



## RECOGNIZING MUNICIPAL COURT WEEK

### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MUNICIPAL COURTS, THE RULE OF LAW, AND THE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

WHEREAS, municipal courts play a significant role in preserving public safety and promoting quality of life in Texas;

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 City of Stephenville has hosted the City of Stephenville Municipal Court since 2019;

WHEREAS, state law authorizes a municipality to either appoint or elect a municipal judge for a term of office, the City of Stephenville Municipal Court is a state court and its judges are members of the state judiciary;

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

WHEREAS, the City of Stephenville 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 and that judges and court personnel should comply with the law and act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary;

WHEREAS, The City of Stephenville Municipal Judges are not policy makers for the City of Stephenville but are bound by the law and the Canons of Judicial Conduct and are 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 City of Stephenville Municipal Court in complying with such legal requirements.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Doug Svien, Mayor of the City of Stephenville, do hereby proclaim the first week of November, as

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in the City of Stephenville and I encourage residents to recognize the fair and impartial justice offered to our citizens by the Municipal Court of Stephenville, Texas.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereby set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of Stephenville, Texas, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.

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Doug Svien, Mayor of Stephenville