

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF HIDALGO §

**INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS AND CITY OF MERCEDES, TEXAS**

This Agreement is made effective as of this ____ day of March, 2026, by and between HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS hereinafter referred to as "County," and the CITY OF MERCEDES, TEXAS hereinafter referred to as "City" pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, as follows:

WHEREAS, the County has established the Hidalgo County Library System (hereinafter "HCLS");

WHEREAS, the County wishes to Contract with the City for library privileges from the City's established library;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Tex. Loc. Gov't Code Section 323.011 the City understands that the City's library will assume the functions of a County library within the County;

WHEREAS, pursuant to standard HCLS operating procedures, HCLS acquires library materials, supplies and services, electronic database services, audiovisual equipment, and computer hardware, software and other resources for library services for the free use of City's library by residents of rural areas of the County;

WHEREAS, the County and City desire to clarify the terms and conditions of the operation of HCLS, and to provide direct funding to City in certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the County finds that the City is suitably organized to provide efficient and effective free library services to County residents under Chapter 323; and

WHEREAS, the County therefore desires to expend funds to assist City with the expenses of establishing, operating and maintaining its free library in the County.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in good and valuable consideration the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the County and the City hereby agree as follows:

1. The County shall budget an estimated amount each year for the following fiscal year and allocate such amount from the County's General Fund as payment for various libraries of County of which City library is one. Such estimated amount will be allocated to County libraries in accordance with a formula established, reviewed and

approved by HCLS. This allocation formula shall be reviewed and approved annually at the beginning of the County fiscal year by HCLS meeting in regular-session. Funds disbursed to the City shall be in consideration for the City agreeing that the City's library will assume the functions of a county library within Hidalgo County. Funds disbursed to the City pursuant to this paragraph and HCLS provisions shall be used by City only for the City library to purchase contractual services and library materials, including but not limited to, books, supplies and services, Internet connectivity, electronic database services and connections, equipment and furnishings, and computer hardware and software.

2. The City agrees to maintain and operate its city library in accordance with the standards of the State of Texas, the State Library System Act and Local Government Code Chapter 323. The City specifically covenants to assure that the librarian of the City's library meets the minimum standards established by Texas State Library and Archives Commission ("State Library"), including any and all certification mandated by the State Library. The City further agrees to cooperate with the County in any programs, promotions or interlocal initiatives in furtherance of the purposes of HCLS.

3. The City agrees to supervise the activities and operation of its library and agrees to assume full responsibility and liability for any and all activities conducted under the terms of this Agreement.

4. The City library personnel shall not be entitled to any of the benefits of an employee of the County, including, but not limited to, County fringe benefits or the County Civil Service program.

5. This Agreement shall continue until December 31, 2026; or until amended, replaced or terminated in accordance with Chapter 323. Either party may terminate this Agreement by providing six (6) months' advance written notice to the other party. The parties agree that any property acquired under this Agreement is subject to division upon termination of this contract in accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 323.011(c). Upon termination of this Agreement, any property acquired under this Agreement shall remain in the possession of the City in the City library and the City agrees to take any and all necessary measures to ensure that such property is safeguarded from theft and/or damage.

6. The City agrees to give County and its authorized representatives access to, and the right, to examine, excerpt and transcribe all books, accounts, records, reports, files and other papers, documents, things, or property belonging to or in use by the City in relation to its library operations for so long as such are maintained by City.

7. Conflict of Applicable Law: Nothing in this Agreement 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 their Agreement 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(s) of this Agreement shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists.

8. No Waiver: No waiver by any party hereto of any breach of any provision of the Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.

9. Entire Agreement: This Agreement 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 Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed by City and County, and not otherwise.

TEXAS LAW TO APPLY. THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE CONSTRUED UNDER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, AND ALL OBLIGATION OF THE PARTIES CREATED HEREUNDER ARE PERFORMABLE IN HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PARTIES HEREBY CONSENT TO PERSONAL JURISDICTION IN HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS.

10. Notice. Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, 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 County: County of Hidalgo
Attention: Richard F. Cortez, County Judge
100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539

If to City: City of Mercedes, Texas
Attn: City Manager
400 S Ohio St
Mercedes, Texas 78570

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.

11. 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 Agreement.

12. Successors. This Agreement 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 Agreement.

13. Assignment. This Agreement shall not be assignable.

14. Headings. The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenience reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision of paragraph hereof.

15. Gender and Number. All pronouns used in this Agreement 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.

16. Authority to Execute. The execution and performance of this Agreement by City and County have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of City and County in accordance with its terms

17. Governmental Purpose. Each party hereto is entering into this agreement 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.

18. 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 Agreement, then any party may terminate this Agreement 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 Agreement. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of each party.

19. Non-Discrimination. The Agreement and all related activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not discriminate against any person on a basis prohibited by applicable law or County and City policy, including without limitation to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

WITNESS THE HANDS OF THE PARTIES this ____ day of March, 2026.

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

CITY OF MERCEDES, TEXAS

Oscar D. Montoya, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
Joselynn Castillo, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office
Toribio "Terry" Palacios

By: _____
Victor M. Garza, Chief Administrative Attorney

CITY:

By: _____
Martie Garcia Vela, City Attorney