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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teen Court holds first session in Municipal Court

Kerrville, Texas (Oct. 22, 2024) – On Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, the Kerrville Municipal Court successfully completed the inaugural session of the Kerrville Teen Court program, where three defendants who agreed to participate in the program were defended, prosecuted and sentenced by teens. Guilt and innocence was not determined by the six-person jury; punishment was the only item addressed in teen court. If the teen defendant successfully completes the Teen Court Program, then the charge is dismissed.



Jakob Wyman served as one of the prosecuting attorneys during the inaugural Teen Court session Oct. 15 at the Kerrville Municipal Court

Municipal Court Judge Lucy Pearson presided over 11 area teenagers who served as attorneys representing the State of Texas and the individual teenage defendants. These teenagers performed all of the duties of attorneys: they gave opening statements, questioned

witnesses, including the police officer who issued the citation, and gave closing arguments to a teen jury.

Judge Pearson spoke for supporters of the Kerrville Teen Court program when she expressed the idea that all of these teen participants are “serving and contributing to the wellbeing of our community.”

“The young people participating in the program [as attorneys and jurors] carried themselves with professionalism and maturity,” she said. “[No one] would have known this was their first time in a courtroom.”

Judge Pearson also expressed hope that the teen court process is helping the teen attorneys and jurors just as much as it is helping the teen defendants.

“Each of these students can take the skills they learn here into their adult lives with public speaking and working with others,” she said.

The staff of the Kerrville Teen Court would like to acknowledge that without these teenage volunteers from Tivy High School, Our Lady of the Hills Catholic High School, Heritage School, Center Point High School, and Hal Peterson Middle School, the Kerrville Municipal Court would not be able to offer this deferral program to the area youth.

If any area teenagers would like the chance to join the ranks of the Kerrville Teen Court Program, they are encouraged to reach out to Teen Court Coordinator Yesenia Luna at (830) 257-2388 or yesenia.luna@kerrvilletx.gov. Interested teenagers will be asked to fill out an application, be interviewed by the Municipal Judge, Municipal Prosecutor, and/or Teen Court Coordinator, and, if chosen, attend training.

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