

**CONTRACT FOR COLLECTION
OF
DELINQUENT MUNICIPAL COURT FINES AND FEES**

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF TRAVIS

THIS CONTRACT and the STANDARD GOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT AND PURCHASING RIDER, attached as **Exhibit A**, are made and entered into by and between the **CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS**, acting herein by and through its governing body, hereinafter styled, "**City**", and **McCREARY, VESELKA, BRAGG AND ALLEN, P.C.**, hereinafter styled "**MVBA**".

I.

The City agrees to retain and does hereby retain MVBA to provide specific legal services provided herein and enforce the collection of delinquent municipal court fines, fees, court costs, restitution, debts and accounts receivable and other amounts in accordance with Article 103.0031, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (hereinafter referred to in the agreement as "Fines and Fees") pursuant to the terms and conditions described herein. Legal services shall include but not be limited to recommendations and legal advice to the City to take legal enforcement action; representing the City in any dispute or legal challenge to authority to collect such court fees and fines; defending the City in litigation or challenges of its collection authority; and representing the City in collection interests in bankruptcy matters as determined by MVBA or the City. The City further authorizes MVBA to execute all legal documents that are reasonably necessary to pursue collection of the City's claims in connection with the collection of fines and fees that are subject to this contract. This contract supersedes all prior oral and written contracts between the parties regarding court fees and fines, and can only be amended if done so in writing and signed by all parties. Furthermore, this contract cannot be transferred or assigned by either party without the written consent of all parties.

II.

For purposes of this contract all Fines and Fees shall be referred to MVBA when determined to be delinquent as provided for in Article 103.0031, Code of Criminal Procedure.

At least once each month on a date or dates agreed upon by the parties, the City will provide MVBA with copies of, or access to, the information and documentation necessary to collect the Fines and Fees that are subject to this contract. The City shall furnish the information to MVBA by electronic transmission or magnetic medium.

III.

MVBA shall advise all defendants to forward payments directly to the City.

MVBA shall forward to the City all cashier's checks or money orders received by MVBA made payable to the City and any correspondence from defendants. Cashier's checks, money orders, or any other form of payment received by MVBA which are made payable to MVBA will be deposited daily into the MVBA Trust Account. **All communications from MVBA to defendants, whether oral or written, shall instruct defendants to forward all monies directly to the City of Pflugerville Municipal Court.** In spite of instructions to the defendant to the contrary, if MVBA receives any direct payment on any case by a defendant or an agent of a defendant, MVBA will receive and record any such payment made and immediately remit same to the City.

The City reserves the right, upon written direction, to change the method of collection that all monies are paid directly to MVBA. MVBA shall remit to the City, at least once a week, all funds deposited into the MVBA Trust Account which pay the entire balance of a fines and fees account, along with an invoice detailing the docket number, name of defendant, amount paid by the defendant to MVBA or directly to the City and the MVBA fee percentage and fees earned for each case. The remittance from MVBA to the City shall include the fees earned by MVBA on the fines and fees collected.

IV.

MVBA shall indemnify and hold the City harmless from and against all liabilities, losses and/or costs arising from claims for damages, or suits for losses or damages, including reasonable costs and attorney's fees, which may arise as a result of MVBA's performance of the services described in this Contract. The indemnity provision of this Contract shall have no application to any claim or demand which results from the sole negligence or fault of the City, its officers, agents, employees or contractors. And furthermore, in the event of joint and/or shared negligence or fault of the City and MVBA, responsibility and indemnity, if any, shall be apportioned in accordance with Texas law and without waiving any defenses of either party. The provisions of this paragraph are intended for the sole benefit of the parties hereto and are not intended to create or grant any right, contractual or otherwise, to any other persons or entities.

V.

For the collection of Fines and Fees, the City agrees to pay to MVBA, as compensation for the legal services rendered the following fees:

1. For those Fines and Fees imposed against Unadjudicated Offenses that occurred before June 18, 2003, there is no fee due (0%) MVBA on the amount collected by the Court on those cases.
2. For those Fines and Fees imposed against Adjudicated Offenses regardless of the date of the offense, and against Unadjudicated Offenses that occurred on or after June 18, 2003, a fee of thirty percent (30%) of the amount of the Fines and Fees collected by the Court as provided by Article 103.0031 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

3. In the event any case is disposed of by acquittal or dismissal, or if the fine, costs and/or fees are discharged through performance of community service, credit for jail time served, the discretionary removal of a collection fee by the Court or pursuant to §45.0491 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, no compensation shall be paid to MVBA by the City.

All compensation due to MVBA shall become the property of MVBA at the time of payment of the fines and fees by the defendant. The City shall pay to MVBA said compensation on a monthly basis by check.

VI.

