



TO: Members of the Troy City Council
FROM: Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney
DATE: April 10, 2006
SUBJECT: Law Day 2006

Part of the mission of the City Attorney's Office is to educate the City officials, board and committee members, employees, and the general public. In furtherance of this goal, our office has actively participated in an annual Law Day Program, which is promoted by the American Bar Association (ABA). Each year, the ABA selects a theme for Law Day, and suggests relevant activities for the annual event. The theme for Law Day 2006 is "Liberty Under the Law: Separate Branches, Balanced Powers." The separation of powers of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches is a theme that easily lent itself to an essay contest for high school students who resided in Troy.

Information about the Law Day 2006 Essay Contest was disseminated to the schools, and there were several high school students who submitted entries. Our office is currently judging the essays, and will determine the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries.

The competition is very stiff, since there were several excellent essays submitted. In recognition of the outstanding and altruistic efforts of these high school students, we are planning a cake and coffee reception for all participants and their families on Monday, May 8, 2006, starting at 6:30 pm. We encourage all City Council members to attend this reception and meet these talented students. Informational brochures will also be available at this time. The Law Day Program is funded only by the donations of our staff, and there is no monetary prize for the finalists. As an added recognition for the finalists, we would like to have the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners recognized at the City Council meeting immediately following the reception. If Council so desires, the first place essay could be read at the City Council meeting that evening. The top three essays will also be featured in the Law Day displays, which will appear in the Troy Library and the Troy Museum during the month of May.

Also enclosed please find a proposed proclamation for Law Day 2006, which we hope to have passed by the Troy City Council.

As always, if you have any questions, please let us know.

CITY OF TROY
LAW DAY PROCLAMATION
May 1, 2006

WHEREAS, Law Day is a celebration of our great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law; and

WHEREAS, our nation's Founders created a doctrine of separation of powers among the three branches of government - executive, legislative, and judicial; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to balance any accumulation of power, our nation's Founders included a system of checks and balances in the Constitution, and this system ensures that each branch serves as a constraint on, and is constrained by, the powers of other branches; and

WHEREAS, our system of separation of powers and checks and balances stands as a model for other nations of the world; and

WHEREAS, the theme of Law Day 2006 , "Liberty Under the Law: Separate Branches, Balanced Powers," provides an opportunity to acknowledge that although the separate branches of government have their separate spheres and separate powers, they work together for the common good.

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Troy proclaims **Monday, May 1, 2006, as Law Day.** We urge the citizens, schools, businesses, and media of the City of Troy to use this occasion to dedicate ourselves to preserve and strengthen the rule of law.*

Louise E. Schilling, Mayor

Cristina Broomfield, Mayor Pro Tem

David A. Lambert, Councilman

Robin E. Beltramini, Councilwoman

Wade Fleming, Councilman

Martin Howrylak, Councilman

Jeanne M. Stine, Councilwoman