

**PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN HARRIS COUNTY
AND Government Affairs Professionals of Texas**

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between Harris County (the "County"), a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, acting by and through the Harris County District Attorney's Office (the "Department"), and **Government Affairs Professionals of Texas**("Contractor"). The County and Contractor are referred to herein collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party."

Recitals

With the County Attorney's approval, the Department desires the Contractor to provide personal services pursuant to Tex. Loc. Gov't Code Ann. § 262.024(a)(4).

Contractor warrants and represents that they possess the required training, knowledge and expertise to provide the requested Services for the benefit of County and the Department.

1) GENERAL SCOPE OF SERVICES

- A) Contractor shall provide support to the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Services will include representing the Harris County District Attorney's Office initiatives, provide advice and counsel regarding policy and appropriation concerns, analyze strategies to achieve legislative objectives, and monitor state agency and legislative committee decisions impacting operations at the District Attorney's Office.

- B) GAP Texas agrees to provide the following services over the contract period:

•**Delegation Outreach** GAP Texas will immediately ensure that the HCDAO maintains consistent communication and engagement with the Harris County State Legislative Delegation. Together, we will identify quintessential state government stakeholders relevant to your objectives. This includes State Representatives, State Senators and statewide elected officials at various local levels (county, city, federal).

•**Presence in each office of the Harris County State Delegation:** Ensuring that HCDAO's interests are represented across all offices.

•**Direct line of contact for legislative work:** Establishing and maintaining a clear point of contact within HCDAO for legislative inquiries, feedback, and support.

•**Facilitating connections for DA Teare:** Coordinating meetings and visits for DA Teare with key members of the delegation while in Austin to maximize personal engagement.

GAP Texas, based on the feedback from HCDAO staff, would allot priority assignments in outreaching to specified state elected officials and jurisdictions, related to your key objectives.

Legislative Analysis GAP Texas will provide ongoing legislative analysis to support HCDAO's involvement in the lawmaking process. This includes: Bill Summaries and Recommendations: Offering clear and timely summaries of proposed legislation and providing actionable recommendations to ensure bills align with HCDAO's position.

Coordinating with HCDAO on Policy Support: Working with HCDAO to identify and craft supportive policy positions.

Crafting Testimony and Bill Language Changes: Collaborating with legislative offices to craft testimony and propose changes to bill language that reflect HCDAO's goals.

Registering Support or Opposition to Bills: Representing HCDAO's position on bills through registration and testimony.

Stakeholder Engagement GAP Texas will strategically manage and expand HCDAO's relationships (during and after the session) with advocacy groups, law enforcement agencies, and other influential stakeholders. Services include: Regular Attendance at Stakeholder Meetings: Representing HCDAO at meetings with key groups such as the Houston Police Department (HPD), Texas District & County Attorneys Association (TDCAA), and Houston Police Officers Union (HPOU).

Meeting with Advocacy Groups: Engaging with organizations like PPTV, Equality Texas, NAACP Texas, NAMI, and HAWC to ensure HCDAO's position is communicated effectively and to understand the broader policy landscape.

Collaborating with HCDAO Communication Team: Coordinating messaging and communications about legislative positions and updates.

•**Define the Functional Vision and Objective:** GAP Texas would work closely with the HCDAO's team to identify the functional vision and key objectives. The functional vision is a clear, concise, and well-constructed statement articulating your functional aspirations. The objectives are your short- and medium-term goals that you seek to accomplish. The vision and objectives should be aligned with HCDAO's larger strategy. GAP Texas will work with the HCDAO's Team to identify where you are seeking support, mitigating problemed relationships, policy changes, or collaborative government funding. This is where we will be specific about what you want to achieve, by when, and the specific messaging and positioning you should use when communicating with state elected officials.

•**Create Collateral** GAP Texas would suggest a cadence and provide examples for developing informational materials such as fact sheets, white papers, and case studies that inform others of your objectives. GAP Texas would provide ideas to ensure these materials are easily digestible, simple to find, and backed by credible sources.

•**Recommend Digital Tools** GAP Texas would make a recommendation on how to leverage digital platforms to amplify your message. We would provide a high-level recommendation on developing content for the HCDAO website, engaging in social media, using a contact management system, and operating email campaigns to keep stakeholders informed and engaged.

