

Monday, May 09, 2016

Collin County Commissioner's Court
Collin County Administration Building
2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192
McKinney, TX 75071

To the honorable members of the Collin County Commissioner's Court,

I have been an employee of the Collin County Sheriff's Office since November of 2008. During my 7 and ½ year tenure at the Sheriff's Office, I have served as a Detention Officer and a Jail Case Officer. In addition to my regular duties, I served as a Training Officer and have been a member of the Detention Response Team since 2009. I have been happily married for 4 years and have 2 daughters.

Prior to being hired at the Collin County Sheriff's Office, I enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and have served continuously in the reserve for my entire career here at Collin County. I am currently a Sergeant and am stationed at 14th Marines Headquarters Battery in Fort Worth, TX.

During the course of my employment, I also attended college at Collin College and The University of North Texas. I graduated in May of 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from The University of North Texas. In 2014 and 2015, I received money from the Tuition Reimbursement Program offered by the county. The total amount received over the two year period amounted to \$13,671.08.

Attending college has recently opened up the opportunity to apply Officer Candidates School (OCS) for the Marine Corps, which I have pursued. I was recently selected to attend OCS and have received orders to report to OCS on May 28, 2016. Successful completion of OCS will require 8 years of active duty service following my commission.

I have subsequently resigned from the Sheriff's Office effective May 23, 2016. I understand that by doing so, I am leaving prior to meeting my obligated time for the tuition reimbursed by the county. I am having difficulty meeting the financial burden placed on me by the \$13,671.08 that I will owe to the County.

In the course of researching a solution to this problem I submitted an open records request for every employee that has terminated employment before meeting the required years of service to satisfy the reimbursement policy within the last 5 years. As a result, I have observed that no one has paid back any of the amount owed with the exception of what was taken from their final check.

I am humbly requesting that the Commissioner's Court reduce the amount owed on the basis of the two years of service that I accrued after receiving reimbursement and the fact that I am leaving the Sheriff's Office to continue my public service by way of military service.

It has been an honor to serve the Citizens of Collin County for the past 7 and ½ years. I look forward to serving them again when I return to Collin County after my service to The Marine Corps is complete.

Sincerely,


Matthew T. McLellan