

Resolution

ORDER NO. 2023-1415

DATE: December 5, 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 5th day of December 2023, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Dallas County Commissioners Court recognizes Jeff Raska, who faithfully and conscientiously served Dallas County and its residents for 13 years. Jeff started his career at Dallas County as a 4-H Program Assistant in the Dallas County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office and was later promoted to Horticulture Coordinator. During this time, he created numerous initiatives that will continue to engage and transform communities in Dallas. Prior to that, Jeff gained valuable experience by serving as a Horticulturist, Landscape Developer, IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Coordinator for Coppell ISD for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Jeff served in many capacities and assisted with many special projects. As a 4-H Program Assistant he served as a "Learn, Grow, Eat & Go" Project Specialist, made possible by a USDA Grant study of Childhood Obesity in eight Dallas ISD schools. Additionally, Jeff served as a Garden Specialist, and coordinated school garden installations through the REAL School Gardens initiative. This initiative focused on community garden installations and created outdoor learning environments in many schools in Dallas County; and

WHEREAS, Jeff has worked tirelessly as a 4-H Program Assistant, sharing his wisdom and passion, as the Backyard Chicken Specialist for Dallas County. He advised and wrote protocols for many school districts and even designed a national school model for Washington DC schools; and

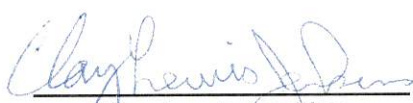
WHEREAS, As Horticulture Coordinator, Jeff designed and built an Urban County Farm at the Road and Bridge 1 District Office. From open land to a bountiful urban garden, the 12-acre Urban County Farm in Garland teaches neighbors about the farm-to-plate journey in an urban environment. Teaming up with Dallas County officials, Jeff has been instrumental in mobilizing the local Dallas Master Gardener volunteers in the effort to combat local food insecurity; and

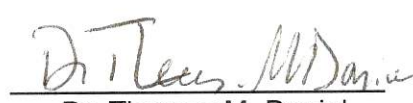
WHEREAS, Under Jeff's guidance, Master Gardeners taught residents about vegetable farming on a small scale. The County Urban Farm has inspired urban agriculture across the county and fed several Dallas-area homeless shelters by providing tons of fresh, farm-to-plate produce to six shelters and is a blueprint for how to convert concrete surfaces into functioning urban farms that feed the community in everyday life; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of the Dallas County Commissioners Court, I express my sincere appreciation to Jeff for sharing his knowledge and making Dallas County a better place for county residents over the past 23 years. I honor him for the contributions he has made not only to the Dallas area but throughout the State of Texas and beyond.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby congratulate Jeff Raska on reaching this important milestone. Jeff Raska's service is marked by exemplary dedication to the best of agriculture education, research, and public service. We wish you a well-deserved retirement!

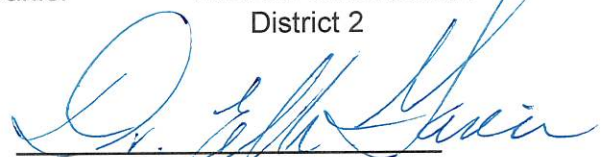
DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 5th day of December 2023.


Clay Lewis Jenkins
County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel
District 1


Andrew Sommerman
District 2


John Wiley Price
District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia
District 4