

By: Hinojosa

H.R. No. 1400

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Staff members of the Travis County Mental Health
2 Public Defender office are observing the 10th anniversary of its
3 establishment in 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded in April 2007, the Travis County MHPD was
5 the nation's first stand-alone public defender's office dedicated
6 to serving clients with mental health issues; and

7 WHEREAS, Originally established with a grant from the Texas
8 Indigent Defense Commission, the MHPD represents indigent
9 individuals who have been charged with a misdemeanor in Travis
10 County and who have been diagnosed with a mental illness such as
11 schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, or
12 schizoaffective disorder; and

13 WHEREAS, The MHPD is staffed with specially trained
14 attorneys, social workers, case workers, and support staff, all of
15 whom are dedicated public servants tasked with providing legal
16 representation and case management for their clients; the office
17 has grown in size and scope since it was founded, and it continues
18 to provide crucial and innovative services to the community; and

19 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of director Melissa McRoy
20 Shearer, the men and women of the Travis County MHPD advocate
21 tirelessly for their clients, working to ensure that their rights
22 are upheld and that they are treated with dignity and respect; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Travis
2 County Mental Health Public Defender office and extend to its staff
3 sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work;
4 and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for the Travis County MHPD office as an expression of high
7 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.