

STATE OF TEXAS )

) **LOCAL AGREEMENT**

COUNTY OF HIDALGO )

This **LOCAL AGREEMENT** is entered into, by and between the HIDALGO COUNTY HIDTA TASK FORCE, located in Hidalgo County, Texas, hereinafter called "**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**", and the Office of Criminal District Attorney of Hidalgo, Texas, hereinafter called "**STATE'S ATTORNEY**". This agreement supersedes any and all other prior local agreements and will apply to all pending forfeiture cases filed on or after the date this agreement is signed.

- I. The Parties hereto desire to enter in an agreement to dispose of forfeited "contraband", pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures;
- II. All property found to be "contraband" pursuant to Article 59.01, 59.02 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, with the State's Attorney representing the state as agent for the state, shall be subject to this local agreement;
- III. The Criminal District Attorney of Hidalgo County, Texas (State's Attorney) represents the State of Texas regarding forfeiture of "contraband" seized pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; and
- IV. Article 59.06 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure mandates that a local agreement be reached between the State's Attorney, acting as an agent of the state, and the Law Enforcement Agency to effect the disposition of contraband forfeited to the state.

THEREFORE, this **LOCAL AGREEMENT** is hereby made and entered into by the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY and the STATE'S ATTORNEY for the mutual considerations stated herein, and the following is understood and agreed to by the parties;

In consideration for services associated with forfeitures of contraband, the Law Enforcement Agency agrees to pay all court costs, attorney ad litem fees, depositions, title searches, title policies, confidential informants, storage costs, and all other related costs in the forfeiture of vehicles and all other personal property, as outlined below. This clause does not pertain to the forfeiture of real estate, currency, banking accounts and negotiable instruments which is detailed more fully below as to the disposition of costs and which agency will pay same.

1. **PERSONAL PROPERTY**, including, but not limited to vehicles, laptops, computers, cell phones, weapons, etc., and all other personal property to be forfeited to the Law Enforcement Agency and the State's Attorney pursuant to this Agreement, then the forfeited property shall be divided as follows:
  - If personal property, including vehicles retained by the Law Enforcement Agency are to be sold, net proceeds from the sale of said property, after deduction of costs above described, is to be divided as follows: 100% to the Law Enforcement Agency and 0% to the State's Attorney.
  - If personal property, including passenger vehicles, pick-ups trucks, sport utility vehicles, vans, tractor trailers, etc., are to be used for law enforcement purposes pursuant to Article 59.06 (b) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, the Law Enforcement Agency shall obtain the title of said vehicles and will be solely responsible for their use and

maintenance. The State's Attorney will not retain an interest in said vehicles and will be completely absolved of any liability.

- If personal property, including vehicles that are retained by the Law Enforcement Agency for law enforcement purposes are at any time decommissioned and then sold, net proceeds from the sale of said property, after deduction of costs above described, is to be divided as follows: 100% to the Law Enforcement Agency and 0% to the State's Attorney.

All property seized in accordance with this Agreement, with the exception of currency, bank accounts, negotiable instruments, and jewelry, shall be kept in the possession of the Law Enforcement Agency. The Law Enforcement Agency shall be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of said property and the State's Attorney will be completely absolved of any liability.

The parties further agree that the Law Enforcement Agency shall account for all seized property in their possession until the property is disposed of by court order. Disposition of all property shall comply with Article 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

All other personal property, not suitable for nor desired for use, pursuant to Article 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, shall be forfeited to the State's Attorney, as an agent for the State of Texas, and shall be sold at public auction. The net proceeds of said sale of said property, after deduction of sale expenses, shall be divided as follows: 100% to the Law Enforcement Agency and 0% to the State's Attorney.

For the purposes of this Agreement, the definition of "**Personal Property**" includes, but is not limited to, vehicles of all types, weapons, laptops, computers, cell phones, jewelry, gold, and other precious metals and tangible objects of value. The Law Enforcement Agency and the State's Attorney reserve the right to negotiate unique individual agreements on a case by case basis to satisfy special requirements; however, if an agreement cannot be reached, this local agreement shall be binding.

