



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS

JIM SKINNER, SHERIFF

To: Commissioners Court
From: Sheriff Jim Skinner
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Re: Donation to the County of Funding for a Training Trip

Assistant Chief Cary Platt—who supervises the Reserve Program—has generously offered to fund a trip for me and five deputy sheriffs to Israel between June 15 and June 20, 2025. His offer includes airfare, hotel accommodations, and meals. I estimate the value to be appx. \$70,000–80,000. This is an estimate because I do not know the value of the meals and transportation outside the airfare. In cooperation with Israeli authorities, Chief Platt has also prepared an agenda for the trip. I've submitted the agenda as a separate confidential attachment. The trip will serve a public-safety purpose; namely, tours of public-security facilities, lectures, and training on public safety and lessons learned from Hamas's attacks on October 7, 2023.

I ask you to accept this offer as a donation under section 81.032, Local Gov't Code. *See* Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. No. KP-003 (2015) (noting that a commissioners court may accept donations offered to a sheriff); Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. No. GA-1010 (2013) (indicating that a commissioners court may accept a monetary donation with reasonable conditions, as long as acceptance is consistent with a county's permissible purposes); Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. No. GA-1014 (2013) (indicating that a commissioners court may accept a monetary donation when the donation's conditions are reasonable and not inconsistent with other law); Texas Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 543 (stating that a state agency may accept reimbursement of travel and hotel expenses for state employees to attend a seminar related to their work); Collin County Employee Handbook, at 3.10–3.11 (Jan. 25, 2016) (directing county employees to report proffered gifts or benefits and noting that the commissioners court may have authority to accept it as a donation).