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August 25, 2017

The Honorable Robert E. Hebert
Fort Bend County Judge
Via email: county.judge@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Dear Judge Hebert:

As you may be aware, the 85th Texas Legislature reduced the Texas Indigent Defense Commission's spending authority by approximately 7% for the upcoming biennium. As a result, funds available for formula grants are expected to be reduced by 7%, or approximately \$3.5 million, over the next two years.

In order to mitigate this expected reduction in formula grants in FY18 and FY19, the Commission has identified approximately \$5.75 million that can be used to increase **FY17** Formula Grant awards. I am thus pleased to inform you that the Texas Indigent Defense Commission will be increasing the amount of Fort Bend County's FY2017 Formula Grant award.

Fort Bend County's original FY17 Formula Grant award was \$604,686, and the revised award is estimated to be \$757,339. (This amount may increase as final accounting of FY17 funds is completed.) The increased amount will be added to the final quarterly payments for FY17 Formula Grants, which will be disbursed in November.

This increase in the FY17 Formula Grant award will more than offset anticipated reductions in FY18 and FY19 grants for all counties. **Please be aware for budgeting purposes that this will be a one-time special increase due to unusual budget circumstances.** Most counties will receive less in formula grant funds in FY18 and FY19 than the original amount awarded for FY17.

We are pleased that we can increase your FY17 award. If you have any questions regarding this letter or the Formula Grant program, please contact Edwin Colfax, Grant Program Manager, at ecolfax@tidc.texas.gov or 512-463-2508.

Sincerely,

Sharon Keller
Chair, Texas Indigent Defense Commission,
Presiding Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

CC: Robert Ed Sturdivant