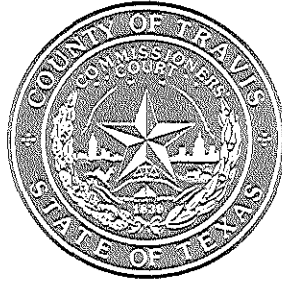


Travis County Commissioners Court



Resolution

WHEREAS, the Travis County Commissioners Court seeks to enhance the public welfare by declaring that freedom from domestic violence is a fundamental human right;

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control has estimated that one in four women in the United States and one in seven men in the U.S. experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner;

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights found in *Jessica Lenahan (Gonzales) v. United States* that the United States' failure to protect women from gender-based violence constitutes discrimination and a human rights violation and urged the United States to enact law and policy reforms at all levels to protect survivors of domestic violence;

WHEREAS, the United Nations has recognized domestic violence as a human rights issue;

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Public Safety reports that the total number of family violence incidents in Texas in 2012 was 188,992, a 6.2 percent increase from the total number of family violence incidents in Texas in 2011;

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Public Safety reports that the total number of family violence incidents in Travis County in 2012 was 8,893, a 14.3 percent increase from the total number of family violence incidents in Travis County in 2011;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women has stated that "violence against women is the most pervasive human rights violation" and that responses to violence should recognize human rights as a premise;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women has urged the United States to reassess laws and policies for protecting domestic violence survivors;

WHEREAS, survivors of domestic violence have the fundamental right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment;

WHEREAS, the Texas Constitution provides that a crime victim has the "right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process";

WHEREAS, law enforcement, city and local agencies, courts and other local government entities are charged with protecting those who suffer cruelty, oppression, and violence;

WHEREAS, survivors of domestic violence face many challenges, some of which directly or indirectly relate to services provided by Travis County;

WHEREAS, the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force was created in 1989 by community leaders, including the Travis County Sheriff's Office, Travis County Judges, the District and County Attorney's offices, and the Austin Police Department and Municipal Court Judges, in order to help identify and implement improvements in system response to domestic violence and sexual assault through education and policy development;

WHEREAS, the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force has created a Sub-Committee on Human Rights;

WHEREAS, the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force has partnered with the University of Texas School of Law's Domestic Violence Clinic, which enables students to assume semester-long projects in order to advocate for the rights of domestic violence survivors; and

WHEREAS, the recognition that domestic violence is a human rights issue will raise public awareness and encourage family-violence education in communities.

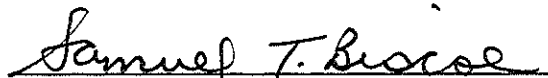
NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY RESOLVE:

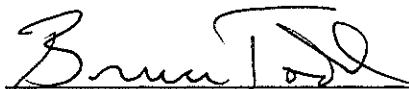
- THAT THE COUNTY RECOGNIZES THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN;
- THAT THE COUNTY DECLARES THAT FREEDOM FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT;
- THAT THE COUNTY WILL INCORPORATE THESE PRINCIPLES INTO THEIR POLICIES AND CONTINUE TO SECURE THIS HUMAN RIGHT ON BEHALF OF ITS RESIDENTS;
- THAT THE COUNTY WILL APPOINT THE AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY THE GAPS AND BARRIERS IN THE COUNTY'S SERVICE DELIVERY TO SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;
- THAT THE COUNTY EXPECTS THE AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE TASK FORCE TO PROVIDE A BIENNIAL REPORT FOR THE NEXT SIX YEARS ON THE CHALLENGES FACED BY SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO THOSE SURVIVORS, WITH A REPORT DEDICATED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROBATION, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTHCARE, AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, RESPECTIVELY;
- THAT THE COUNTY WILL COOPERATE WITH THE AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE TASK FORCE IN THE COMPILATION OF ITS REPORTS.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL, 2014.



RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

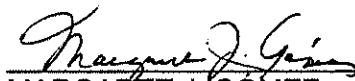

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE



BRUCE TODD
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2



GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3



MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4