

COURT ORDER

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ORDER NO. 2012 0145

DATE: January 24, 2012

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas,

held on the 24th day of January, 2012 on motion made by

John Wiley Price, Commissioner of District No. 3 and seconded by

Mike Cantrell, Commissioner of District No. 2 the following Order was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Commissioners court was briefed on January 17 regarding a proposed change in the Inclement Weather policy for Elected Officials and Department Heads in Dallas County.

WHEREAS, Dallas County has a long-standing policy regarding the closure of county facilities and operations for weather related purposes.

WHEREAS, after consulting with the Fire Marshal, Director of Homeland Security and the County Administrator, the Dallas County Judge is authorized to make the final decision on whether or not to open the county for business. The decision to close the county is one that is taken very seriously after considering the best interest of the county's workforce and the public we serve.

WHEREAS, the county has established policies on taking leave of absence and time keeping to provide flexibility for officials to administer their offices to fulfill their required or core functions.

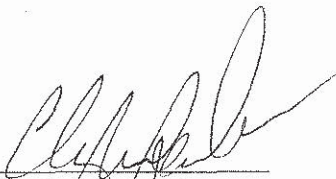
WHEREAS, Texas law specifies that while a Commissioners Court does exercise budgetary authority for the County, a county officer retains control over how to operate their office. According to the following Texas Attorney General opinions: JC-0239 (2000); JC-0131 (1999); JM-1099 (1989), elected officials may use their discretion in determining when to close their own offices, as long as doing so serves a public purpose.

WHEREAS, effective January 24, 2012, when an elected county official closes his or her office due to inclement weather or other circumstances for a period that is normally a part of a regular work period, and intends to compensate those employees, the Office of Budget and Evaluation will: (1) notify Commissioners Court of the department that closed, (2) the reason(s) the department closed and (3) the cost of the department closure during the first posted meeting after the closure.

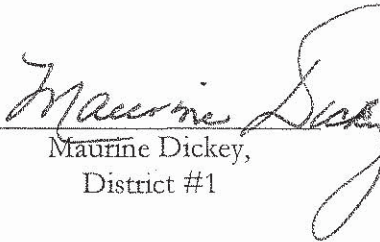
WHEREAS, this amendment is consistent with the County's approved Strategic Plan Vision 1: Dallas County is a model interagency partner, specifically, Strategy 1.2; Elected officials reach consensus on roles, responsibilities, and functions of Dallas County government.

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court approves this amendment to the current policy that requires that amounts paid to employees of Elected Officials/Department Heads who close their offices independent of Dallas County Administration during inclement weather be briefed to Commissioners Court.


DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 24th day of January, 2012.



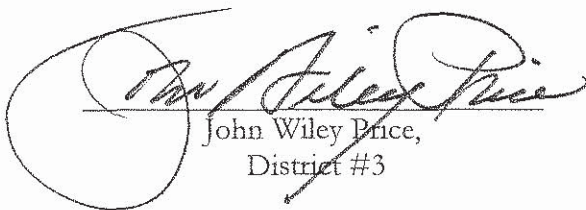
Clay Lewis Jenkins,
County Judge




Maurine Dickey,
District #1



Mike Cantrell,
District #2



John Wiley Price,
District #3



Dr. Elba Garcia,
District #4