•**Mobilize Information Campaigns as needed** GAP Texas would make suggestions on how to organize informational campaigns to mobilize support, particularly those targeted toward state elected officials. This could involve providing information and resources that may generate grassroots efforts, petitions, or letter-writing campaigns, in partnership with HCDAO community outreach team. The goal of these campaigns is to mobilize key stakeholders so they may advocate for public safety goals that would benefit the entire community.

•**Managing information to upper management** GAP Texas would provide structured advice for staff to communicate relevant political, campaign and policy information using a tried-and-true transmission method. GR staff can't operate in a vacuum and relevant and topical information needs to be conveyed early and often to upper management. GAP Texas would outline a recommended approach that would assist in this communication. The goal is to deliver ground intelligence back to key decision makers at HCDAO, avoid surprises, and make senior management appear informed and briefed.

•**Participation in public hearings and consultations** GAP Texas would advise on actively participating in public hearings, consultations, and town hall meetings related to your objectives. We would provide best practices on using these opportunities to present, inform and respond to questions or concerns, especially where elected officials will be invited and present.

•**Collaborate with Allies** GAP Texas will provide general advice on how to build coalitions with like-minded organizations. We operate under the assumption that collaborative efforts can amplify HCDAO's voice and demonstrate widespread

support. We would priorities ten key organizations that need to be watched, observed and followed.

- C) GAP Texas will deliver periodic reports detailing their lobbying activities, progress towards objectives, and any changes in the legislative landscape. Key deliverables include:
 - 1. **Weekly Progress Reports:** Detailed summaries of lobbying activities, stakeholder meetings, and policy developments during the legislative session.
 - 2. **Monthly Strategic Reviews:** In-depth reviews of progress against the strategic objectives, with recommendations for adjustments.
 - 3. **Annual Impact Assessment:** A comprehensive report evaluating the overall impact of lobbying and grant funding efforts that are in alignment with the City of Eagle Pass's policy goals.
 - 4. **Available for In-person Presentations:** GAP Texas would be available for in person visits and consultations, on an as needed basis. We would also make ourselves available using video calls and phone communication methods.
- D) Unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, words which have well-known technical, or industry meanings are used in accordance with such recognized meaning.

2) **CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A) Contractor may not make, in whole or in part, any assignment of this Agreement or of any duty of obligation of performance of the Services hereunder. It is expressly understood and agreed that all Services must be performed personally by **Government Affairs Professionals of Texas** and/or their employees and such services shall not be assigned to or performed by any other person.
- B) Contractor acknowledges and agrees to deliver the Services in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations relating to the Services.
- C) During the term of this Agreement, Contractor must not represent or undertake to perform any services to any other party with respect to any matters that would present a conflict of interest between the County and that other party. In the event that a conflict of interest arises, as determined solely by the Department, this Agreement will terminate automatically. Contractor will not be entitled to payment for Services performed after the date of such termination or for any services that represent a conflict of interest for the County.

3) **COUNTY'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A) The County will provide all information in its possession and as legally allowed which relates to the Department's requirements for the Services.

- B) The County will designate a person to act as the Department representative with respect to the work to be performed under the contract.

4) **INDEPENDENT PARTIES**

- A) The Services performed by Contractor under this Agreement are performed by Contractor as an independent contractor. This Agreement is not intended to create and shall not constitute a partnership or joint venture between the Parties. Contractor shall have and retain the exclusive right of control over employment, firing, discipline, compensation, insurance, and benefits in accordance with the applicable laws of the State of Texas. Contractor has no authority to bind or otherwise obligate the County orally, in writing or by any act or omission. Nothing contained herein shall establish an agency, employee-employer relationship, partnership, joint enterprise, joint employer, or joint venture relationship by or between the County and Contractor.
- B) **IN THE EVENT THAT ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY, OR COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION DETERMINES THAT CONTRACTOR IS NOT AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, CONTRACTOR AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COUNTY FOR ANY AND ALL DAMAGES, PENALTIES, ASSESSMENTS, TAXES, OR EXPENSES THAT MAY BE INCURRED BY COUNTY AS A RESULT OF THIS DETERMINATION.**
- C) Contractor warrants that it will comply with all federal and state laws including but not limited to the Prompt Pay Act, in the payment of its workers.
- D) Contractor is solely responsible for the payment of wages and any applicable benefits to workers for Services performed for the County. Contractor shall be responsible for withholding federal and state income taxes, paying Federal Social Security taxes, maintaining unemployment insurance and maintaining workers' compensation insurance in an amount and under such terms as required by the applicable laws of the State of Texas.

