## Resolution

ORDER NO. 2023-1107

DATE: October 3, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2023, on a motion made by <u>Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner District 1</u>, and seconded by <u>Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4</u>, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Dallas County Commissioners Court takes special notice to those who give of their time to participate as jurors in our judicial system. Jury Appreciation Week was created by legislation passed in 2015 by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature and was first celebrated in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Trial by Jury is of fundamental importance in our system of justice recognized for the treasure they are, both in the Texas and Federal Constitutions. The work of juries is the foundation to our democracy and the liberties we enjoy as citizens of a free society. Jury service is so vital that the sworn members of a jury panel become officers of the court; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner's Court recognizes that the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas include procedural safeguards in criminal cases for all defendants, including indigent defendants. This ensures the right to trial by jury in all civil and criminal cases and supports the courts in complying with such legal requirements; and

WHEREAS, In Dallas County, there are over 620,000 citizens summoned annually for jury service and almost \$1.4 million paid out in juror pay each year. Dallas County acknowledges the many sacrifices made by jurors in their personal, family, and professional lives to devote the necessary time to serve. Each juror's dedicated service permits the Dallas County Judicial System to fairly and justly adjudicate thousands of cases each year; and

WHEREAS, Dallas County is committed to supporting improvements to the process and dedicated to making service on a jury a rewarding and comfortable experience. A Jury Appreciation Committee has been established with members from the County, Jury Services, and the Judiciary to continue to monitor and advise the County of any needs or issues.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dallas County Commissioner's Court does hereby acknowledge October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> as "Jury Appreciation Week" and recognize the fair and impartial justice offered to our citizens by jurors serving our system of justice and democracy.

Dr. Theresa M. Daniel

District 1

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this 3rd day of October, 2023.

Clay Lewis Jenkins

County Judge

John Wiley Price

District 3

Andrew Sommerman

District 2

Dr. Elba Garcia District 4