



HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF J.E. "EDDIE" GUERRA

July 10, 2015

Hidalgo County Budget & Management
Attn: Valde Guerra, Chief Executive Officer
2818 S. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Mr. Guerra;

Greetings, I hope this letter finds you well. As you are aware, the recent heavy rains and subsequent flooding required a substantial response from the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office to the tune of about 1,900 overtime man hours projected to cost about \$39,000. I share the opinion with Commissioner Palacios that the labor costs associated with the response to the emergency should be paid to the employees. As such I am respectfully requesting that the executive office places an item on the July 21, 2015 Commissioners' court to address this issue.

Although managing the compensatory time is an option, I feel that the best option for my agency is to realize payments to the employees. We are in a predicament where my deputies have earned rescheduled holiday time, compensatory time, and are accumulating annual leave due to the need to work 40 physical hours, a requirement of the local border security program (LBSP) and Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG), in addition to the need to maintain services to the constituents of Hidalgo County.

It is for that reason that I must insist that an agenda item be created on the aforementioned date to address the issue. I have in the past been patient on other issues, but feel this is both an undue burden on my deputies and the agency. I have directed my staff to work with budget and management to resolve the issue quickly. I will gladly make myself available should you feel the need to further discuss the issue.

Respectfully,


J.E. "Eddie" Guerra
Hidalgo County Sheriff