THE COUNTY'S PAYMENT IS TO THE CONTRACTOR. THE COUNTY SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FOR PAYMENT TO CONTRACTOR'S WORKERS OR SUBCONTRACTORS. CONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE COUNTY HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL SUCH CLAIMS.

- E) Contractor's workers are not entitled to any contributions by or benefits from the County for any pension plan, bonus plan or any other benefit plan. Contractor and the workers furnished by Contractor shall not be entitled to any fringe benefits or similar benefits afforded to employees of the County. The County is not liable for payment of any federal or state taxes and charges including, but not limited to, income withholding taxes, social security, unemployment, workers' compensation,

and similar taxes and charges. This Article shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

- F) The County is not responsible to Contractor or Contractor's workers for payment of any overtime compensation or any additional payments pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. Section 207 9a(1), as amended; the Texas Pay Day Act; the Equal Pay Act; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000e, *et al.*, as amended; or any provisions of the *Texas Labor Code Ann.*, as amended.
- G) Neither Party shall have the authority to enter into contracts or agreements on behalf of the other Party.

5) **TERM**

The term shall be for a period beginning upon execution by the Parties and remain in full force and effect until May 31, 2025.

6) **CONTRACTOR'S COMPENSATION**

- A) It is expressly understood that the Contractor and his employees are authorized to perform the Services under this Agreement. The County will pay the Contractor a flat rate of Eleven Thousand Five Hundred and 00/Dollars (\$11,500.00) per month for services provided by **Government Affairs Professionals of Texas**. All funds allocated will be limited to a not-to-exceed maximum amount of Sixty-Nine Thousand and 00/Dollars (\$69,000.00) for Contractor's Services.
- B) It is expressly understood that Contractor is neither authorized to seek additional reimbursement nor is the County obligated to pay for postage, long distance telephone calls, parking fees, additional travel, mileage, lodging, or other costs or expenses (similar or dissimilar).
- D) The Contractor understands and agrees that, in accordance with the Texas Constitution, the County is prohibited from paying Contractor in advance for any of the Services or deliverables.
- E) Contractor and County agree that Contractor shall not be required to provide services for more than forty (40) hours in any one week, nor more than one hundred sixty (160) hours in any calendar month

7) **TERMS OF PAYMENT**

- A) On the 15th and 30th day of each month during the period of performance,, Contractor shall submit to the Harris County Auditor a sworn invoice for services rendered to: Harris County Auditor, 1001 Preston 8th floor, Houston, Texas 77002. Each invoice shall be in a form acceptable to the County Auditor and shall include

such detail of the services as may be requested by the County Auditor for verification purposes.

- B) The invoices shall, at a minimum, include a description of the services, the department for which the Contractor provided services, and the total amount billed for the services. After receipt of an invoice, County Auditor shall forward the invoice to the Department for review and approval with such modifications as may be deemed appropriate, and after review, the department will return the invoice, with any modifications, to the County Auditor for payment. The County shall pay each invoice as approved by the County Auditor in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

8) **LIMIT OF APPROPRIATION**

- A) Contractor understands and agrees, said understanding and agreement also being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that the total maximum compensation that Contractor may become entitled to for the Services performed under this Agreement, and the total maximum sum that the County shall become liable to pay to Contractor under this Agreement, shall not under any conditions, circumstances, or interpretations thereof exceed the sum of Sixty-Nine Thousand and 00/Dollars (\$69,000.00). Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, or that may be construed to the contrary, the County's liability under the terms and provisions of this Agreement is limited to this sum.
- B) Contractor understands and agrees that the laws governing the letting of contracts for the County require the approval of the Harris County Auditor and their certification that funds are, or will be, available for the payment of the obligations created under the Agreement before such contracts become effective. Therefore, Contractor shall not proceed with any Services until such time that it receives a Purchase Order issued by the Harris County Purchasing Agent. Any Services performed by Contractor prior to its receipt of a Purchase Order are at Contractor's own expense.
- C) Contractor does understand and agree, said understanding and agreement also being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that the total maximum compensation that Contractor may become entitled to hereunder, and the total maximum sum that the Contractor shall become liable to pay to Contractor hereunder, shall not under any conditions, circumstances, or interpretations thereof exceed the sum certified by the Purchase Order. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, or that may be construed to the contrary, the County's liability under the terms and provisions of this Agreement is limited to this sum. When all the funds so certified are expended, Contractor's sole and exclusive remedy shall be to terminate this Agreement. If the Services and charges to be provided for will equal or exceed the amount certified available, Contractor shall notify the County immediately.
- D) The Parties understand that payment obligations created by this Agreement are