2. **REAL ESTATE**, upon sale of real estate, all court costs, attorney ad litem fees, depositions, title searches, title policies, confidential informants, storage costs, and all other related costs shall be paid or credited to the Law Enforcement Agency if such cost have been previously paid by the Law Enforcement Agency, from the final sum received, with the remaining amounts disbursed to the Law Enforcement Agency and the State's Attorney as agreed upon for CURRENCY, BANKING ACCOUNTS and NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS in Paragraph 3 below.
3. **CURRENCY, BANKING ACCOUNTS, and NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS**, upon being awarded to the State via court order, are to be disbursed and divided up as follows, after the payment of costs:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Law Enforcement Agency</u>	<u>State's Attorney</u>
Over \$50,000.00	100%	0%
Less than \$50,000.00	100%	0%

4. **JEWELRY** will be sold and its proceeds divided as follows:  
100% to the Law Enforcement Agency and 0% to the State's Attorney.

Currency, bank accounts, negotiable instruments and jewelry shall be held and maintained by the State's

Attorney pending final disposition via court order. However, the parties agree that the State's Attorney may exercise discretion and allow the Law Enforcement Agency to maintain physical possession of the currency, bank account, negotiable instruments and jewelry where feasible.

The State's Attorney agrees that remaining contraband, after retention of the above stated portion for the State's Attorney, shall be retained by the Law Enforcement Agency for law enforcement purposes only.

The Law Enforcement Agency and the State's Attorney agree that all costs involved in the forfeiture of the above mentioned money and property shall be paid first and the remaining sum shall be divided and disbursed according to the provisions contained within this agreement. The parties further agree that the percentages will be determined prior to the payment of costs.

In the event costs to prosecute forfeiture of "contraband" seized pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, including court costs, attorney ad litem fees, depositions, title searches, title policies, confidential informants, storage costs, and all other related costs exceed the net proceeds of the sale of said contraband, the State's Attorney agrees to pay 100% and the Law Enforcement Agency agrees to pay 0% of those costs.

This agreement shall apply to all money and/or property seized and all money or property sold by the said Law Enforcement Agency on or after the date this agreement is signed. Money and property shall be considered forfeited to the State once a forfeiture judgment has become final, and no Motion for New Trial or Notice of Appeal has been taken.

Proceeds from the sale of real, personal, tangible or intangible property subject to this Agreement shall be apportioned within thirty (30) days of said sale, or pursuant to any other agreements reached between the parties. Distribution to each party shall be made according to this Local Agreement and Article 59.06(a) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

The term of this agreement shall be for a period of one (1) year upon execution. This Agreement shall automatically be renewed on a yearly basis after the initial one (1) year term. This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days prior written notice thereof to the other of its intention to terminate upon the date specified in such notice. Any pending forfeiture under this Agreement, filed prior to the termination date, however, shall not be affected by such notices.

Any notice, payment, statement, or demand required or permitted to be given hereunder by either party to the other may be effected by personal delivery, in writing or by certified mail. Mailed notices shall be addressed to the parties at the addresses appearing below, and any change of address must be made by written notice in accordance with this section. Mail notices shall be deemed communicated as of three (3) days after mailing or upon certified mail receipt.

The Law Enforcement Agency further agrees to pay all costs incurred if the forfeiture action does not result in the property being found to be contraband.

The Law Enforcement Agency agrees to return all real, personal, tangible or intangible property or proceeds therefrom, if a bill of review is successfully taken against the State.

The Law Enforcement Agency agrees that any proceeds or property which has been awarded to the State via court order, and thereafter disbursed and divided in accordance with this Agreement, may be transferred from the Law Enforcement Agency to the State Attorney upon requests, for the purposes of the State utilizing proceeds

for any expenditure made for an official purpose in accordance with Chapter 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

**HIDALGO COUNTY HIDTA TASK FORCE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Commander Juan Sifuentes, HIDTA Task Force

**OFFICE OF CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY,  
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr., Hidalgo County District Attorney

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Josephine Ramirez Solis, Assistant DA