

RESOLUTION NO. 130380

Designating May as Drug Court Month in Kansas City, Missouri.

WHEREAS, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals has chosen to stop in Kansas City, Missouri on May 13 as part of its coast-to-coast Relay for Recovery to shine a spotlight on communities such as ours that are striving to assure addicted people receive treatment, not incarceration; and

WHEREAS, both the Kansas City Municipal Court and the Jackson County Circuit Court have taken leadership roles in establishing Drug Courts, Veterans' Treatment Courts and Mental Health Courts that have proven their effectiveness in reducing drug abuse, crime and recidivism in a cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts are an essential component of our justice system which save criminal justice resources and keep individuals out of jail and engaged within our community as productive, tax-paying citizens; and

WHEREAS, results of more than 100 program evaluations and at least four meta-analytic studies have yielded definitive evidence that Drug Courts significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes and substantially reduce drug abuse and crime in the community; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professions in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Court movement has grown from the 12 original Drug Courts in 1994 to over 2,700 operational Drug Courts; and

WHEREAS, the time has come to put a Drug Court within reach of every eligible person in need; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby designate May as Drug Court Month in Kansas City, Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to Municipal Drug Court Judge Joseph Locascio, Jackson County Drug Court Commissioner David Fry and Jackson County Family Drug Court Commissioner Molly Merrigan to demonstrate that the Mayor and Council recognize the significant contributions Drug Courts have made in Kansas City, Missouri toward reducing substance abuse, crime and recidivism while saving valuable resources.

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