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August 14, 2022

Honorable Mike Campbell
214 North Main Street
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Retta Collins
214 North Main Street
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Johnny Gee
214 North Main Street
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Richard Lowry
214 North Main Street
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Chase Broussard
214 North Main Street
Henrietta, Texas 76365

Re: Budget Request

To the Commissioners Court:

This letter is regarding the upcoming budget. It is my understanding that both of my increases have been rejected by the Court. I have not been asked to provide explanation or clarification, so please let this letter serve as such.

I requested two things for next years budget. A part time investigator and a part time Victims Assistance Coordinator. I asked for a salary of \$10,000.00 per position.

The investigator could be considered a wish. Due to the increase in volume of cases that my office handles. I would request additional money (in the stated amount) to use towards part time investigation. This is not a necessity, however, would make the County Attorney's office operate more efficiently.

The Victims Assistance Coordinator is a necessity. The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 56A.201 states "the district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county attorney who prosecutes criminal cases shall designate a person to serve as victim assistance coordinator in that

jurisdiction.”

The victims assistance coordinator helps victims of crimes and law enforcement agency’s and generally has those duties prescribed by them under the same articles of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

I have designated Shawna Franklin as this person in the past, however, she does not receive any extra compensation, and this is outside of her duties as the County Attorney’s secretary. Further, she does not receive compensation as the head clerk of my office. Again, due to the increase in case load and the increase in the duties attributed to this position, it has become necessary to either compensate Shawna fairly or hire someone to take over this position.

I do not think it fair to ask someone to work for free. If this position is not included in my budget, I will not have a victims assistance coordinator in my office and therefore be out of compliance with the law.

I would also remind the commissioners that my office operates on one of the least expensive budgets within the county framework and that my office also adds money (fines and fees) to the operations of the County.

I ask that I be given a \$10,000.00 increase in my budget for a victim’s assistance coordinator so that I may be able to comply with the statute.

I thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter and if you have any questions, I can be reached on my cell phone.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth C. Slagle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "G".

Seth C. Slagle
Clay County Attorney