



## MEMORANDUM

### “SOLE SOURCE DECLARATION”

TO: Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Court

FROM: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB  
Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent

DATE: April 9, 2019

RE: “Sole Source Declaration”- for Comprehensive Online Investigative Services

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Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Department currently processes and utilizes West Publishing Corporation – Thomson Reuters – Clear for comprehensive online investigative research services and products for online legal research. These services provide investigators *live* access to a comprehensive collection of public records information, nationwide incarceration records and arrest records. It is imperative that the Sheriff’s Office continue utilizing the services.

Clear, the specific research tool used by the Sheriff’s Department is only available through one source, Westlaw Publishing Corporation-Thomson Reuter. No other online investigative research tool provides the exclusive combination of data, features, and capabilities for real-time public information research. This allows for a more efficient, and effective investigation.

There are several ports of entry in Hidalgo County making the necessity of real-time incarceration and arrest records critical to law enforcement. The continued use of Clear will eliminate the need and expense for training.

Therefore, the purchase and continued use of Clear - “Westlaw Publishing Corporation-Thomson Reuter” subscription is required by not only the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Department, but all other applicable Hidalgo County elected offices, departments, programs and/or agencies (through all funding sources) in order to further the due process of the legal system and related functions.

This sole source declaration to remain in effect unless revoked by Hidalgo County Commissioners Court.