

September 20, 2010

Williamson County Commissioners Court
710 Main St
Georgetown, TX 78626

Honorable members of the Williamson County Commissioners Court:

As a board member of the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center (WCCAC), I would first like to thank you for the County's continued support of the important work conducted by the WCCAC. The Center is an important community resource, providing intervention services to young victims of child abuse in Williamson County and aiding professional law enforcement and child protection agencies in investigating crimes against children – the county's most important resource.

The unfortunate fact is that each year many children suffer from abuse and neglect. Child victims of abuse are at the highest risk of developing drug/alcohol abuse, mental health concerns, juvenile delinquency, and other harmful consequences. It is critical that these children be identified and professionally counseled to curb the consequences of abuse and its effect on our community. The services of the WCCAC result in a positive impact on the county as a whole, producing an effective, coordinated, child abuse prosecution that substantially reduces the trauma to child victims and their families. As a result, our county is safer from criminal predators and victims are helped to become productive and healthy citizens.

As you deliberate the expenditure of County funds, I urge you to favorably consider and fully support an amendment to the distribution of the child safety fee that would designate 10 percent of the funds collected to the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center. The Center is an excellent example of how county funding is leveraged with other funding to provide needed county services in a cost-effective manner.

Lastly, I thank you for your diligent service for the citizens of Williamson County. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated officials willing to sacrifice time away from family to work on behalf of others.

Sincerely,



Cathy Reiley
Board Member
Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center



CEDAR PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

September 17, 2010

John Bradley
Williamson County District Attorney
405 M.L.K. Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Dear Mr. Bradley:

Section 502.173 of the Texas Transportation Code authorizes the Williamson County Commissioners Court to impose an additional fee of \$1.50 for registering a vehicle in Williamson County to be used as a "Child Safety Fee." The revenue from the collection of this fee may be used for programs designed to enhance child safety, health, nutrition, and the prevention/intervention of child abuse.

I strongly support the initiative that a small portion of those funds could more appropriately be used to support the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). The CAC is a highly effective program that better addresses the needs for prevention and intervention of child abuse. By redirecting a portion of these funds, the CAC will be able to develop and carry out new training courses for the school officials. Training will be presented to principals, teachers, counselors and school nurses, so that they understand their role in preventing, identifying, reporting and assisting in investigating child abuse when they encounter evidence of it in the school environment.

Please feel free to inform the Williamson County Commissioner's Court that I know the effectiveness of the CAC preventing, intervening, and educating others regarding child abuse. I strongly support the initiative that the revenue from the "Child Safety Fee" be used to fund the CAC's efforts to accomplish this objective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Fluck".

Henry Fluck
Chief of Police

JANA K. MCCOWN
504 Sarazen Loop S.
Georgetown, Texas 78628

Home Telephone: (512) 863-7090

Work Telephone: (512) 943-1234

September 21, 2010

Judge Dan Gattis
Cynthia Long
Lisa Birkman
Valerie Covey
Ron Morrison

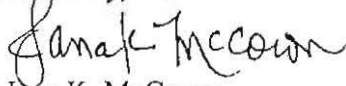
Dear Commissioner's Court,

As a recently appointed Board Member for the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center, I support the request of John Bradley to reallocate a portion of the "Child Safety Fee" collected pursuant to the Texas Transportation Code to be distributed to the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center.

One of the new programs I am proposing at the CAC is training developed to provide parents and educators information about Internet safety. Technology and the various gadgets that give children access to the internet also expose them to dangers that parents may not be aware of. When children have superior knowledge about the internet over that of their parents, we frequently have criminal cases which arise out of contacts made online. By educating parents about the steps they can take to monitor and protect their children from misuse of the internet as well as other technology, we have the opportunity to prevent abuse which might otherwise occur.

Having been a felony prosecutor in Williamson County for the last sixteen years, I have seen firsthand the work of the forensic interviewers and staff at the CAC and the benefits to children and families who have already suffered abuse. I would like to see the focus expand to include the prevention of child abuse, and the Child Safety Fee would be an excellent way to fund those efforts.