The City recognizes and acknowledges that MVBA owns all right, title and interest in certain proprietary software that MVBA may utilize in conjunction with performing the services provided in the contract. The City agrees and hereby grants to MVBA the right to use and incorporate any information provided by the City (“case or defendant information”) to update the databases in this proprietary software, and, notwithstanding that the case or defendant information has been or shall be used to update the databases in this proprietary software, further stipulates and agrees that the City shall have no rights or ownership whatsoever in and to the software or the data contained therein, except that the City shall be entitled to obtain a copy of such data that directly relates to the City’s accounts at any time.

MVBA agrees that it will not share or disclose any specific confidential case or defendant information with any other company, individual, organization or agency, without the prior written consent of the City, except as may be required by law or where such information is otherwise publicly available. It is agreed that MVBA shall have the right to use case or defendant information for internal analysis, improving the proprietary software and database, and generating aggregate data and statistics that may inherently contain case and defendant information. These aggregate statistics are owned solely by MVBA and will generally be used internally, but may be shared with MVBA’s affiliates, partners or other third parties for purposes of improving MVBA’s software and services.

MVBA reserves the right to return to the City all accounts not collected within one (1) year of referral by the City or identified as being in bankruptcy. Upon return of these accounts, neither party will have any obligation to the other party to this contract.

VII.

The initial term of this contract is **one year, beginning on the first day of the month following the execution of this contract by both parties.** This contract may be extended for up to two (2) additional one (1) year terms, provided all terms and conditions, except for the contract period being executed, remain unchanged and in full force and effect. Either party may cancel the contract prior to a renewal term by providing written notification sixty (60) days prior to the renewal date.

In the event that the City terminates this contract, MVBA shall be entitled to continue its collection activity on all accounts previously referred to MVBA for an additional ninety (90) days from the date of receipt of the "Notice of Termination of Contract" and to payment of its fee, pursuant to Paragraph V of this contract for all amounts collected on accounts referred to MVBA. The City may, at its discretion, refer additional accounts to MVBA after notice of termination has been received by MVBA. At the end of the ninety (90) day period, all accounts shall be returned to the City by MVBA.

Interlocal Agreement

MVBA agrees to extend prices and terms to all entities or other political subdivisions or municipalities who have entered or will enter joint purchasing interlocal cooperation agreement(s) with the City.

VIII.

For purposes of sending notice under the term of this contract, all notices from the City shall be sent to MVBA by certified United States mail to the following address:

McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C.
Attention: Harvey M. Allen
P.O. Box 1310
Round Rock, Texas 78680-1310

or delivered by hand or by courier, and addressed to: 700 Jeffrey Way, Suite 100, Round Rock, Texas 78664-2425. All notices to the City shall be sent by certified United States mail or delivered by hand or courier, to the following address:

City of Pflugerville, Texas
Attention: City Manager
100 E. Main Street
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

IX.

This contract is made and is to be interpreted under the laws of the State of Texas. Exclusive venue for any action, lawsuit, claim, dispute or another legal proceeding concerning or arising out of this contract shall be in Travis County, Texas.

In the event that any provision(s) of this contract shall for any reason be held invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of that provision(s) shall not affect any other provision(s) of this contract, and it shall further be construed as if the invalid or unenforceable provision(s) had never been a part of this contract.

Every provision of this Contract is intended to be severable. If any term or provision of this Contract is deemed to be invalid, void, or unenforceable for any reason by a District Court, to the extent possible such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Contract, it being intended that such remaining provisions shall be construed in a manner most closely approximating the intention of the Parties with respect to the invalid, void, or unenforceable provision or part thereof. In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2271, Texas Government Code, the signatory executing this Contract on behalf of MVBA does hereby verify that MVBA does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of this Contract.

X.

In consideration of the terms and compensation herein stated, MVBA hereby agrees to undertake the performance of said contract as set forth above.

The City has authorized by order heretofore passed and duly recorded in its minutes the City Manager to execute this Contract.

This contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, and each counterpart shall be deemed an original for all purposes. Signed facsimiles shall be binding and enforceable.

WITNESS the signatures of all parties hereto this, the ____ day of _____, A.D. 2021.

CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS

_____,
Sereniah Breland
City Manager

McCREARY, VESELKA, BRAGG & ALLEN, P.C.

Harvey M. Allen
Attorney at Law

Exhibit A

to the “Contract for Collection of Delinquent Municipal Court Fines and Fees” executed between the City of Pflugerville and McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C. (MVBA)

STANDARD GOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT AND PURCHASING RIDER FOR CONTRACTS WITH THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS

(Version October 9, 2017)

By submitting a response to a solicitation or bid, or by entering into a contract for goods or services and/or by accepting a purchase order, the contracting party identified below agrees that the below terms and conditions shall govern all agreements with the City unless otherwise agreed to by a specifically executed provision within the contract and if permissible by law. Absent a specifically executed provision, the below terms are BINDING and SUPERSEDE any and all other terms and/or conditions whether oral or written.

