



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: May 6, 2014
Prepared By/Phone Number: Rosie Ramón-Durán, 512-854-4608
Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Charles R. Robinson
Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

APPROVE PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY AS NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH AND HONOR THE TRAVIS COUNTY ADULT SUPPORT COURTS INCLUDING THE DRUG DIVERSION COURT, DWI COURT AND VETERANS COURT.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

For over ten years, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals has coordinated National Drug Court Month. Each May, Drug Courts, DWI Courts, and Veterans Treatment Courts celebrate their success and unparalleled contribution to society. National Drug Court Month shines a light on the collective impact of these programs, and sends a powerful message that they are an essential part of the community.

While each year Drug Court month is special, 2014 is a stand-out year as we are also celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Drug Courts. It also gives you the opportunity to put the Travis County Drug Diversion Court, DWI Court and Veterans Court center stage in Travis County during the month of May.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: N/A

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

During this time the Travis County leadership and the community-at-large is asked to recognize and celebrate the dedicated and caring staff who work tirelessly to impact the lives of the Travis County Drug Diversion, DWI and Veterans Court participants. Along with the Judges, the staff work everyday to assist participants in becoming better Travis County residents with productive lives.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS: N/A



PROCLAMATION

In Support of
"National Drug Court Month"

WHEREAS, The month of May has been reserved to recognize the success of Drug Courts, DWI Courts and Veterans Treatment Court, and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the nation's first Drug Court, and

WHEREAS, Over the past twenty-five years Drug Courts have served over 1.4 million individuals; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts are now recognized as the most successful criminal justice intervention in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, Travis County Drug Diversion Court was established on August 2, 1993. Since such time 3,469 individuals have been served, with 1,919 graduates; and

WHEREAS, Travis County DWI Court was established on April 1, 2008. Since such time 257 individuals have been served, with 177 graduates; and

WHEREAS, Travis County Veterans Court held its first docket on November 10, 2010. Since such time 141 individuals have been served, with 67 graduates; and

WHEREAS, Travis County Drug, DWI and Veterans Courts have produced over 2,000 graduates and have impacted not only the individuals, but their families and our community; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce drug abuse and crime, and do so at less expense than any other justice strategy; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts are the cornerstone of criminal justice reform sweeping the nation; and

WHEREAS, The extraordinary expansion of Drug Courts and the principles and practices 25 years ago has helped cause 40 years of escalating prison populations to decline; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts, demonstrate that when one person rises out of drugs and crime, we ALL RISE; and

WHEREAS, The time has come to put a Drug Court within reach of every eligible person in need.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED that, Travis County Commissioners Court, declares that a “Drug Court Month” be established during the Month of May, 2014, recognizing the significant contributions Drug Courts, DWI Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts have made towards reducing substance abuse, crime, and recidivism while saving valuable resources.

IN WITNESS WHERE OF, WE HAVE HERE UNTO SET OUR HANDS THIS ____ DAY OF MAY 2014.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
County Judge

RON DAVIS
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

GERALD DAUGHERTY
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

BRUCE TODD
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
County Commissioner, Pct. 4