



## **AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Action Item for the City Council Meeting of 11/01/16

**DATE:** October 21, 2016  
**TO:** Margie Rose, City Manager  
**FROM:** Gilbert Hernandez  
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### **RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MUNICIPAL COURTS**

**CAPTION:**

Resolution recognizing the importance of Municipal Courts, the Rule of Law, and the Fair and Impartial Administration of Justice.

**PURPOSE:**

Municipal courts throughout the State of Texas are an important part of the justice system. In lieu of national events that have brought negative feelings of the justice system, through this resolution, we ask that City Council publicly demonstrate their recognition of the importance of the Municipal Court.

**BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

To celebrate Municipal Court Week, TMCEC, in collaboration with stakeholders across the state, has prepared a model resolution which allows city councils to publicly demonstrate their recognition of the importance of municipal courts, the rule of law, and the fair and impartial administration of justice.

In light of increased media focus on indigence issues, TMCEC believes now is the time for cities across the Lone Star State to reflect and rededicate themselves to the fundamental ideals which make up the proper foundation of local courts in Texas.

The resolution recognizes the important work of municipal courts and the people who work in the courts. It embraces the principle of judicial independence. It succinctly states the proper relationship between city council and the municipal court. It makes clear that in Texas, the procedures of municipal court operation are determined by state law.

Lastly, it is an opportunity for the city council to demonstrate their recognition of procedural safeguards for all defendants, including indigent defendants, and to show support of the municipal court in independently applying all laws in a way that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

TMCEC encourages all cities to adopt the model resolution in recognition of Municipal Court Week 2016.

TMCEC strongly encourages all cities in Texas to participate in and celebrate Municipal Court Week 2016.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Request a proclamation be accepted by Mayor Nelda Martinez.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

Not applicable.

**CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:**

City Council may support and adopt the proposed resolution demonstrating the importance of the Municipal Court.

**EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:**

Non-emergency.

**DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:**

Legal,

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

☐ Operating      ☐ Revenue      ☐ Capital      ☐ Not applicable

No financial impact.

**Comments:**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the City Council approve the proposed resolution.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Resolution – Recognizing the Importance of MC