



Texas Drug Recognition Expert Program

6200 La Calma Drive, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78752

March 25, 2022

To Whom it may Concern,

The Texas Municipal Police Association administers and manages the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP), more popularly referred to as the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program, for the State of Texas. Funding for this project is provided through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation. I am the Texas DECP State Coordinator, a position with duties and responsibilities laid out in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) document, *The International Standards of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program*.

I am aware of and fully support the Collin County Sheriff's Office application for grant funding to conduct a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) School and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training at their agency. This training is in high demand in the Dallas/Fort Worth metro area, which includes Collin County. According to the United States Census Bureau, Collin County ranked 9th of all counties in the United States in numeric population growth from 2010 to 2019. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics for Fatalities by Person/Crash type show that Collin County had a 65% increase in alcohol-impaired driving fatalities from 2019 to 2020, which, of the 4 most populous counties in the 13 county Dallas/Fort Worth metro area, was the highest percentage increase.

Our program provides continuing education and training for all DREs, free of charge, so that they maintain their certification. These courses are held multiple times a year in various regions of the state, including the Collin/Denton/Dallas County area. All DREs who certify in the school funded by the proposed grant will have access to our free recertification classes.

As the Texas DECP State Coordinator and on behalf of the Texas DRE Program, I am pleased to support the Collin County Sheriff's Office in their request for funding to provide this training and look forward to working the project with them. Their proposed endeavor will have an impact on drug impaired driving in their region and save lives on Texas highways.

Respectfully,

Carlos Champion, Program Manager
Texas DECP State Coordinator

TexasDRE.org

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