



AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

MEETING NAME: City Council
MEETING DATE: December 16, 2024
ITEM TITLE: Consider and take appropriate action on Municipal Court Youth Diversion Plan report
STAFF INITIATOR: Terri Robinette, City Secretary

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3186 requires all municipal courts to adopt a youth diversion plan by January 1, 2025. This act aims to increase early identification of at-risk youth and redirect children accused of Class C misdemeanors other than traffic offenses. This plan is specific to each youth and is made available at the front end of each case (i.e. prior to conviction) where they can hopefully be more effective.

Municipal Court Judge Royce Wittie along with Marisol Delua, Court Clerk, have attended several training courses and consulted with our City Attorney's office to draft the attached Youth Diversion Plan.

Article 45.312 does authorize the collection of a Local Youth Diversion Administration Fee in the amount of \$50. This fee would be collected from the parent of the child upon agreement with the Youth Diversion Plan. However, if the parent is indigent or does not have sufficient resources or income to pay, the court shall waive the fee. This fee is put in place to defray the costs of the diversion of the child's case and shall be held in a separate fund, restricted to that purpose. At this time, 100% of this fee will be locally retained.

EXHIBITS:

Wolfforth Municipal Court Youth Diversion Plan

COUNCIL ACTION/STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Report only, no action needed