

STATE OF TEXAS           §  
  §  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO   §

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AND THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO**

THIS Memorandum of Understanding (this “MOU”) is made on this the 18th day of August, 2022, by and between **LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**, hereinafter referred to as “District”, and the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS**, hereinafter referred to as “County”, by and through **CONSTABLE PRECINCT #3** pursuant to the authority granted and in compliance with the provisions of the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, (the “Act”) Chapter 791, Texas Government Code, and Section 37.081 of the Texas Education Code as follows:

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, the District is organized as an Independent School District under the laws of the State of Texas for the purpose of educating and providing other activities, which assist and benefit the youth and general community; and

**WHEREAS**, an agreement may be entered into by any local government which includes a political subdivision, and which is defined in Section 791.003(4) and (5) of the Local Government Code, as any corporate and political entity organized under state law, and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Education Code §37.081 gives the District’s Board of Trustees the power to enter into a memorandum of understanding to employ security personnel and commissioned peace officers to carry out the effects of that Chapter, and

**WHEREAS**, the District seeks to increase the safety and security for faculty, students, and members of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the County and District have a common interest in reducing crimes committed by juveniles and reducing juvenile delinquency behavior and increasing school attendance; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has requested that a County peace officer be available to assist the District by responding to emergencies or other exigent circumstances at a District campus or facility in which the response of a peace officer would be appropriate;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, County and District, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and agreements set forth in this MOU, County and District agree

as follows:

1. County by and through the Constable Precinct #3 will, pursuant to its applicable personnel policies, rules and procedures, hire a commissioned peace officer and the necessary support staff to continue to provide security and support at the District. The County peace officer shall use his best efforts to address crimes committed by juveniles and reduce juvenile delinquency behavior as well as assist the District in their efforts to increase school attendance.
2. During the term of this MOU, such peace officer at all times, shall remain and be treated as an employee of the County and shall be subject to all applicable personnel policies, rules and procedures of the County.
3. In addition to the duties identified in paragraph 1 herein, the County agrees that such peace officer assigned to the District shall use his best efforts to respond to emergencies or other exigent circumstances which may exist at District campuses and facilities during regular school hours in which the response of a peace officer would be appropriate. However, the peace officer shall use his sole judgment and/or discretion to determine whether the situation merits an emergency or exigent circumstance requiring response by such officer. The District agrees that the County shall not be liable for failure to respond to any incident at a District campus or facility.
4. The parties agree that the peace officer will not be required to perform any school administrative duties required by law, other than those identified herein, nor will the peace officer be required to perform the duties of a District security guard.
5. **Term.** The period of performance of this MOU shall commence on September 1, 2022 and terminate on August 31, 2023.
6. **Work Hours.** The peace officer shall be assigned to District business from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; or in lieu thereof "at such other times agreed by District and County".
7. **Time Off.** The County agrees to notify the District's Human Resource's Department when the peace officer takes sick leave or has scheduled vacation, overtime or compensatory time off in accordance with County notice provisions.
8. The County, through Constable Precinct #3, may, but is not required to, consult with the District prior to making any staffing changes in connection with this MOU but the recruiting, hiring and retention of County personnel shall remain the sole prerogative of Constable Precinct #3. However, should the District believe that the peace officer is not fulfilling his/her job duties or meeting the District's expected performance standards under this MOU, the District shall notify the Constable with specific information regarding such nonperformance. The County

shall, within fifteen (15) days, correct the unsatisfactory performance. Should the County fail to correct or address the District's nonperformance concerns, the District shall have the prerogative to terminate this MOU upon an additional fifteen (15) days written notice to the County.