conditioned upon the availability of third-party funds, including but not limited to federal funds awarded to the State or County ("Grant Funds"), and appropriated for the payment of such obligations under the Grant. In the event these Grant Funds are discontinued or reduced during the Agreement term, the County shall not be liable for payment of any funds above the actual Grant Funds the County receives. If such discontinuation/reduction occurs and the Parties are unable to renegotiate the Agreement upon mutually acceptable terms, the Contractor's sole and exclusive remedy shall be to terminate this Agreement. The County's obligation to make any payments under the Agreement using Grant Funds is limited to the amount of Grant Funds received. Contractor agrees that it will not be entitled to any damages or remedies of any kind including, but not limited to, liquidated or incidental damages, late fees, penalties, and finance charges. Failure to certify funds or to certify sufficient funding for any reason shall not be considered a breach of this Agreement.

- E) With regard to the renewal or extension of this Agreement, the County has not allocated any funds for any renewal or extension period beyond the current fiscal year. Therefore, if the County exercises any renewal option, the renewal is subject to the future allocation and certification of funds for the renewal period.

9) **TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT**

- A) The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Agreement is subject to the Texas Public Information Act, Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 552.001 *et seq.*, as amended (the "Act"). Contractor expressly understands and agrees that the County shall release any and all information necessary to comply with Texas law without the prior written consent of Contractor.
- B) It is expressly understood and agreed that the County, its officers and employees may request advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas ("Attorney General") in regard to the application of the Act to any software, or any part thereof, or other information or data furnished to the County, whether or not the same are available to the public. It is further understood that the County, its officers and employees shall have the right to rely on the advice, decisions, and opinions of the Attorney General, and that the County, its officers, and employees shall have no liability or obligations to Contractor for the disclosure to the public, or to any person or persons, of any software, or a part thereof, or other information or data furnished to the County in reliance on any advice, decision or opinion of the Attorney General.
- C) In the event the County receives a written request for information pursuant to the Act that affects Contractor's rights, title to, or interest in any information or data or a part thereof, furnished to the County by Contractor under this Agreement, then the County will promptly notify Contractor of such request. Contractor may, at its own option and expense, prepare comments and submit information directly to the Attorney General stating why the requested information is exempt from disclosure

pursuant to the requirements of the Act. Contractor is solely responsible for submitting the memorandum brief and information to the Attorney General within the time period prescribed by the Act. Contractor is solely responsible for seeking any declaratory or injunctive relief regarding the disclosure of information that it deems confidential or privileged.

- D) Electronic Mail Addresses. Contractor affirmatively consents to the disclosure of its e-mail addresses that are provided to the County, including any agency or department of the County. This consent is intended to comply with the requirements of the Act, and shall survive termination of this Agreement. This consent shall apply to e-mail addresses provided by Contractor and agents acting on behalf of Contractor and shall apply to any e-mail address provided in any form for any reason whether related to this Agreement or otherwise.

10) TERMINATION

- A) The County may terminate this Agreement at any time by providing sixty (60) days' notice in writing to the Contractor.
- B) Upon receipt of termination notice, Contractor shall discontinue all Services in connection with the performance of this Agreement and shall proceed to cancel promptly all existing orders and contracts insofar as such orders or contracts are chargeable to this Agreement.
- C) Within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice of termination, Contractor agrees to submit an invoice showing in detail the Services performed under this Agreement up to and including the date of termination.
- D) The County agrees to pay Contractor that proportion of the prescribed charges for the Services actually performed and deliverables actually received under this Agreement bear to the total Services or deliverables called for under this Agreement, less such payments on account of charges as have previously been made.
- E) *Force Majeure*. In the event that either Party is unable to perform any of its obligations under the Agreement or to enjoy any of the benefits because of natural disaster, actions or decrees of governmental bodies or communications line failure not the fault of the affected party (referred to as a "*Force Majeure* Event"), the Party who has been so affected immediately agrees to give notice to the other Party and agrees to do everything possible to resume performance. Upon receipt of such notice, the Agreement is immediately suspended. If the period of nonperformance exceeds ten (10) calendar days from the receipt of notice of the *Force Majeure* Event, the Party whose ability to perform has not been so affected may terminate the Agreement immediately by giving written notice to the other Party.

