



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: 10/7/2014

Prepared By/Phone Number: Debbie Ties/854-6472

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Hershel Lee, Fire Marshal

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON A PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 5-11, 2014 AS "FIRE PREVENTION WEEK" IN TRAVIS COUNTY.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Hershel Lee

Danny Hobby

Commissioners Court

TRAVIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

HERSHEL LEE, FIRE MARSHAL
P. O. BOX 1748, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
(512) 854-4621, FAX (512) 854-6471



MEMORANDUM

To: Travis County Commissioners Court
From: Hershel Lee, Travis County Fire Marshal
Date: October 7, 2014
Subject: Fire Prevention Week

October 5-11, 2014 is Fire Prevention Week. Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire from 1871. That fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,400 structures.

The focus of Fire Prevention Week in 2014 is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"

- In 2012, home fires killed more than 2,300 people in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 365,000 home fires.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.
- Three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.
- When smoke alarms should have operated but did not do so it was usually because batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead.
- Travis County residents who plan and practice a home fire escape plan are more prepared and be more likely to survive a fire.
- Travis County residents are urged to test their smoke alarms at least every month by pushing the test button.

Travis County Fire Officials want to remind everyone that there are steps they can take to increase their safety from fire in their homes.

Smoke Alarms – PUT A FINGER ON IT!

Travis County Commissioners Court



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Travis County is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our county; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, home fires killed more than 2,300 people in the United States in 2012, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 365,000 home fires; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS, when smoke alarms should have operated but did not do so it was usually because batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead; and

WHEREAS, Travis County's residents should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home; and

WHEREAS, Travis County's residents should install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

WHEREAS, Travis County's residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, Travis County's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Travis County's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!" effectively serves to remind us that we need working smoke alarms to give us the time to get out safely.

THEREFORE, WE, THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM OCTOBER 5-11, 2014, AS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTY, AND WE URGE ALL THE PEOPLE OF TRAVIS COUNTY TO TEST THEIR SMOKE ALARMS AT LEAST EVERY MONTH BY PUSHING THE TEST BUTTON.

SIGNED AND ENTERED ON THE 7TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2014.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
Travis County Judge

RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Pct. 1

BRUCE TODD
Commissioner, Pct. 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
Commissioner, Pct. 3

MARGARET GÓMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4