



COUNTY JUDGE

Fort Bend County, Texas

Robert E. Hebert
County Judge

(281) 341-8608
Fax (281) 341-8609

October 22, 2013

Office of the Governor Rick Perry
Criminal Justice Division
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

**Re: Request for Waiver of Grant Application for Prostitution Prevention Program
Under S.B. 484**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Fort Bend County is requesting assistance with obtaining a waiver for the above referenced matter. Recently passed legislation requires counties with populations greater than 200,000 to establish and apply for grant funding for a Prostitution Prevention Program under Senate Bill 484. Fort Bend County seeks a waiver from the application process for FY14 based on the following reasons:

- 1) The District Attorney's office advises that there have been an average of 8 prostitution cases in the past 3 years, some of which are misdemeanor cases;
- 2) Filing and participating in the application process where a grant is not likely to be supported by the number of cases in this jurisdiction will represent an undue hardship to county and state resources; and
- 3) A review committee representing the county's judicial, behavioral health, legislative, law enforcement and community corrections areas recommend that Fort Bend County seek a waiver of the program at this time and evaluate further how a program would be developed.

Fort Bend County desires to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of how it would develop a prostitution prevention program. As a rapidly growing county, Fort Bend County wants to assess any future potential needs that this program could address. In addition, the Interstate-69 corridor traverses a large portion of the area, which could become an avenue for

this type of criminal activity, including human trafficking. Our goal is to evaluate the climate of prostitution activity in the county, to include an assessment for training for area law enforcement in addressing the more contemporary methods of how prostitution activity is conducted.

Please consider issuing a letter to Fort Bend County waiving our involvement in the grant application process for a Prostitution Prevention Program for the FY14 funding cycle with the intent to apply in the next funding cycle.

Your consideration of this matter is sincerely appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Hebert", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Robert E. Hebert
County Judge

cc: Commissioners Court
District Judges
John Healey, District Attorney