



# Resolution

STATE OF TEXAS

§ COMMISSIONERS' COURT

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

§ OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

BE IT REMEMBERED at a meeting of Commissioners' Court of Jefferson County, Texas, held on the 23rd day of March, 2021, on motion made by Everette Alfred, Commissioner of Precinct No. 4, and seconded by Vernon Pierce, Commissioner of Precinct No. 1, the following Resolution was adopted:

## PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT POLICY

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code (Public Information Act), gives every person the right to access government records with only certain exceptions; and

**WHEREAS**, some persons may abuse this privilege of public disclosure with vexatious, over-burdensome and costly requests; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Information Act does allow counties the protections outlined in Sec. 552.275 which allows the County to establish reasonable monthly and yearly limits on the amount of time that personnel of the county are required to spend producing public information for inspection or duplication by a requestor, or providing copies of public information to a requestor, without recovering its costs attributable to the personnel time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Information Act provides that the officials who are designated as the officer for public information may calculate the amount of time that personnel are required to spend collectively for purposes of a monthly or yearly limit; and

**WHEREAS**, the County may establish a limit, pursuant to Section 552.275 that (a) may not be less than 36 hours for a requestor during a 12- month period that corresponds to the fiscal year of the government body or (b) may not be less than 15 hours for a requestor for a one- month period; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that public information be available without restriction to innocence projects, whether through non-profit organizations or law schools, that seeks to prevent injustice and to exonerate wrongfully convicted individuals; they should be excluded from the limitations for requests for public information; and

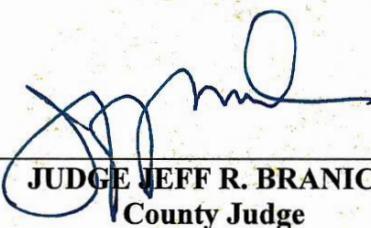
**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of Jefferson County to approve and adopt the provisions of Section 552.275 regarding public information requests.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commissioners of Jefferson County, Texas does hereby resolve that, for all public information requests presented to any department or official of the County that:

- (a) The Chief of the Civil Division of the District Attorney's Office is designated as the Public Information Officer for Jefferson County;

- (b) A copy of each request for public information shall be promptly provided to the Chief of the Civil Division for the purpose of complying with this Resolution.
- (c) All requests for public information submitted by any individual, firm or entity during any twelve month period during the County fiscal year shall be limited, as to the time required to respond, to 15 hours per month and 36 hours total for any given fiscal year, which is October 1 through September 30; and
- (d) The limitations ordered herein shall not be applicable to members of the news media or innocence projects; and
- (e) All further provisions of Sec. 552.275 are adopted and incorporated herein.

SIGNED this 23rd day of March, 2021.

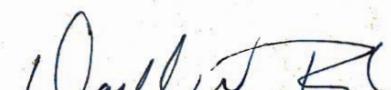


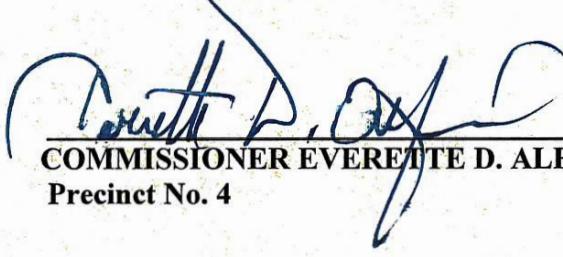
**JUDGE JEFF R. BRANICK**  
County Judge



  
**COMMISSIONER VERNON PIERCE**  
Precinct No. 1

  
**COMMISSIONER MICHAEL S. SINEGAL**  
Precinct No. 3

  
**COMMISSIONER DARRELL W. BUSH**  
Precinct No. 2

  
**COMMISSIONER EVERETTE D. ALFRED**  
Precinct No. 4