

## CONSTABLE DEPARTMENT - PRECINCT TWO

Fort Bend County, Texas

Daryl L. Smith, Sr.  
Constable

(281) 403-8011

03/06/2019

Gentlemen,

The purpose of this letter is to provide extrinsic information concerning the overtime budgetary issue associated with the unique characteristics of Fort Bend County Precinct 2 Constable's office. Precinct 2 Fort Bend County requests that \$38,000.00 (thirty-eight thousand dollars), be allocated for overtime use until the remainder of this fiscal year. Currently, Precinct 2 is spending approximately \$2,500.00 per month on overtime. Additionally, the previous administration failed to prepare for overtime and is responsible for \$3,800.00 of the \$9,949.00 of overtime accrued to date.

There are multiple dynamics that have contributed to the overtime issue faced by Precinct 2. Each of these dynamics will be discussed and/or explained in this correspondence. Those areas include:

1. Precinct location and encompassing of Southwest Houston;
2. Size and population of Precinct;
3. Shortage of County dedicated deputies;
4. Inability of several neighborhoods to afford contract deputies;
5. Previous administration's failure to allocate overtime funding via budgetary process.

### PRECINCT 2 (HOUSTON)

Fort Bend County Precinct 2 is unique in many ways. However, one distinctive characteristic of Precinct 2 is its encompassing of part of Southwest Houston. This portion of Houston/Precinct 2 is dense in population and predominantly classified as lower socio-economic. The translation of the issues associated with Houston/Fort Bend is; the Constable's office is unable to adequately supplement the Houston Police Department due to the amount of criminal activity present in the area and the number of deputies available through the Constable's office. This directly impacts the use of manpower and adversely affects overtime use.



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### PRECINCT POPULATION

Fort Bend County Precinct 2 is a vast precinct by land mass and poses a significant challenge due to population density and the socio-economic status of many of the residents of the densely populated areas. The densely populated areas are exacerbated by a higher presence of criminal behavior. The presence of crime in a concentrated area, reduces the area of patrol in order to facilitate adequate response to crime. The residents of Precinct 2 would benefit from an increase in the number of dedicated county deputies assigned to Precinct 2.

### SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER

Fort Bend County Precinct 2 is in need of additional deputies to more effectively serve the communities within its boundaries. Several factors, unique to Precinct 2, contribute to the need of additional deputies within Precinct 2 most of which are included in the sections above (crime and population density, geographic location, etc.).

### CONTRACT DEPUTIES

Fort Bend County has developed and implemented a Contract Deputy program and a modified program for those communities that cannot afford the original contract. Unfortunately, the modified contract, though less expensive, is still fiscally challenging for many neighborhoods in Precinct 2. Therefore, several neighborhoods in Precinct 2 depend on what services we are able to provide without the employment of contract deputies. The domino effect occurs because we lose manpower and are forced to utilize county dedicated deputies to patrol areas that would greatly benefit from contract deputies. We have developed a modified contract that would better serve lower socio-economic areas and provide effective patrol presence.



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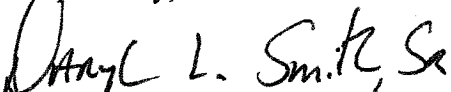
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### OVERTIME BUDGET

The previous administration did not submit a request for funding of the overtime portion of the budget. Law enforcement is an occupation filled with uncertainties and spontaneous issues that become time consuming. The effective management of such issues is to utilize overtime when needed without jeopardizing or compromising current or future patrol and enforcement activities.

Finally, it is not our intent to disparage the work ethic of the previous administration nor is it our direct concern of the manner in which the previous administration handled their responsibilities. Nevertheless, under Constable Daryl L. Smith, Sr., this Department intends to provide comprehensive, professional law enforcement services for the entire precinct. Unfortunately, this, at times, will require the use of overtime. We appreciate your support and will work diligently to minimize the use of overtime as we proceed to serve our communities.

Respectfully,

  
Daryl L. Smith, Sr.

Constable

Fort Bend County Precinct 2