

Resolution



ORDER NO. 2020-0462

DATE: May 19, 2020

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 19th day of May 2020, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Commissioner John Wiley Price, Commissioner of District 3, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the illegal consumption of drugs has had a devastating effect on millions of lives throughout this nation and our communities, sparking a need to redirect the perspective on what it means to serve justice; and

WHEREAS, Drug 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. Drug Courts have over 4,000 programs found in every state, four territories, and over 20 countries; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, 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. Its simple 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

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

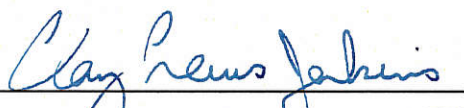
WHEREAS, Drug courts are recognized nationally and locally as one of the most successful criminal justice interventions for higher risk, nonviolent, chemically dependent offenders. Research demonstrates the average recidivism rate for those who complete drug court is between 4% and 29%, in contrast to 48% for those who do not participate in a drug court program. This comes at less expense than any other criminal justice strategy; and

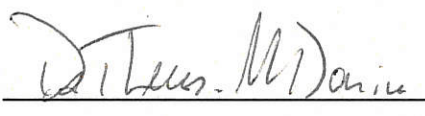
WHEREAS, Dallas County Specialty Courts are committed in their role to collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Judiciary, the Dallas County Public Defender's Office, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, the Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Department,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


WHEREAS, May 19, 2020, marks the anniversary of *National Drug Court Commencement Day*, which celebrates the promise of recovery and restored hope to the graduates of Drug Court and to their families. The Successful Treatment of Addiction through Collaboration (STAC) court program graduated 81 individuals in 2019 and over 1700 individuals to date. Drug courts demonstrate that when one person rises out of substance use and crime, it impacts not only the individual, but their family, kids, neighbors, and, eventually taxpayers. Thus, as one person rise, we all rise.

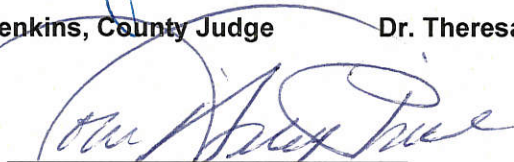
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Dallas County Commissioners Court, declare that the anniversary of "Drug Court Month" be recognized during the Month of May, 2020. This is in acknowledgement of the practitioners and participants who make drug courts effective and for the significant contributions that Drug Courts continue to make in reducing drug use and crime in Dallas County. The importance of these efforts is the overall positive impact on individual people and their families living in Dallas County.


DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 19th day of May 2020.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


J.J. Koch, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4