1. Application. This Governmental Rider applies to, is part of, and takes precedence over any conflicting provision in or attachment to the Contract (Contract) (attached hereto) of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C. (Vendor). The Contract involved in this Rider is described as follows:

Title of Contract: Contract for Collection of Delinquent Municipal Court Fines and Fees

2. Payment Provisions. The City’s payments under the Contract, including the time of payment and the payment of interest on overdue amounts, are subject to Chapter 2251, Texas Government Code. City reserves the right to modify any amount due to contractor presented by invoice to the city if necessary to conform the amount to the terms of the contract.

3. Multiyear Contracts. If the City’s city council does not appropriate funds to make any payment for a fiscal year after the City’s fiscal year in which the contract becomes effective and there are no proceeds available for payment from the sale of bonds or other debt instruments, then the Contract automatically terminates at the beginning of the first day of the successive fiscal year. (Section 5, Article XI, Texas Constitution). It is understood and agreed the City shall have the right to terminate the agreement at the end of any City fiscal year if the governing body of the City does not appropriate funds sufficient to continue the contract, as determined by the City’s budget for the fiscal year in question. The City may execute such termination by giving contractor a written notice of termination at the end of its then current fiscal year.

4. Best Value Determination. All competitive bids or proposals received shall be evaluated based on the best value for the City. Best value shall be determined any relevant criteria specifically listed in the solicitation and by considering all or part of the criteria listed below:

- a. Bid price.
- b. Reputation of the bidder and of bidder’s goods and services.
- c. The quality of the bidder’s goods or services.
- d. The extent to which the goods or services meet the City’s needs.
- e. Bidder’s past relationship with the City. All vendors shall be evaluated on their past performance and prior dealings with the City to include, but not limited to, failure to meet specifications, poor quality, poor workmanship, and late delivery.

5. Local Preference. The City Council supports the local preference option for purchasing. In accordance with Chapter 271.9051 of the State of Texas Local Government Code, the City Council may choose to award a competitive bid to a bidder whose principal place of business is in the City limits, provided that this bid is within 5% of the lowest bid price received.

6. No Ex-Parte Communications during Competitive Bidding Period. To insure the proper and fair evaluation of a response, the City prohibits ex parte communication (e.g., unsolicited) initiated by the proposed contractor to a City official or employee evaluating or considering the responses prior to the time a formal decision has been made. Questions and other communication from vendors will be permissible until 5:00 pm on the day specified as the deadline for questions. Any communication between responder and the City after the deadline for questions will be initiated by the appropriate City official or employee in order to obtain information or clarification needed to develop a proper and accurate evaluation of the response. Ex parte communication may be grounds for disqualifying the offending responder from consideration or award of the solicitation then in evaluation, or any future solicitation.

7. Abandonment or Default. A contractor who abandons or defaults the work on the contract and causes the City to purchase the services elsewhere may be charged for any increased cost of goods, materials and/or services related thereto and shall not be considered disqualified in any re-advertisement of the service and may not be considered in future bids for the same type of work for a period of three years for the same scope of work, goods or services.

8. Disclosure of Litigation. Each contractor shall include in its proposal a complete disclosure of any civil or criminal litigation or investigation pending which involves the respondent or which has occurred in the past in which the respondent has been judged guilty or liable by a competent court regardless of whether the Court Order or Judgment is final or on appeal.

9. Cancellation., the City reserves the right to cancel the contract without penalty by providing 30 days prior written notice to the contracting party. Termination under this paragraph shall not relieve the contractor of any obligation or liability that has occurred prior to cancellation. **NOTE: This contract is subject to cancellation, without penalty, at any time the City deems the vendor to be non-compliant with contractual obligations.**

10. Annual Vendor Performance Review. The City reserves the right to review the vendor's performance at the end of each twelve month contract period and to cancel all or part of the agreement (without penalty) or continue the contract through the next period.

11. Compliance with other laws and certification of eligibility to contract. Any offer to contract with the City shall be considered an executed certification that the contractor will shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, (as amended during the contracting period) and any orders and decrees of any court or administrative bodies or tribunals in any matter affecting the performance of the resulting agreement, including without limitation, immigration laws, workers' compensation laws, minimum and maximum salary and wage statutes and regulations, and licensing laws and regulations. *Additionally, such offer shall indicate that the contract has fully read and understood the terms and conditions for eligibility to contract with the City pursuant to Chapter 38 of the City's Ordinances and certifies they are in compliance with those local requirements.* When requested, the contractor shall furnish the City with satisfactory proof of its compliance within 10 days or any contract with the City is void.

12. Compliance with all Codes, Permitting and Licensing Requirements. The successful contractor shall comply with all national, state and local standards, codes and ordinances as well as any other authorities that have jurisdiction pertaining to equipment and materials used and their application. None of the terms or provisions of the specification shall be construed as waiving any rules, regulations or requirements of these authorities. The successful bidder shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits, certificates and/or licenses to fulfill contractual obligations.

13. The City of Pflugerville may not enter into a contract with a company for goods and services unless the contract contains a written verification from the company that; (i) it does not Boycott Israel; and (ii) will not Boycott Israel during the term of the contract. (Texas Government Code Chapter 2271) by accepting this purchase order, the vendor (Professional or other applicable term defining the contracting party) verifies that it does not Boycott Israel, and agrees that during the term of this agreement (contract as applicable) will not Boycott Israel as that term is defined in the Texas Government Code Section 808.001, as amended.

14. Liability and Indemnity of City. Any provision of the Contract is void and unenforceable if it: (1) limits or releases either party from liability that would exist by law in the absence of the provision; (2) creates liability for either party that would not exist by law in the absence of the provision; or (3) waives or limits either party's rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities that would exist by law in the absence of the provision.. (Section 5, Article XI, Texas Constitution)

15. Indemnity and Independent Contractor Status of Contractor. Contractor shall indemnify, save harmless and defend the City, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all suits, actions, legal proceedings, claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, attorney's fees and any and all other costs or fees (whether grounded in Constitutional law, Tort, Contract, or Property Law, or raised pursuant to local, state or federal statutory provision), arising out of the performance of the resulting agreement and/or arising out of a willful or negligent act or omission of the contractor, its officers, agents, and employees. It is understood and agreed that the contractor and any employee or sub-contractor of contractor shall not be considered an employee of the City. The contractor shall not be within protection or coverage of the City's workers' compensation insurance, health insurance, liability insurance or any other insurance that the City from time to time may have in force and effect. City specifically reserves the right to reject any and all contractor's employees, representatives or sub-contractors and/or their employees for any cause, should the presence of any such person on City property or their interaction with City employees be found not in the best interest of the City, harassing, or is found to interfere with the effective and efficient operation of the City's workplace.

16. Liens. Contractor agrees to and shall indemnify and save harmless the City against any and all liens and encumbrances for all labor, goods and services which may be provided under the resulting agreement. At the City's request the contractor or subcontractors shall provide a proper release of all liens, or satisfactory evidence of freedom from liens shall be delivered to the City.

17. Confidentiality. Any provision in the Contract that attempts to prevent the City's disclosure of information that is subject to public disclosure under federal or Texas law or regulation, or court or administrative decision or ruling, is invalid. (Chapter 552, Texas Government Code)

18. Tax Exemption. The City is not liable to Vendor for any federal, state, or local taxes for which the City is not liable by law, including state and local sales and use taxes (Section 151.309 and Title 3, Texas Tax Code) and federal excise tax (Subtitle D of the Internal Revenue Code). Accordingly,

those taxes may not be added to any item. Texas limited sales tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request. Vendors shall not charge for said taxes. If billed, the City will remit payment less sales tax.

19. Contractual Limitations Period. Any provision of the Contract that establishes a limitations period that does not run against the City by law or that is shorter than two years is void. (Sections 16.061 and 16.070, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code)

20. Sovereign Immunity. Any provision of the Contract that seeks to waive the City's immunity from suit and/or immunity from liability is void unless agreed to by specific acknowledgement of the provision within the contract.

21. Governing Law and Venue. Texas law governs this Contract and any lawsuit on this Contract must be filed in a court that has jurisdiction in Travis County, Texas.

22. Certificate of Interested Parties (TEC Form 1295). For contracts needing City Council approval, the City may not accept or enter into a contract until it has received from the Contractor a completed, signed, and notarized TEC Form 1295 complete with a certificate number assigned by the Texas Ethics Commission ("TEC"), pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2252.908 and the rules promulgated thereunder by the TEC. The Contractor understands that failure to provide said form complete with a certificate number assigned by the TEC may prohibit the City from entering the Contract.

Pursuant to the rules prescribed by the TEC, the TEC Form 1295 must be completed online through the TEC's website, assigned a certificate number, printed, signed and notarized, and provided to the City. The TEC Form 1295 may accompany the bid or may be submitted separately, but must be provided to the City prior to the award of the contract. Neither the City nor its consultants have the ability to verify the information included in a TEC Form 1295, and neither have an obligation nor undertake responsibility for advising any bidder with respect to the proper completion of the TEC Form 1295.

CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS

McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen, P.C.

By: _____

Sereniah Breland, City Manager

Harvey M. Allen, Attorney At Law

Date: _____

Date: _____