Sincerely,



Jana K. McCown
Children's Advocacy Center Board member
and First Assistant District Attorney
Williamson County, Texas



September 22, 2010

Honorable John Bradley
Williamson County District Attorney
405 M.L.K. Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Re: Distribution of Special Vehicle Registration Fee

Dear Mr. Bradley:

This letter is written in support of Ms. Hunt's efforts to have the Williamson County Commissioners Court divert ten (10) percent of the above referenced funds to the Williamson County Child Advocacy Center (WCCAC). As I understand the current situation, all of the funds generated from this special vehicle registration fee go to county school districts to fund their respective crossing guard programs and I feel very strongly that providing ten percent of these funds to the WCCAC would be both appropriate and strongly supported by Williamson County constituents. The WCCAC provides an extremely important role in supporting victims of child abuse and the effective prosecution of offenders. The City of Taylor especially appreciates the work of the WCCAC as they play an integral role in these types of issues within the City of Taylor.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or comments.

Very Truly Yours,

Jim D. Dunaway
City Manager



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF GEORGETOWN

September 15, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

As you know, a special vehicle registration fee was approved for collection by the tax assessor/collector several years ago. The fee was created by the legislature and is available for funding programs that benefit the safety of children in Williamson County. Currently, the primary objective of the distributed funds is for funding school crossing guard programs.

The purpose of this letter is to extend our support to request the Commissioners Court modify the current order to redirect 10% of the fund to the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center. By redirecting the money, the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center will be able to develop and carry out new training courses for school officials so they understand their role in preventing, identifying, reporting and assisting in investigating child abuse in the school environment.

We, therefore, very much appreciate it if you can extend whatever possible support for the realization of this worthwhile endeavor.

Please feel free to contact me at (512) 930-8450 if you have any additional questions or if we can be of further support.

Sincerely,

Wayne F. Nero
Chief of Police

10500 Avery Club Drive, House 13
Austin, Texas 78717

September 23, 2010

Members of the Commissioners Court of Williamson County
c/o The Honorable Dan A. Gattis
710 Main Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Dear Members of the Court:

The Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center (WCCAC) has been playing a significant role in the county since 1997 in protecting the safety of our children. Over the years, the center has been instrumental in assisting abused children, non-offending family members, and the professionals dedicated to the intervention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment options related to child abuse cases. More specifically, the center has assisted over 3,700 child victims and over 13,500 secondary victims in Williamson County since its inception.

This letter is written in support of the proposal to divert ten percent (10%) of the collected vehicle registration fee initiated in 1998 for the specific intent to benefit the safety of children (referred to as the "Child Safety Fee" collected pursuant to the Texas Transportation Code). As I understand it, the law expressly permits the Commissioners Court to approve its use for prevention and intervention of child abuse.

As a Board Member, father and resident it is my request that such a small portion of these funds be used to support the efforts of the advocacy center. I see an opportunity for the center and am excited about the prospect of increasing awareness among our education professionals such that they can prevent, identify report and assist in reducing cases of abuse. Our educators are the front line of defense and present a significant opportunity to impact the lives of many! As a father of four, I can't think of a better program geared toward the prevention and intervention of child abuse throughout the county.

Thank you for your consideration during the October 5, 2010 meeting to support the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center by modifying the current Commissioner's Court Order to redirect 10% of the fee to improve the safety our children!

Sincerely,



Victor P. Fetter, III
Board Member, WCCAC

cc: Mr. John Bradley
Williamson County District Attorney
405 M.L.K. Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Commissioner Cynthia P. Long
Williamson County Commissioner, Precinct 2
350 Discovery Blvd., Suite 201
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

October 1, 2010

The Honorable Judge Dan A. Gattis
Commissioner Cynthia Long
Commissioner Lisa Birkman
Commissioner Valerie Covey
Commissioner Ron Morrison

Re: Redistribution of Special Vehicle Registration Fee

Dear Commissioner's Court,

This letter is in support of the Tax Assessor Collector Deborah Hunt and District Attorney John Bradley's efforts to reallocate 10% of the "Child Safety Fee" collected under the Texas Transportation Code. The fee was created by the Legislature and is available to fund programs that benefit the safety of children.

The reallocation of just 10% of those funds to the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center (WCCAC) will benefit the children of Williamson County. There is no other program that better addresses the needs for prevention and intervention of child abuse. With the new funds, the WCCAC can develop and implement new training courses for schools. Training can be provided to administrators, principals, teachers, counselors and school nurses, so that they can understand their role in preventing, identifying, reporting and assisting in investigating child abuse when they encounter evidence of it in the school environment.

In addition to the school training, there are other programs available to help teach parents how to keep their children safe. Internet Safety and Darkness to Light are two programs that the WCCAC may be able to implement with the new funding. The Internet Safety course would educate parents about technology and the various tools that children have access to on the internet that give easy access to people that prey on children. The Darkness to Light program raises awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating adults about the steps they can take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse.

