

830 773-2255

COUNTY *of* **HIDALGO**

**TEXAS JUSTICE COURT
JUDGE BOBBY CONTRERAS
300 W HALL ACRES RD., SUITE F
PHARR, TX 78577
(956) 784-3540
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EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539

July 11, 2014

- Honorable Ramon Garcia, County Judge
- Honorable A.C. Cuellar, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
- Honorable Hector "Tito" Palacios, Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
- Honorable Jose M. Flores, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
- Honorable Joseph Palacios, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

RE: JP Warrant Officer/Bailiff

Dear Judge and Commissioners:

The purpose of this memorandum is to ask the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court for assistance in securing at the minimum one additional position to serve as both the Bailiff and the Warrant Officer for my Court, Justice of Peace, Precinct 2 Place 1.

Currently, the Constable for Precinct 2 assigns a deputy constable to my court when a bailiff is needed because court is in session. Depending on the Constable's workload or other duties, a deputy constable may or may not be available to execute all class c warrants that are issued by my court. As a result, this function is not available to me on a full time basis.

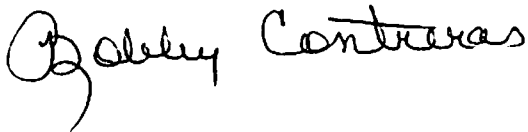
Most of the warrants issued by my Court are the result of traffic violations. Although the Precinct 2 Justices of the Peace collect more fines and fees than any other precinct, a significant amount of fines and fees go uncollected. In addition, there are times when the Court requires a bailiff for reasons other than when court is in session, and that flexibility is not available to me.

I am requesting that Commissioner's Court seriously consider providing a Bailiff/Warrant Officer position to each Justice of the Peace as soon as possible, or at minimum during the 2015 Budget Process. This position can be a licensed deputy constable commissioned by the Constable but supervised by and assigned to the salary schedule of each Justice of the Peace. The Constable would hold the commission and would provide technical and law enforcement supervision.

Page 2

I firmly believe that this structure would be beneficial to both the Justices of the Peace and to the Constables, and would be cost effective given the potential to substantially increase the level of collections of fines and fees, and would provide the order and security within the courtroom that is required to insure the safety of all.

Your assistance on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Contreras". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "B".

Bobby Contreras
Justice of the Peace
Precinct 2, Place 1