- F) In the event Contractor loses any accreditation required by any state or federal agency with regulatory authority or oversight over Contractor, this Agreement shall terminate immediately upon Contractor's loss of accreditation.
- G) Agreement Transition. In the event the Agreement ends by either expiration or termination, Contractor shall assist in the transition until such time that a new contractor can be completely operational. Contractor acknowledges its responsibility to cooperate fully with the replacement contractor and the County to ensure a smooth and timely transition to the replacement contractor. Such transitional period shall not extend more than ninety (90) days beyond the expiration/termination date of the Agreement, or any extension thereof. During any transition period, all other terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect as originally written.

11) NOTICE

- A) Any notice required to be given under the provisions of this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be duly served when it shall have been delivered in person or deposited, enclosed in a wrapper with the proper postage prepaid thereon, and duly registered or certified, return receipt requested, in a United States Post Office, addressed to the County or Contractor at the following addresses. If mailed, any notice or communication shall be deemed to be received three (3) days after the date of deposit in the United States Mail. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, all notices shall be delivered to the following addresses:

To Consultant: **Government Affairs Professionals of Texas**
801 Travis, Suite 1400

Houston, Texas, 77002

To the County: Harris County District Attorney's Office
1201 Franklin St.
Suite 600
Houston, TX 77002
Attn: Chandler Raine

Copy To: Harris County Purchasing Agent
1111 Fannin Street, 12th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
Attn: Paige McInnis

- B) Either Party may designate a different address by giving the other Party ten (10) days written notice.

12) **COMPLIANCE AND STANDARDS**

- A) Contractor represents and warrants that it is capable and willing to provide the Services called for in the Agreement, and agrees to render the Services in accordance with the generally accepted standards applicable to the Services. Contractor shall use that degree of care and skill commensurate with the profession to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations relating to the Services and Contractor's performance to be rendered hereunder. Contractor represents that Contractor and its personnel are fully qualified to perform the Services and provide the deliverables described in this Agreement.
- B) Contractor agrees to keep confidential the contents of all its discussions with County officials. Contractor agrees to keep confidential the contents of all County records and all other information obtained during Contractor's performance of Services under this Agreement. Contractor shall not release any confidential information unless the County, in writing, authorizes Contractor to release specific information to any third parties.
- C) Contractor shall not access any information it is not authorized to receive, nor shall Contractor copy, recreate, or use any proprietary information or Documents obtained in connection with this Agreement other than for the performance of this Agreement.
- D) Contractor warrants and represents that it is not in breach of any other contract, obligation or covenant that would affect Contractor's ability to perform hereunder and, as a result of entering into this Agreement, will not breach any such contract, obligation, or covenant.
- E) Contractor warrants and represents that it is registered with the Texas Secretary of State to transact business in Texas, and is current on all state and local fees and taxes, including but not limited to Franchise Account Status of "in good standing" with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
- F) Contractor warrants and represents that neither it, nor any of its principals or other affiliated entities, owe any debts to Harris County, including, but not limited to delinquent taxes, court judgments, tickets, tolls, fees, or fines. Taxes are deemed delinquent on the date certain as specified by the Harris County Tax Office. For the purposes of this Agreement, a court judgment is not required for delinquent taxes to be considered a debt.
- G) Conflict of Interest: Contractor warrants and represents to the County that it does not have nor shall it knowingly acquire any interest that would conflict in any manner with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Furthermore, Contractor warrants that no company or person, other than a bona fide employee, has been employed to solicit or secure this Agreement with the County, and that Contractor has not paid or agreed to pay any company or

person, other than a bona fide employee, any fee, commission, percentage, brokerage fee, gift, or any other consideration, contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement. For breach or violation of this provision, the County shall have the right to terminate the Agreement without liability or in its discretion to deduct from the Agreement amount, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, brokerage fee, gift, or contingent fee.

