE RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES PLANNED AND SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, SAFEPLACE, SAHELI, V-DAY ESPANOL, THE AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S VICTIM'S SERVICES OFFICE, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY THE “ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE” EVENTS AND V-DAY PERFORMANCES OF THE AUSTIN COMMUNITY PRODUCTION OF THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES AS WE COME TOGETHER IN RECOGNITION OF THE ADVERSE IMPACT THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT HAS ON THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT HEALING FOR ITS SURVIVORS.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS ____ DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

BRUCE TODD
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

For Immediate Release

ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE is a call to women, men, and youth around the world to gather safely on 14 February 2014 outside places where they are entitled to justice – court houses, police stations, government offices, school administration buildings, work places, sites of environmental injustice, military courts, embassies, places of worship, homes, or simply public gathering places where women deserve to feel safe but too often do not.

The path to justice begins with acknowledging how violence is enabled and perpetuated – calling out where endemic patriarchy and institutionalized misogyny creates a barrier to real justice for survivors. One Billion Rising For Justice will focus the worlds’ attention on the issue of justice for all survivors of gender violence, and on ending the rampant impunity that prevails globally.

One Billion Rising For Justice Austin, TX
February 14th 2014 4-6pm
Austin City Hall Plaza
301 W 2nd St
Austin, TX 78701

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<https://www.facebook.com/#!/vday.austin>

<http://www.onebillionrising.org/>