At the WCCAC, one of our goals is "Breaking the cycle of abuse one child at a time". With your help, the WCCAC will be able to reach more schools and parent to accomplish that goal. Thank you for your consideration in reallocating 10% of the funds to the WCCAC.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Whitworth
Board President
Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center

City of Round Rock
Round Rock Police Department
Office of the Chief

2701 N. Mays
Round Rock, Texas 78665
Phone: (512) 218-5505
Fax: (512) 218-3267



"TO PROTECT and SERVE"

September 27, 2010

Honorable John Bradley
Williamson County District Attorney
405 M.L.K. Street
Georgetown, TX 78626

RE: Distribution of Special Vehicle Registration Fee

Dear Mr. Bradley:


This letter is written in support of Ms Hunt's efforts to have the Williamson County Commissioner's Court divert ten (10) percent of the above referenced funds to the Williamson County Child Advocacy Center (WCCAC).

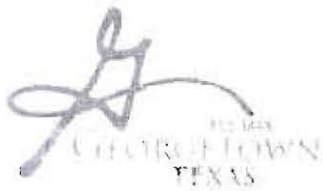
As I understand the current situation, all of the funds generated from this special vehicle registration fee go to the county school districts to fund their respective crossing guard programs. I feel strongly that providing ten percent of these funds to the WCCAC would be both appropriate and strongly supported by Williamson County constituents.

The WCCAC provides an extremely important role in supporting victims of child abuse and the effective prosecution of offenders. The City of Round Rock especially appreciates their work as they play an integral role in these types of issues within our city.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or comments.

Respectfully Submitted,


Bryan H. Williams, Chief of Police



September 22, 2010

The Honorable Dan A. Gattis
Williamson County Judge
710 Main Street, Ste. 101
Georgetown, TX 78626

Re: Child Safety Fee Distribution

Dear Judge Gattis:

As you are aware, a special vehicle registration fee (\$1.50) was approved for collection by the tax assessor/collector several years ago. That fee was created by the state legislature and is available for funding programs that benefit the safety of children. The law expressly permits the Commissioners Court to approve its use for prevention and intervention of child abuse.

Currently, the funds are proportionally distributed to all the Williamson County-based school districts through an average daily attendance formula based on an agreement that was negotiated by former Commissioner Heiligenstein. The Commissioner's Court approved and authorized the imposition of this fee for the Child Safety Fund on September 3, 1998 with an effective date of January 1, 1999. The named purpose in the Commissioner's Court Order is for funding school crossing guard programs. The fund currently collects approximately \$550,000/year.

This letter is written in support of District Attorney John Bradley's and Tax Assessor Collector Deborah Hunt's recommendation that the Williamson County Commissioners court modify the current order to redirect 10% of the fund (after deduction of administrative costs for her office) to the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center (WCCAC), leaving the remainder to be distributed as previously agreed to for the school districts.

The City of Georgetown supports their position that a small portion of those funds could more effectively be used to support the Children's Advocacy Center. There is no other program that better addresses the needs for prevention and intervention of child abuse. By redirecting the money, the WCCAC will be able to develop and carry out new training courses for the school officials. Training will be presented to principals, teachers, counselors and school nurses, so that they understand their role in preventing, identifying, reporting and assisting in investigating child abuse when they encounter evidence of it in the school environment. The Georgetown Independent School District is in a position to work with the WCCAC to provide such needed training and has already begun scheduling meetings for the WCCAC and others to talk to the District's school principals.

The Honorable Dan A. Gattis
September 22, 2010
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Thank you for your consideration in supporting the Williamson County Advocacy Center by modifying the current Commissioner's Court Order related to this legislative fee to redirect 10% of the fund as described above to the WCCAC.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Brandenburg
City Manager

cc: Commissioner Lisa Birkman
Williamson County, Precinct No. 1
400 West Main Street, Ste. 216
Round Rock, TX 78664

Commissioner Cynthia Long
Williamson County, Precinct No. 2
350 Discovery Blvd., Suite 201
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Commissioner Val Covey
Williamson County, Precinct No. 3
3010 Williams Dr. Ste. 153
Georgetown, TX 78628

Commissioner Ron Morrison
Williamson County, Precinct No. 4
412 Vance, Ste 213
Taylor, TX 76574

Mr. John Bradley
Williamson County District Attorney
405 M.L.K. Street
Georgetown, TX 78626

Ms. Deborah Hunt
Williamson County Tax Assessor Collector
904 S. Main
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Mayor George Garver

City Council

Micki Rundell
Chief Financial Officer

Wayne Nero
Police Chief