

## In Recognition of Municipal Court Week November 4-8, 2024

*WHEREAS*, municipal courts play a significant role in preserving public safety and promoting quality of life in Texas communities through the adjudication of traffic offenses, ensuring a high level of traffic safety for our citizens;

*WHEREAS*, more people come in contact with municipal courts than all other Texas courts combined and public impression of the Texas judicial system is largely dependent upon the public's experience in municipal court;

*WHEREAS*, the procedures for the Iowa Colony Municipal Court operations are set forth in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and other laws of the State of Texas;

*WHEREAS*, the Municipal Courts serve as the local justice center for the enforcement of local ordinances and fine-only state offenses that protect the peace and dignity of our City;

*WHEREAS*, the City of Iowa Colony is committed to the notion that our legal system is based on the principle that an independent, fair, and competent judiciary will interpret and apply the laws that govern us;

*WHEREAS*, the Municipal Court Judge and clerks should comply with the law and pledge to be ever m i n d f u l of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all and to continually strive to improve the administration of justice through participation in judicial education programs, seminars, and annual meetings of their state and local professional organizations;

*WHEREAS*, the Municipal Court Judge is not a policy maker for the City of Iowa Colony but is bound by the law and the Canons of Judicial Conduct and is required to make decisions independent of the governing body of the City Council, city officials, and employees;

*WHEREAS*, the City Council recognizes that the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas contain procedural safeguards in criminal cases for all defendants, including indigent defendants, and supports the municipal court in complying with such legal requirements.

**THEREFORE**, I, Wil Kennedy, Mayor of Iowa Colony, Texas do hereby proclaim that the week of November 4-8, 2024 is recognized as municipal court week in recognition of the fair and impartial justice offered to our citizens by the municipal court of Iowa Colony.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, Thave hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Iowa Colony to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.