

# Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2014

**Prepared By/Phone Number:** Christy Moffett, MSSW 512-854-3460

**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Sherri E. Fleming,  
County Executive for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

## **AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

Approve proclamation regarding Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to be held November 15, 2014 through November 23, 2014 in Travis County.

## **BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:**

The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) is hosting Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This is an annual event that includes a week of events designed to educate the Travis County community on the root causes of hunger and homelessness in Central Texas. This week of events will be held Sunday, November 15, 2014 through November 23, 2014.

To learn more about ECHO's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, visit: <http://www.austinecho.org/hhweek/>.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommends approval of the proclamation.

## **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is the largest annual event that connects policy makers, local business leaders, service providers, faith based organizations, and community members to engage in implementing active solutions and prevention methods for hunger and homelessness in Central Texas.

The 2012 Feeding America [report](#) identified that 18.1% of Travis County residents experienced food insecurity, placing them at risk for hunger. Furthermore, ECHO's 2014 homeless count showed that there were 1,987 homeless people in Travis County, with a little less than half of those people counted in shelters.

ECHO volunteers coordinate events that educate participants, raise awareness about relevant, local aspects of hunger and homelessness, and offer opportunities to volunteer, donate, or otherwise get involved with the service agencies and nonprofit



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organizations that are already working against these issues. Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week calls attention to those less fortunate while furthering ECHO's vision to create a community fiercely focused on ending homelessness.

**FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

None

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

None

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

## HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) of Austin is the U.S. Department of Housing and Development's designated Continuum of Care for Austin and Travis County; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness co-sponsor Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week nationally; and

**WHEREAS**, ECHO organizes and executes the activities of Austin's contribution to Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, to be held in 2014 from November 15<sup>th</sup> to November 23<sup>rd</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Travis County and ECHO are both dedicated to ending homelessness in Austin through a Continuum of Care focused on decent, affordable, and permanent housing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT TO OBSERVE NOVEMBER 15 – 23, 2014 AS

“HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK”

AND ENCOURAGE ALL WHO ARE COMMITTED TO ENDING HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS IN TRAVIS COUNTY TO SUPPORT THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT AND ECHO'S EFFORTS TO END HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS IN TRAVIS COUNTY.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014

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SAMUEL T. BISCOE  
COUNTY JUDGE

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RON DAVIS  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

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BRUCE TODD  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

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GERALD DAUGHERTY  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

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MARGARET J. GÓMEZ  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4