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PRESS RELEASE

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Wylie Introduces Teen Court Program
Student Volunteers Wanted for Attorneys, Jurors

Wylie, TX, March 2, 2016 – Wylie’s newly established Teen Court provides students the opportunity to learn more about the criminal justice system and gain valuable court experience while serving as teen jurors, prosecuting attorneys or defense attorneys. The program, authorized by the Texas State Legislature, enables teens who have pled guilty or no contest to Class C misdemeanors to opt to have their case tried by peers in Teen Court.

Teen Court attorneys will present the state’s or defendant’s case to a municipal judge and teen jurors, with opening statements, direct examination, cross examination and closing arguments, and then recommend appropriate sentences to the judge.

Interested students must apply by April 15. Applications are available online at wylietexas.gov/departments/municipal_court and can be submitted by email, mail or in person.

Teen Court meets the second Wednesday of every other month from 5:30 to 8 pm. Participants must be between the ages of 15 and 18, enrolled in school, available during those times, and willing to commit for one school year. Students selected from the applicant pool will attend training Saturday, May 14, from 8 am to 5 pm, at the Wylie Municipal Court, 2000 N. Hwy. 78. Attorneys will be chosen, and the rest will serve as jurors. Teen Court will start in September.

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Wylie Introduces Teen Court Program

Page 2

March 2, 2016

In addition to learning about criminal justice, Teen Court benefits include community involvement, development of critical thinking skills, teamwork experience, public speaking experience and college experience.

For more information, contact Juvenile Case Manager Katonya Johnson at 972-429-8085 or katonya.johnson@wylietexas.gov. Information is also available at wylietexas.gov/departments/municipal_court .

About Wylie – Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 48,000) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the state of Texas with a 220-percent increase since 2000.