9. Each party shall contribute one-half of the costs associated with administering the performance of this MOU; upon the County's receipt of payment from the District, the County shall fund the amount of Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Fifteen Dollars and 29/100 (\$39,415.29) for its one-half share of the cost associated with assigning a peace officer pursuant to the terms and conditions described herein.
10. Within fifteen (15) days of receiving an invoice from the County, the District shall and agrees to pay to the County the one match payment in the amount of Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Fifteen Dollars and 29/100 (\$39,415.29) as consideration to the County for the continued performance of the MOU by County at the District.
11. Each party agrees to conform to its own applicable purchasing laws, regulations, policies and procedures with respect to the portion of the services under this MOU performed by each party.
12. **Termination.** Either party shall have the right to terminate this MOU with or without cause upon sixty (60) days written notice.
13. **Conflict of Applicable Law.** Nothing in this MOU shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between any provision of this MOU and any present or future law, ordinance, or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail, but in such event the affected provision or provisions of this MOU shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists.
14. **No Waiver.** No waiver by any party hereto of any breach of any provision of the MOU shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.
15. **Entire Agreement.** This MOU contains the entire contract between the parties hereto and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representation or agreement in connection with this MOU not specifically set forth herein. This MOU may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed by County and District, and not otherwise.
16. **TEXAS LAW TO APPLY.** THIS MOU SHALL BE CONSTRUED UNDER AND

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, AND ALL OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES CREATED HEREUNDER ARE PERFORMABLE IN HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE DISTRICT HEREBY CONSENT TO PERSONAL JURISDICTION IN HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS.

17. **Notice.** Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this MOU, all notices, demands, requests or communication required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to District: La Joya Independent School District  
Attention: Dr. Gisela Saenz, Superintendent  
200 W. Expressway 83  
La Joya, Texas 78560

If to County: Hidalgo County, Texas  
Attention: Richard Cortez, County Judge  
P.O. Box 1356  
Edinburg, Texas 78540-1356

with copy to : Hidalgo County Constable Precinct No. 3  
Attention: Constable Lazaro Gallardo, Jr.  
730 N. Breyfogle, Suite B  
Mission, Texas 78574

Each notice, demand, request or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addressee or, if mailed, at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

18. **Additional Documents.** The parties hereto covenant and agree that they will execute such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this MOU.
19. **Successors.** This MOU shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this MOU.
20. **Assignment.** This MOU shall not be assignable.
21. **Headings.** The headings and captions contained in this MOU are solely for convenience reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or

interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.

22. **Gender and Number.** All pronouns used in this MOU shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and singular shall include the plural whenever and so often as may be appropriate.
23. **Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this MOU by District and County have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions or corporate action, and this MOU constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of District and County in accordance with its terms.
24. **Governmental Purpose.** Each party hereto is entering into this MOU for the purpose of providing for governmental services or functions and will pay for such services out of current revenues available to the paying party as herein provided.
25. **No Waiver of Governmental Immunity.** Neither County nor District, via this MOU, waive governmental immunity from suit, or from liability, except as expressly set forth by the Texas Legislature in the Texas Government Code. The fact that County and District have entered into this MOU shall not in any way, constitute a deliberate waiver of immunity by either entity, which immunities are expressly reserved by both parties.
26. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that during any term hereof, the governing body of any party does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of such party under this MOU, then any party may terminate this MOU upon ninety (90) days written notice to the other party. Each of the parties hereto agrees, however, to use its best efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this MOU. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this MOU at the expiration of each budget period of each party hereto pursuant to the provisions of Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Ann. §271.903.
27. **Nondiscrimination.** The parties agree that services and/or project proposals mutually agreed to shall be conducted in a manner that does not discriminate against any person on a basis prohibited by applicable County or DISTRICT policy, State or Federal law, including without limitation, race, gender, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran, status, or disability.

*[Signature Page to Follow]*

**WITNESS THE HANDS OF THE PARTIES** and effective as of the day and year first written above.

**LA JOYA INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Alda T. Benavides, President, Board of  
Trustees

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Esperanza Ochoa, Secretary, Board of Trustees

**HIDALGO COUNTY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Cortez, County Judge

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arturo Guajardo. Jr., County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Office of Criminal District Attorney, Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda D. Austin,  
Assistant District Attorney