

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF POLK

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## RESOLUTION OF THE POLK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

### FOR POLK COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM FORMATION

**WHEREAS**, sexual violence is a serious issue impacting the public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a statewide prevalence study, 6.3 million or 33.2% of adult Texans have experienced some form of sexual assault in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, in Texas, in 2020, there were over 30,000 sexual assaults reported to law enforcement, and over 50,000 survivors sought services at a rape crisis center; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault victims must live with the emotional and medical consequences of their assault, which are often chronic and severe; lifetime prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in women who are sexually assaulted is estimated to be 50%; and

**WHEREAS**, in their 2020 audit report to the Legislature on investigations and prosecutions of sexual assault statewide, the State Auditor's Office identified that only 32% of all reported sexual assaults in a 5-year period resulted in an arrest; and

**WHEREAS**, in their 2020 audit report to the Legislature on investigations and prosecutions of sexual assault statewide, the State Auditor's Office noted a lack of reliable data on sexual assault case dispositions and a lack of multidisciplinary responses to adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature has recognized the serious nature of this crime and has passed legislation requiring counties to form Adult Sexual Assault Response Teams; and

**WHEREAS**, Polk County recognizes that work must be done at a societal and local level to reduce the incidence of sexual assault, hold offenders accountable and to help heal victims.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commissioners Court of Polk County that Polk County will establish an Adult Sexual Assault Response Team, effective December 1, 2021.

The following individuals will serve on the Polk County Sexual Assault Response Team:

- District Attorney Lee Hon – Chief Administrator of the sexual Assault Program;
- First Assistant District Attorney Beverly Armstrong – Prosecutor with jurisdiction over adult sexual assault cases in the County;
- Lieutenant Michael “Craig” Finegan – Polk County Sheriff's designee
- Detective Leon Middleton – City of Livingston Police Chief's designee

- Krysti Griffin - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
- DJ Martinez – Service Director at Burke Center

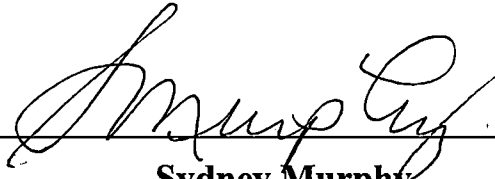
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in order to create systems that reduce re-traumatization and prioritization of victim safety, members of the SART appointed by Polk County are directed to work with other team members to:

- Elect a presiding officer and any other organizational and decision-making structures deemed for the success of the team;
- Add additional members to the team as necessary to fulfill the functions of the team;
- Attend scheduled meetings of the team;
- Create a written interagency protocol that establishes local and regional processes for investigating and prosecuting sexual assaults, identifying and obtaining medical and forensic care, mental health care and advocacy resources for victims as required by Texas Local Government Code 351.256, no later than December 1, 2022;
- In developing a protocol, the response team shall consider Chapter 56A, Code of Criminal Procedure; may provide different procedures for use within a particular municipality or area of the county served by the response team; and shall prioritize the health and safety of survivors, including those who choose not to make a police report;
- Notify the Court of any statutory vacancies on the team that would require a new appointment within 7 days of those occurring;
- Collect and maintain data on the number of sexual assaults reported to local law enforcement agencies and the investigation, prosecution and disposition of such offenses as required by Texas Local Government Code 351.257(A) that will culminate in a written summary to the Commissioners Court by November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year;
- Develop processes for information sharing and conflict resolution between team members;
- Distribute the written protocol to all responding law enforcement service providers throughout Polk County;
- Participate in a minimum of 4 hours of annual cross training with other team members;
- Evaluate the interagency protocol through the utilization of case reviews, with the signed, written consent of the victim as required by Texas Local Government Code 351.258(f); and
- Participate in writing the annual report to the Commissioners Court as required by Texas Local Government Code 351.257.

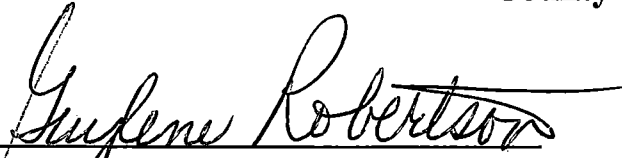
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Polk County will fill any statutory vacancies as requested by the Polk County SART within 30 days of those vacancies occurring;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the written annual report produced by the team shall be posted in a prominent place on the County's website and by law will be available to the public. The report shall not be redacted prior to its publication except for redactions needed to comply with the law to maintain privacy of individuals otherwise identified in the report.

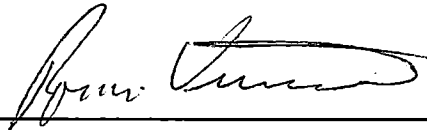
PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.



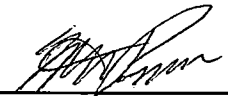
Sydney Murphy  
County Judge



Guylene Robertson  
Commissioner, Pct. 1



Ronnie Vincent  
Commissioner, Pct. 2



Milton Purvis  
Commissioner, Pct. 3

Absent

Charles T. Overstreet  
Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest:



(seal) Schelana Hock, County Clerk

