

## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Fort Bend County, Texas

(281) 341-4460 Fax (281) 238-3340

JOHN F. HEALEY, JR. District Attorney

June 27, 2018

To: Ed Sturdivant and Amy Hartman

Re: Contribution to the Texas District and County Attorneys Foundation from Proceeds of Article 59, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure

Mr. Sturdivant and Ms. Hartman,

Please be aware that I will be forwarding paperwork to you that will request that you disburse \$10,000 from my State Asset Forfeiture Account Number 335480104. I believe that in addition to the other potential justifications recognized by law, there are two specific sections of Article 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure which specifically allow such a use of forfeited funds.

- I. Article 59.06 (d-2) (3), which allows an attorney representing the State to make a donation of forfeited proceeds to an entity that assists in the provision of training or education related to services regarding the prosecution of criminal offenses and abuse, and services for victims and witnesses of criminal offenses and instances of abuse.
- II. Article 59.06 (d-4) (4), which allows an attorney for the State to pay for conferences and training expenses out of proceeds received under Article 59.

As to both justifications, allow me to note the following:

The Texas District and County Attorney's Association and its Foundation have consistently provided low cost training to the Fort Bend County's District Attorney's Office for twelve years. My prosecutors, investigators, secretaries, and victim assistance division have looked to this Association and its Foundation, as our primary source for training. We will continue to use the Association and its Foundation as our primary training source, because they provide high quality training at a very low cost.

Recently, the Foundation provided mandatory ethics training and licensure training (MCLE) to thirty one attorneys of my office, free of charge. This was done in light of the financial hardships placed on offices effected by Hurricane Harvey, and was just one of the educational benefits provided by the Foundation.

Additionally, you should know that the foundation has established a restricted funds policy. Asset forfeiture funds, such as those that I will be sending the Foundation, are dedicated 100% to training. Not a single dollar will be spent on overhead or other expenses.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

John Healey

JH/ads