



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: April 1, 2014
Prepared By/Phone Number: Cheryl Brown, Executive Assistant
Office of the Travis County Judge
512-854-9555

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

Commissioners Court Sponsor:

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

APPROVE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK FROM APRIL 6 THROUGH APRIL 12, 2014 AND HONORING THE STATEWIDE COALITION FOR HOSTING THE 30TH ANNUAL EVENT IN TRAVIS COUNTY.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Please see attached.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

WHEREAS, The Crime Victims' Rights Movement in the United States is founded on the idea that, FROM the late modern period up to 1970, the American justice system strayed too far from its victim-centric origins. Since then, the movement has worked to give victims a more meaningful role in criminal proceedings, aiming at the inclusion of "the individual victim as a legally recognized participant with rights, interests, and a voice";

WHEREAS, In 1984, the Crime Victims Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act to provide a permanent source of support for crime victim services and compensation through fines and penalties paid by convicted offenders;

WHEREAS, The Crime Victim Fund today supports thousands of victim assistance programs that provide help and support to child victims of violence and sexual abuse, stalking victims, survivors of homicide victims, victims of drunk-driving cases, and victims of domestic, dating and sexual violence and other crimes;

WHEREAS, Victims' Rights are legal rights afforded to victims of crimes, which include the right to restitution, the right not to be excluded from criminal justice proceedings, and the right to speak at criminal justice proceedings;

WHEREAS, The most important solution to address crime victimization in Travis County, our state and our nation is a collective understanding of the devastating emotional, physical, financial, spiritual and social impact of crime on survivors, and a collective commitment to provide support and services to victims in need of help;

WHEREAS, Crime Victims' Rights Coalition of Texas will observe April 6 through 12, 2014 as "Crime Victim's Right Week" Texas, and will commemorate the 30 - year Anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act in 1984. This year's theme is "30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice"; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that residents of Travis County join forces with victim services providers, criminal justice agencies and other concerned entities to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 6 THROUGH 12, 2014 AS

“CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK”

IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS AND URGE ALL RESIDENTS OF TRAVIS COUNTY TO JOIN US IN COMMENDING THE TEXAS CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS COALITION FOR ITS STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO ENSURING THAT CRIME VICTIMS ARE AFFORDED THE SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES THEY SO RICHLY DESERVE.

Signed and entered on this 1st day of April, 2014.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
County Judge

RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Pct. 1

BRUCE TODD
Commissioner, Pct. 2

GERALD DAUGHTERTY
Commissioner, Pct. 3

MARGARET GOMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4