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 PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2014 AS “LIGHT OF HOPE – NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH” 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, A society is judged not by how it serves its most powerful members, but by how it protects its most vulnerable members. Every child has a right to live in good health, learn and grow in a safe environment, receive care and protection and develop a positive self-image;

WHEREAS, "Light of Hope" began several years ago as a candlelight ceremony commemorating April as National Child Abuse Awareness Month. It continues to be a collaborative effort of the Travis County Sheriff's Office and local service organizations that are united by the mission of protecting children;

WHEREAS, Surveys have shown that although a majority of Americans believe that everyone should play a role in stopping child abuse, many people admit to witnessing child abuse and doing nothing about it. The reasons for not reporting abuse include not knowing where to call and incorrect assumptions regarding what will happen once a report is made to police or a child protective services agency;

WHEREAS, In FY 2013, there were **66,398** confirmed victims of child abuse/neglect Statewide in Texas. Of those, **2645** were in Travis County. **Five** children died due to abuse/neglect and **639** children entered CPS substitute care in Travis County;

WHEREAS, Child abuse, like any type of violence, does not discriminate. It occurs within every ethnic, religious and socio-economic group. Our entire community must increase its awareness of present day problems and the resulting impact on children;

WHEREAS, On Thursday, April 10, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, the Travis County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services along with other community partners will hold a Light of Hope celebration at the Carver Library;

WHEREAS, The theme for this year's Child Abuse Awareness Month is "Be The Light In A Child's Life";

WHEREAS, "Child Abuse Prevention Month" is a perfect opportunity for the community to come together with "Light of Hope" and the Travis County Sheriff's Office to promote the prevention of child abuse and neglect, increase the understanding of its causes and encourage the community to use available resources to protect Travis County children;

WHEREAS, Travis County has a model response to child abuse in our community. In conjunction with the Travis County Sheriff Office and Child Protective Services, the team includes: Austin Police Department, Austin Independent School District Police, Center for Child Protection, Dell Children's Medical Center of Texas, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Travis County District Attorney's Office, police departments of Elgin Jonestown, Lago Vista, Lakeway, Leander, Manor, Mustang Ridge and Pflugerville**,** Pflugerville Independent School District, Rollingwood, Sunset Valley, University of Texas at Austin and Westlake Hills; and

WHEREAS, When we provide for our children, we provide for their future and our future as well. Together as a community, we can truly make a difference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF APRIL AS:

"LIGHT OF HOPE - NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH"

IN TRAVIS COUNTY, AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT "LIGHT OF HOPE" AND THE TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN THE CRUSADE TO END CHILD ABUSE.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2014.

_____
SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

_____
RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, Pct. 1

_____
BRUCE TODD
COMMISSIONER, Pct. 2

_____
GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, Pct. 3

_____
MARGARET GOMEZ
COMMISSIONER, Pct. 4

Light of Hope

Be the light in a child's life!

Please help Austin stop Child Abuse NOW.
Every child has the right to grow up safe.
Together we can make a difference.

Thursday
APRIL 10
2014
5:00-7:00PM

Carver Branch Library
1611 ANGELINA ST.
AUSTIN, TX
7 8 7 0 2

FREE
FOOD
GIVEAWAYS
FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Questions?
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