

The Council of the City of Albuquerque

November 21, 2011

WHEREAS, the mission of Metro Teen Court is to help juvenile offenders restore their relationship with the community through accountability and personal development; and

WHEREAS, since it's first hearing in 2009, 250 local youth offenders charged with shoplifting, traffic infractions, school offenses, and other misdemeanor crimes have successfully completed the alternative sentencing program; and

WHEREAS, this program gives first time offenders the chance to be sentenced by their peers who have been through teen court, rather than enter the traditional juvenile justice system and thus, ultimately, keep their records clean; and

WHEREAS, Metro Teen Court is based on the philosophy that a youthful law violator does not continue to be an offender when a peer jury decides punishment; and

WHEREAS, Metro Teen Court gives youths a better understanding of the legal system and the consequences of breaking the law; and

WHEREAS, Metro Teen Court does not determine guilt or innocence, but teaches juvenile offenders that they must take responsibility for their actions, complete their sentences within 90 days, and restore relationships with their community through accountability and personal development.

BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE, HEREBY RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THAT METRO TEEN COURT MAKES TO OUR COMMUNITY AND THE YOUTHS OF THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE AND DECLARES DECEMBER 1st, 2011 AS METRO TEEN COURT DAY.

Debbie O'Mallev Ken Sanche District 2 District 1 Isaac Benton District District 3 Vice-President Dan Lewis District 6 District Trudy E. Jones Michael D. Cook

District 8

District 7

Don Harris, President

District 9