Resolution

ORDER NO: 2023-0507

DATE: May 2, 2023

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §



BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 17th day of May 2022 on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by John Wiley Price, Commissioner of District 3 the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, May 2023 marks National Treatment Court Month, which celebrates the promise of recovery and restored hope to the graduates of Treatment Courts and to their families; and

WHEREAS. In 1989, the Miami-Dade Drug Court opened and offered the first model and template for courts specializing in the handling and dispensation of drug related cases for the entire American Justice system; and

WHERSAS, Treatment Courts provide focus and leadership for community-wide partnership, fusing public safety and public health professionals for the purpose of fighting against drug abuse and the criminal elements that follow drug abuse. Treatment courts are now recognized as the most successful justice system intervention in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, There are now more than 4,000 treatment courts nationwide. Treatment courts have served more than 1.5 million individuals nationally and save an average of \$6,000 for every individual they serve; and

WHEREAS, Treatment courts significantly improve education, employment, housing, and financial stability, promote family reunification, reduce foster care placements, and increase the rate of addicted mothers delivering babies who are fully drug free; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 the first Drug Court in Dallas County opened its doors with a simply premise; that rather than continue to allow individuals with long histories of drug abuse and crime to cycle through the criminal justice system at enormous expense to taxpayers, the criminal justice system would use the leverage of the courts to keep individuals engaged in drug treatment; and John Creuzot, while a Dallas County District Judge, founded Dallas County's first drug court, the Dallas Initiative for Expedited Recovery and Treatment (DIVERT) Court; and

WHEREAS, Dallas Initiative for Expedited Recovery and Treatment (DIVERT) Court is celebrating 25 years of changing lives and transforming the Dallas County Community with over 1,200 successful graduates; and

WHEREAS, Dallas County has 14 adult specialty courts certified by the Texas State Office of the Governor, in an effort to put a treatment court within reach of every eligible person in need. The design and structure of the 14 certified specialty courts were developed to reflect the unique strengths and needs of Dallas County; and the 14 certified specialty courts focus in the areas of Co-Occurring Disorders, Reentry, Mental Health, DWI, Drug, Commercially Exploited Individuals, and Veterans; and

WHEREAS. Dallas County Specialty Courts are operational through the role of collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Judiciary, the Dallas County Public Defender's Office, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, the Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, the Dallas County Criminal Justice Department, and a variety of community treatment and resource providers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Dallas County Commissioners Court declares that a "Treatment Court Month" be established during the Month of May, 2023, in recognition of the practitioners and participants who make treatment courts effective and for the significant contributions that Treatment Courts continue to make, in reducing drug use and crime.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 2nd day of May 2023.

Clay Lewis Jenkins Dr. Theresa Daniel County Judge

John Wiley Price

Commissioner, District 3

Commissioner, District 1

Dr. Elba Garcia Commissioner, District 4

Andrew Sommerman