



Ian Camacho <ian.c.camacho@gmail.com>

Open Records Request / Media Request - MOU for Commissioners' Court & Sheriff McNamara's Ranch / Gun Rand

5 messages

Ian Camacho <ian.c.camacho@gmail.com>
To: Dustin Chapman <dustin.chapman@mclennan.gov>

Tue, Sep 17, 2024 at 4:11 PM

Hi Dustin,

I'm making an open records request (ORR) to the McLennan County Commissioners Court.

Could you please provide me with the records of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the McLennan County Commissioners Court and Parnell McNamara regarding his ranch/farm?

If one does not exist, could you provide any emails, texts, letters, or faxes between the Sherriff's Office, Parnell McNamara, Waco Attorney of Record Michael "Mike" Dixon, and the McLennan County Commissioners Court, its members, administrators, or legal staff discussing said MOU?

Thank you in advance for your help!

Kind Regards,
Ian Camacho
(310) 775-3540
<https://texasscorecard.com/author/icamacho/>

Dustin Chapman <dustin.chapman@mclennan.gov>
To: Ian Camacho <ian.c.camacho@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 at 11:00 AM

Please see the below email that is responsive to your request.

Thank you

From: Cody Blossman Cody.Blossman@mclennan.gov
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Dustin Chapman dustin.chapman@mclennan.gov; mdixon mdixon@haleyolson.com
Cc: David Ives david.ives@mclennan.gov
Subject: Utilization of Sheriff McNamara's Private Firing Range and Future Planning

Date: August 7, 2024

Subject: Utilization of Sheriff McNamara's Private Firing Range and Future Planning

Dustin and Mike,

As you are aware, the Sheriff's Office has been utilizing Sheriff McNamara's private firing range for qualifications and training due to availability limitations at the Waco PD range. While the Waco Range is an excellent facility and its staff has always been professional, both agencies have outgrown the capacity of a single range that was designed and constructed twenty-eight years ago.

The Sheriff's Office is tasked with developing and maintaining firearms proficiency for 286 gun-carriers, some of whom are trained on multiple weapon systems. This responsibility includes basic training (jail firearms certification school), annual qualifications (432 conducted this year), continuing education (officer survival training), and monthly SWAT training. We manage staff who work 12-hour shifts, both day and night, and must temporarily divert them from their primary responsibilities to participate in necessary training sessions. These training sessions must be scheduled with careful consideration of their existing schedules and primary duties. Additionally, we coordinate with the range to secure available dates. If the dates we plan are not available(at the range), we must restart the process, often resulting in some employees being unable to attend the training. Scheduling these trainings is extremely arduous due to deputy availability and the need for reliable and consistent access to a range.

Attached is an email from the current Waco Rangemaster that outlines similar concerns and requests input for future planning. It is understandable that the Rangemaster prioritizes his own agency's needs, yet this has led to the Sheriff's Office having to seek alternative training locations or risk losing valuable training time. Agreements, official and unofficial, made by Waco with Other Agencies further reduce the availability of the range for the Sheriff's Office.

The county has an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Waco, established in 1996 during the construction of the Waco Range. This MOU requires the Sheriff's Office to provide annual grounds maintenance, including mowing, routine upkeep, exterior painting, and trash removal.

When Sheriff McNamara identified the availability issues with the Waco Range, he generously offered access to his private range as a temporary solution. This arrangement has also been utilized by the District Attorney's Investigators and Constables for training and qualifications. Similar to our current MOU with the City of Waco, the SPURS coordinator manages the grounds maintenance for Sheriff McNamara's range in order for training to be completed.

In light of these circumstances, I recommend we have a discussion about pursuing a similar MOU for access to Sheriff McNamara's range, continuing with the current arrangement, or discontinuing its use entirely.

Please let me know if you would like further information.

Cody B. Blossman

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Letter From Joe Arnold.pdf**
349K

Ian Camacho <ian.c.camacho@gmail.com>
To: Dustin Chapman <dustin.chapman@mclennan.gov>

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 9:00 AM

Dustin,

Thank you for sending this.

So there's no MOU.

Bringing up the second part of my request again:

Could you provide all emails, texts, letters, or faxes between the Sherriff's Office, Parnell McNamara, Waco Attorney of Record Michael "Mike" Dixon, and the McLennan County Commissioners Court, its members, administrators, or legal staff discussing said MOU?

Kind Regards,
Ian Camacho
(310) 775-3540
<https://texasscorecard.com/author/icamacho/>

[Quoted text hidden]

Dustin Chapman <dustin.chapman@mclennan.gov>
To: Ian Camacho <ian.c.camacho@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 3:40 PM

Ian,

The email from Cody Blossman below is the only one responsive to your request.

Thank you

[Quoted text hidden]

Ian Camacho <ian.c.camacho@gmail.com>
To: Dustin Chapman <dustin.chapman@mclennan.gov>

Thu, Sep 19, 2024 at 3:52 PM

Dustin,

Thank you for clarifying that.

Kind Regards,
Ian Camacho
(310) 775-3540
<https://texasscorecard.com/author/icamacho/>

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