



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request Item 4

Meeting Date:

September 30, 2014

Prepared By/Phone Number:

Kelly Page, Director Community Services – (512) 854-4392

Florence Briceño, Executive Assistant, Travis County Sheriff's Office Chief Jim Sylvester - (512) 854-9787

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:

Greg Hamilton, Sheriff *JH*

Commissioners Court Sponsor:

Samuel Biscoe, County Judge

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

The Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force, by and through the Travis County Sheriff's Office requests that October 2014 be proclaimed Domestic Violence Awareness Month in honor of all domestic violence victims and survivors and in support of all the collaborative efforts to not only reduce, but to ultimately end domestic violence in Travis County.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

On behalf of the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force, the Travis County Sheriff's Office requests that the October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), be observed in Travis County by the Travis County Commissioners Court by reading the attached proclamation (see attachment A). The proclamation recognizes all domestic violence victims and the work being done to eliminate this offense in Travis County.

It is imperative for the community to be aware of the devastating impact domestic violence has on families and the community at large, so we can speak out against this violent crime with one voice. More awareness and education will galvanize the community to embrace a unified philosophy and vision on how to end domestic violence and to participate in the initiatives of the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force to achieve this goal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends that the DVAM Proclamation be read to the Travis County community on September 30, 2014 by the Commissioners Court.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

This is an opportunity to spread the word about other activities being planned in Austin/Travis County for the month of October, such as,

- A. Proclamation Recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention month (read resolution).
- B. Discuss the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force (ATCFVTF) "Stand Up for Safe Families Paddle Parade" on Lady Bird Lake, October 1st from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- C. Discuss the TCSO "Football is a Contact Sport. Love Shouldn't Be" campaign. Students in area school districts in Travis, Hays and Bastrop County will unite to bring awareness to Domestic Violence.
- D. Announce SafePlace's Celebration Luncheon on October 23rd from 11:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Austin.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Chief Jim Sylvester
Travis County Sheriff's Office
TCSO, 854-9787

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

WHEREAS

The family is the foundation of a safe and healthy community. It is a goal of our administration for our citizens to be safe outside of their homes *and* inside of their homes;

WHEREAS

The problem of domestic violence affects all citizens of Travis County crossing all racial, social, religious, ethnic, geographic, and economic groups;

WHEREAS

There were nine domestic violence related homicides in 2013;

WHEREAS

Domestic/sexual violence is an immense problem in Travis County, where in 2013, SafePlace received 11,247 hotline calls; 861 victims received emergency shelter; and 1,499 adults and children received 10,763 hours of counseling.

WHEREAS

The Travis County Attorney’s Office, by and through its Protective Order Division, was granted 775 temporary *ex parte* orders and 565 final protection orders in 2013;

WHEREAS

The Travis County Attorney’s Office, by and through its Family Violence Unit, referred 3,192 misdemeanor family violence cases in 2013, and filed 2,645 of those cases;

WHEREAS

Domestic violence is widespread, including 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime;

Now THEREFORE

In recognition of the impact that domestic violence has on the health and well-being of our community, I, Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge for the Travis County Commissioners Court, do hereby proclaim October 2014 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Further I reaffirm the commitment of Travis County in reducing violence in our homes, as well as on our streets, I urge all citizens to participate in the activities planned by the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force, SafePlace, and community organizations during this month. Citizens should also take this opportunity to educate themselves about the impact of domestic violence in Travis County and to become familiar with resources and programs available. This month let us remember the victims of domestic violence, celebrate survivors, and work together to eliminate violence against women and children from our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of Travis County to be affixed on this _____ day of September, 2014.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
County Judge

RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Pct. 1

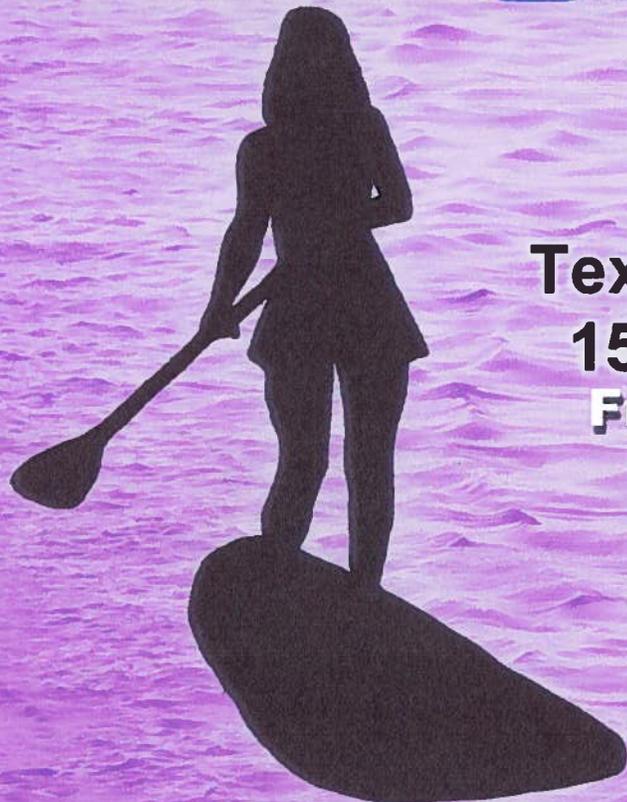
BRUCE TODD
Commissioner, Pct. 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
Commissioner, Pct. 3

MARGARET GOMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4

Stand Up Paddle Parade For Safe Families

Family-Friendly
Face Painting
Wear Purple



October 1, 2014

5:30-7:30 pm

Texas Rowing Center Dock

1541 West Cesar Chavez

Free Paddleboard, Canoe

and Kayak Rentals!



FOOTBALL IS A CONTACT SPORT. LOVE SHOULDN'T BE.

STAND UP

STOP
VIOLENCE

BE THE
CHANGE



OCTOBER IS
NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH