

# Contract for Fines and Fees Collection Services

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

THIS CONTRACT (hereinafter "AGREEMENT") is made and entered into by and between the City of Pflugerville, acting herein by and through its governing body, hereinafter styled "CLIENT", and Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, hereinafter styled "FIRM".

## Article I

### *Nature of Relationship and Authority for Contract*

1.01 The parties hereto acknowledge that this AGREEMENT creates an attorney-client relationship between CLIENT and FIRM.

1.02 The CLIENT hereby employs the FIRM to provide the services hereinafter described for compensation hereinafter provided.

1.03 This AGREEMENT is entered into pursuant to and as authorized by Subsection (a) of ART. 103.0031, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

## Article 2

### *Scope of Services*

2.01 CLIENT agrees to employ and does hereby employ FIRM to provide specific legal services provided herein to:

- (a) enforce the collection of delinquent court fees and fines that are subject to this AGREEMENT, pursuant to the terms and conditions described herein, and;

Such legal services shall include but not be limited to recommendations and legal advice to CLIENT to take legal enforcement action; representing CLIENT in any dispute or legal challenge over authority to collect such court fees and fines; defending CLIENT in litigation or challenges of its collection authority; and representing CLIENT in collection interests in bankruptcy matters as determined by FIRM and CLIENT. This AGREEMENT supersedes all prior oral and written agreements 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.

2.02 The CLIENT may from time-to-time specify in writing additional actions that should be taken by the FIRM in connection with the collection of the fines and fees that are subject to this AGREEMENT. CLIENT further constitutes and appoints the FIRM as

CLIENT's attorneys to sign all legal instruments, pleadings, drafts, authorizations and papers as shall be reasonably necessary to pursue collection of the CLIENT's claims.

2.03 (a) Fines and fees that are subject to this AGREEMENT are those that are more than sixty (60) days past due as of the effective date hereof and those that become more than sixty (60) days past due during the term hereof. As used in this section, "more than 60 days past due" has that meaning assigned by Subsection (f) of Art. 103.0031, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure [as amended by Senate Bill 782, 78th Legislature (2003), effective June 18, 2003]. The meaning assigned to the phrase "more than 60 days past due" shall, for the term and purposes of this AGREEMENT, survive any future amendments to, or repeal of, Article 103.0031, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, or any parts thereof.

2.04 The CLIENT agrees to provide to the FIRM data regarding any fines and fees that are subject to this AGREEMENT. The data shall be provided by electronic medium and the FIRM shall insure compatibility with CLIENT'S data files and the FIRM shall bear the costs of any necessary data conversion. The CLIENT and the FIRM may from time-to-time agree in writing to modify this format. The CLIENT shall provide the data to the FIRM not less frequently than monthly or as otherwise mutually agreed.

2.05 The FIRM, in all communications seeking the collection of fines and fees, shall direct all payments directly to the CLIENT at an address designated by the CLIENT. If any fines and fees are paid to the FIRM, said payments shall be expeditiously turned over to the CLIENT.

2.06 The FIRM warrants and represents that it has the capability, experience, available personnel, and means required to perform the services contemplated by this Agreement. Services will be performed using personnel qualified and able to perform the work requested by the CLIENT. The CLIENT retains the right to report to FIRM any unsatisfactory performance of personnel. FIRM shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws in connection with any work performed hereunder.

### **Article 3** *Compensation*

3.01 The CLIENT agrees to pay the FIRM as compensation for the services required hereunder:

(a) thirty (30%) percent of the total amount of all other fines and fees [exclusive of any collection fee assessed by the CLIENT pursuant to Subsection (b) of Article 103.0031, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure] subject to the terms of this AGREEMENT as set forth in Section 2.03 (a) above that are collected by the CLIENT during the term of this AGREEMENT; and,

All compensation shall become the property of the FIRM at the time payment of the fines and fees is made to the CLIENT.

3.02 The CLIENT shall pay the FIRM by the twentieth day of each month all compensation earned by the FIRM for the previous month as provided in this Article 3. The CLIENT shall provide an accounting showing all collections for the previous month with the remittance.

#### **Article 4**

##### *Intellectual Property Rights*

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

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

#### **Article 5**

##### *Costs*

5.01 The FIRM and CLIENT recognize that certain costs may be incurred in the process of providing any additional services contemplated in Section 2.02 above or in providing any special litigation services. The CLIENT agrees that all such costs shall be billed to the CLIENT, but that the FIRM will either (i) advance such costs on behalf of the CLIENT or, (ii) when possible, arrange with the vendor or agency providing the service that the costs of services will not be paid unless and until such costs are recovered by the CLIENT from the debtor.

5.02 The CLIENT acknowledges that the FIRM may provide such services with its own employees or with other entities or individuals who may be affiliated with the FIRM, but the FIRM agrees that any charges for such services will be reasonable and consistent with what the same services would cost if obtained from a third party.

5.03 The CLIENT agrees that upon the recovery of such costs, the CLIENT will (i) pay the FIRM for any such costs that have been advanced by the FIRM or performed by the FIRM and (ii) pay any third party agency or vendor owed for performing such services.

## **Article 6**

### *Term and Termination*

6.01 This AGREEMENT shall be effective on the date fully executed by both parties (the "Effective Date") and shall expire on June 30, 2023 (the "Expiration Date") unless extended as hereinafter provided.

6.02 Unless prior to thirty (30) days before the Expiration Date, the CLIENT or the FIRM notifies the other in writing that it does not wish to continue this AGREEMENT beyond its initial term, this agreement shall automatically renew for successive periods of one (1) year each under the terms and conditions stated herein, unless either party gives prior notice of termination.

6.03 If, at any time during the initial term of this AGREEMENT or any extension hereof, the CLIENT determines that the FIRM's performance under this AGREEMENT is unsatisfactory, the CLIENT shall notify the FIRM in writing of the CLIENT's determination. The notice from the CLIENT shall specify the particular deficiencies that the CLIENT has observed in the FIRM's performance. The FIRM shall have sixty (60) days from the date of the notice to cure any such deficiencies. If, at the conclusion of that sixty (60) day remedial period, the CLIENT remains unsatisfied with the FIRM's performance, the CLIENT may terminate this AGREEMENT effective upon the expiration of thirty (30) days following the date of written notice to the FIRM of such termination ("Termination Date").

6.04 Whether this AGREEMENT expires or is terminated, the FIRM shall be entitled to continue to collect any items and to pursue collection of any claims that were referred to and placed with the FIRM by the CLIENT prior to the Termination Date or Expiration Date for an additional ninety (90) days following termination or expiration. The CLIENT agrees that the FIRM shall be compensated as provided by Article 3 for any such item or pending matters during the ninety (90) day period.

6.05 The CLIENT agrees that the FIRM shall be reimbursed for any costs advanced and shall be paid for any services performed pursuant to Article 5 when such costs are recovered by or on behalf of the CLIENT, regardless of the date recovered. It is expressly agreed that neither the expiration nor the termination of this AGREEMENT constitutes a waiver by the FIRM of its entitlement to be reimbursed for such costs and to be paid for such services. It is further expressly agreed that the expiration of any ninety (90) day period under Section 6.04 does not constitute any such waiver by the FIRM.

## **Article 7**

### *Miscellaneous*

7.01 Subcontracting. The FIRM may from time-to-time obtain co-counsel or subcontract some of the services provided for herein to other law firms or entities. In such cases, the FIRM will retain supervisory control and responsibility for any services provided by such co-counsel or subcontractors and shall be responsible to pay any compensation due to any such co-counsel or subcontractor.

7.02 Arbitration. Any controversy between the parties to this AGREEMENT involving the construction or application of any of the terms, covenants, or conditions of this AGREEMENT, shall, on the written request of one party served on the other, be submitted to arbitration, and such arbitration shall comply with and be governed by the provisions of the Texas General Arbitration Act.

7.03 Integration. This AGREEMENT, **inclusive of the STANDARD GOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT AND PURCHASING RIDER FOR CONTRACTS WITH THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS, as attached hereto as Exhibit A, executed contemporaneously herewith, and made a part herein for all purposes**, contains the entire AGREEMENT between the parties hereto and may only be modified in a written amendment, executed by both parties.

7.04 Representation of Other Governmental Entities. The CLIENT acknowledges and consents to the representation by the FIRM of other governmental entities that may be seeking the payment of fines and fees or other claims from the same person(s) as the CLIENT.

7.05 Notices. For purposes of sending any notice under the terms of this contract, all notices from CLIENT shall be sent to FIRM by certified United States mail, or delivered by hand or by courier, and addressed as follows:

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
Attention: Director of Client Services  
P.O. Box 17428  
Austin, Texas 78760-7428

All notices from the FIRM to the CLIENT shall be sent to CLIENT by certified United States mail, or delivered by hand or by courier, and addressed as follows:

City of Pflugerville  
City Manager  
100 East Main Street, Suite 300  
P.O. Box 589  
Pflugerville, TX 78691

7.05 In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision shall not affect any other provision hereof, and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

7.06 This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. Venue for any action (including any action brought under Federal Law in Federal Court) arising hereunder will be in Travis County, Texas.

7.07 Compliance with *Tx. Govt. Code §2270.002*. The Firm verifies that it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract.

EXECUTED ON the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

City of Pflugerville

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sereniah Breland, City Manager

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Bird, Partner  
For the FIRM

**Exhibit A**  
**to the “Contract for Fines and Fees Collection Services” executed between the City of**  
**Pflugerville and Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP**

**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 Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, (Vendor). The Contract involved in this Rider is described as follows:

*Title of Contract: Contract for Fines and Fees Collection Services*

**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 2270) 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**

**VENDOR NAME**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sereniah Breland, City Manager

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_