- H) Lobbying: Contractor shall not use County funds to directly or indirectly pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence any public employee or official in connection with the awarding of any contract or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any contract. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C.A. § 1352 (2003), if at any time during the Agreement term funding to Contractor exceeds \$150,000.00, Contractor shall file with the County the Federal Standard Form LLL titled "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."
- I) No Federal Exclusion: Contractor warrants and represents that it is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in any Federal programs, including but not limited to the following: Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG) - List of Excluded Individuals & Entities (LEIE); U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) – Excluded Parties List System (EPLS); All States (50) Health & Human Services Commission Medicaid OIG Sanction List; Government Terrorist Watch List (OFAC / Patriot Act); Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security, Denied Persons List; and Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Most Wanted. Contractor must immediately notify the County of any such exclusion or suspension. Contractor warrants and represents that it is in good standing with all State and Federal agencies that have a contracting or regulatory relationship with the County. Contractor warrants and represents that no person who has an ownership or controlling interest in Contractor's business or who is an agent or managing employee of Contractor has been convicted of a criminal offense related to involvement in any federal program.
- J) County and its designee shall have the right to conduct examinations, studies and audits of the services, payments, and efficiencies provided under this Agreement and County may make such examinations, studies, and audits at any time whether before or after payment. Contractor shall cooperate with such examinations, studies, and audits and provide County with such records, data, documents, including all of Contractor's backup and support data for billings, and Contractor shall provide access to such records, data, documents and personnel as are requested by County or the County Auditor. All payments made by County are subject to re-evaluation and refund or withholding of future payments conditioned on the results of the audit. This section shall survive termination of this Agreement.
- K) Whistleblower Protection Act: Contractor understands and agrees that this Agreement and employees working on this Agreement will be subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies in the pilot program on contractor employee

whistleblower protections established at 41 U.S.C. 4712 by section 828 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Pub. L. 112-239) and FAR 3.908. Contractor shall inform its employees in writing, in the predominant language of the workforce, of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712, as described in section 3.908 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Contractor shall insert the substance of this clause; paragraph M (“Whistleblower Protection Act”), in all subcontracts providing services under this Agreement.

- L) Prior to execution of the Agreement, Contractor shall, as an update, complete Form 1295 in accordance with Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. § 2252.908 concerning “Interested Parties,” Contractor warrants and represents that all the information on the form is complete and accurate.
- M) Foreign Terrorists Organizations. In accordance with Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. Chapter 2252 Subchapter F, Contractor warrants and represents that, at the time of execution of this Agreement and for the duration of the Term of this Agreement and any Renewal Terms, Contractor does not appear on the Texas State Comptroller’s list of companies known to have contracts with or provide supplies or services to a foreign terrorist organization.
- N) Anti-Boycott. In accordance with Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. § 2270.002, Contractor warrants and represents that it does not boycott Israel and agrees that it will not boycott Israel during the term of this contract.
- O) Fraud, Waste or Abuse Hotline. Contractor shall immediately report to the County through the County’s Fraud, Waste, or Abuse Hotline and also notify the County in accordance with all the Notice provisions contained in this Agreement all suspected or known instances and facts concerning fraud, waste, abuse, or criminal activity under this Agreement. The County’s Fraud, Waste, or Abuse Hotline can be accessed by phone at 866-556-8181 or online at <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/68174/index.html>.

13) PUBLIC CONTACT

Contact with the news media, citizens of Harris County, or governmental agencies shall be the responsibility of the County. Except as requested of Contractor in connection with its support of Department leadership with media relations and communication, under no circumstances shall Contractor release any material or information developed in the performance of its Services without the express written permission of the County. As used herein, the “express written permission of the County” shall mean any worded expression that can be read, reproduced, and later communicated, and includes electronically transmitted and stored information provided by, which requests, permits, approves, authorizes or otherwise consents to the release of any material or information.

14) INDEMNIFICATION

CONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COUNTY FROM AND AGAINST ALL CLAIMS AND LIABILITY DUE TO THE ACTIVITIES OF CONTRACTOR, OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL, PERFORMED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND WHICH RESULT FROM ANY NEGLIGENT ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION; INTENTIONAL TORT; INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFRINGEMENT; OR FAILURE TO PAY A SUBCONTRACTOR OR SUPPLIER; COMMITTED BY CONTRACTOR OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL.

CONTRACTOR SHALL ALSO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COUNTY FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL EXPENSES, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES WHICH MIGHT BE INCURRED BY THE COUNTY, IN LITIGATION OR OTHERWISE RESISTING SAID CLAIMS OR LIABILITIES WHICH MIGHT BE IMPOSED ON THE COUNTY AS THE RESULT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES BY CONTRACTOR OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL.

CONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD THE COUNTY HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, EXPENSE, JUDGMENT, SUIT, CAUSE OF ACTION, OR DEMAND FOR PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR DIRECT DAMAGE TO TANGIBLE PROPERTY WHICH MAY ACCRUE AGAINST THE COUNTY TO THE EXTENT IT IS CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF CONTRACTOR OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL, WHILE PERFORMING SERVICES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. COUNTY WILL GIVE CONTRACTOR PROMPT, WRITTEN NOTICE OF ANY SUCH CLAIM OR SUIT. COUNTY SHALL COOPERATE WITH CONTRACTOR IN ITS DEFENSE OR SETTLEMENT OF SUCH CLAIM OR SUIT.

IF A RESTRAINING ORDER OR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION IS GRANTED DUE TO ANY ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION COMMITTED BY CONTRACTOR OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL, CONTRACTOR SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SECURING A SATISFACTORY BOND, TO OBTAIN THE SUSPENSION OF ANY SUCH RESTRAINING ORDER OR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION.

COUNTY RESERVES THE RIGHT, AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, TO BE INDEPENDENTLY REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL OF ITS OWN CHOICE IN CONNECTION WITH ANY SUCH SUIT OR PROCEEDING.

15) APPLICABLE LAW AND VENUE

- A) The Agreement is subject to the state and federal laws, orders, rules, and regulations relating to the Agreement and funded by state or federal funds or of applicable conditions of participation in Medicaid or Medicare program(s).
- B) This Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Texas.
- C) The forum for any action under or related to the Agreement is exclusively in a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Texas.
- D) The exclusive venue for any action under or related to the Agreement is in a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Houston, Harris County, Texas

16) TAXES AND CHARGES

- A) The County is a political subdivision under the laws of the State of Texas and claims exemption from sales and use taxes under Tex. Tax Code Ann. §151.309, as amended. The County agrees to provide exemption certificates to Contractor upon request.
- B) The County is neither liable for any personal property taxes, charges, or fees assessed against Contractor nor obligated to reimburse Contractor for any taxes, charges, or fees assessed against Contractor for the supplies provided or any Services rendered.

17) NO PERSONAL LIABILITY; NO WAIVER OF IMMUNITY

- A) Nothing in the Agreement is construed as creating any personal liability on the part of any officer, director, employee, or agent of any public body that may be a Party to the Agreement, and the Parties expressly agree that the execution of the Agreement does not create any personal liability on the part of any officer, director, employee, or agent of the County.
- B) The Parties agree that no provision of this Agreement extends the County's liability beyond the liability provided in the Texas Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas.
- C) Neither the execution of this Agreement nor any other conduct of either Party relating to this Agreement shall be considered a waiver by the County of any right, defense, or immunity under the Texas Constitution or the laws of the State of Texas.
- D) The County does not agree to binding arbitration, nor does the County waive its right to a jury trial.

18) INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A) Contractor understands and agrees, said understanding and agreement also being of

the absolute essence of this Agreement, that the Contractor shall be liable for all incidents that occur as a result of their performance of the Services. Proof of insurance held by the Contractor shall be attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

- B) Contractor understands and agrees, said understanding and agreement also being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, **CONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE COUNTY HARMLESS UNDER ALL INSURANCE POLICIES ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT A FOR ANY AND ALL CLAIMS THAT ARISE AS A RESULT OF THE CONTRACTOR'S PERFORMANCE OF THE SERVICES.**

19) NO FEDERAL EXCLUSION

- A) Contractor warrants that Contractor is not an "Ineligible Person." An "Ineligible Person" is an individual or entity who:
- i) is currently excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise ineligible to participate in any federal and/or state grant, health care program, or in federal and/or state procurement or non-procurement programs. This includes but is not limited to persons who are on the List of Excluded Individuals or Entities of the Inspector General, List of Parties excluded from Federal Programs by the General Services Administration or the Medicaid Sanction List; or,
 - ii) has been convicted of a criminal offense related to the provision of health care items or services [within the rules and regulations of 42 USC §1320a-7(a)], but has not yet been excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise declared ineligible.
- B) Contractor agrees to report immediately to the County if Contractor becomes an "Ineligible Person" during the term of this Agreement.

20) OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS; COPYRIGHT

- A) Contractor agrees that for the purposes of assigning copyright ownership, any and all completed or partially completed data, information, reports, programs, inventions, software, firmware, designs, preliminary layouts, record drawings, digital files, photographs, sketches, and all other electronic or hardcopy documents or documentation (the "Documents") developed pursuant to the Services performed under this Agreement, shall be the sole property of the County.
- B) Contractor represents that it has the right to assign and hereby assigns to the County all rights, title, copyright ownership and interest in any completed or partially completed data (including source codes), information, reports, programs, inventions, software, firmware, designs, preliminary layouts, record drawings,

digital files, photographs, sketches, and all other electronic or hardcopy documents or documentation to be developed or has already been developed, created or invented pursuant to this Agreement or any other agreements that Contractor may currently have or had in the past, with the County.

- C) Within seven (7) days after its development, creation, or invention, Contractor agrees to deliver to the County, copies, in a form acceptable to the County, of any and all such Documents. Contractor may retain one set of reproducible copies of all Documents for the sole use of performing Services for the County. Contractor is expressly prohibited from selling, donating, licensing or otherwise marketing, or divulging to third parties, any Document, or using such Documents in the preparation of other work for any other client, without the express written permission of the County.

21) AUDIT RIGHTS

- A) Audit Rights. The Contractor shall cooperate to the fullest extent with any and all federal, state, local, or County audits related to this Agreement. The Contractor's cooperation shall include, but not be limited to access to all books, records, contracts, spreadsheets, correspondence, and documents, in whatever form, that are applicable to this Agreement and requested by any federal, state, local, or County entity that has rights or jurisdiction over any part of this Agreement or the funds applicable to this Agreement.
- B) Record Retention. The Contractor agrees to retain within the boundaries of Harris County, for six (6) years after the expiration of this Agreement, all books, records, contracts, spreadsheets, correspondence, and documents applicable to this Agreement. The Contractor will retain and make available, and insert the requisite clause in each applicable subcontract requiring its subcontractors to retain and make available, the books, records, contracts, spreadsheets, correspondence, and documents applicable to this Agreement.

22) WAIVER OF BREACH

Waiver by either Party of a breach or violation of any provision of the Agreement is not a waiver of any subsequent breach.

23) SEVERABILITY

If any provision or part of the Agreement or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is ever held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, the remainder of the Agreement and the application of such provision or part of the Agreement to other persons, entities, or circumstances are not affected.

24) SURVIVAL OF TERMS

Any provision of this Agreement that, by its plain meaning, is intended to survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement including, but not limited to the indemnification provision, shall survive such expiration or earlier termination. If an ambiguity exists as to survival, the provision shall be deemed to survive

25) CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION

- A) This Agreement shall not be construed against or in favor of any Party hereto based upon the fact that the Party did or did not author this Agreement.
- B) The headings in this Agreement are for convenience or reference only and shall not control or affect the meaning or construction of this Agreement.
- C) When terms are used in the singular or plural, the meaning shall apply to both.
- D) When either the male or female gender is used, the meaning shall apply to both.

26) SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

- A) The County and Contractor bind themselves and their successors, executors, administrators, and assigns to the other Party of this Agreement and to the successors, executors, administrators, and assigns of such other Party, in respect to all covenants of this Agreement.
- B) Neither the County nor Contractor shall assign, sublet, or transfer its or his interest in this Agreement without written consent of the other, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

27) NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES

- A) The County is not obligated or liable to any party other than Contractor for the performance of this Agreement.
- B) Nothing in the Agreement is intended or shall be deemed or construed to create any additional rights or remedies in any third party.
- C) Nothing contained in the Agreement shall be construed to or operate in any manner whatsoever to increase the rights of any third party, or the duties or responsibilities of County with respect to any third party.

28) EFFECTIVE DATE

The Effective Date of this Agreement will be the execution date of this Agreement by all the Parties.

29) ENTIRE AGREEMENT; MODIFICATIONS

- A) This instrument contains the entire Agreement between the Parties relating to the rights herein granted and obligations herein assumed.
- B) Any oral or written representations or modifications concerning this instrument shall not be effective excepting a subsequent written modification signed by both Parties.

30) EXECUTION; MULTIPLE COUNTERPARTS

This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts. Each counterpart is deemed an original. All counterparts together constitute one and the same instrument. Each Party warrants that the undersigned is a duly authorized representative with the power to execute this Agreement.

Government Affairs Professionals of Texas

HARRIS COUNTY

By: _____

[Handwritten signature]

By: _____

[Handwritten signature: Sean Teare]

Sean Teare
District Attorney

Date: _____

[Handwritten date: 1/17/2005]