

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



BRISCOE CAIN *District 128*

March 6, 2020

Harris County Commissioners Court
1001 Preston, 9th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

To the Honorable Members of the Harris County Commissioners Court:

I write to you to express my concern about an agenda item that Commissioner Adrian Garcia has requested be placed on the Commissioners Court Agenda for next week. The proposed agenda item addresses contracts between HOA's, MUD's, and various Constable offices in Harris County, as well as the centralization of calls and dispatch.

As the State Representative for District 128, and a lifelong resident of Harris County, I support these contract programs. While municipal police departments and the Harris County Sheriff's Office are responsible for patrolling much of House District 128, many of the areas I represent in the Texas Legislature benefit greatly from the ability to contract out with the Constable Precinct 3 and Constable Precinct 8 Offices. These residential areas contract out with Constable offices for neighborhood patrol. Constable offices ensure that our neighborhoods are safe, enforce traffic laws, and contribute to the overall public safety.

As Harris County continues to grow, many of our residents will choose to live outside the city limits in unincorporated areas. Whether it be the Harris County Sheriff's Office or a Constable's Office, neighborhoods rightly are able, and should continue to be able, to retain a law enforcement agency for patrols. The local Constable's Office fits that role for many of the neighborhoods in House District 128, especially since a Constable is elected by and is accountable to the voters within those neighborhoods. Many of my constituents have built relationships with the Deputy Constables assigned to patrol their neighborhood. These Deputy Constables have not only built a relationship of trust with these people, they possess personal knowledge of the people, neighborhoods, houses, vehicles of the communities they serve. These preexisting relationships are important and should be preserved. Moreover, it is well known, at least for the Constable Precincts located in my House District (Precinct 3 and 8) that they have faster response times than the Sheriff's Office and the municipal police agencies for which they overlap.

It should also be noted that the centralization of dispatch will also be injurious to the public safety needs of the hardworking taxpayers of Harris County. The local dispatcher knows their locality and is therefore better suited to facilitate the connection of emergency non-emergency services in the region they know than someone in a central facility far removed from the need and lacking in local knowledge.



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As a Member of the Texas Legislature, I want to stress the importance of the Texas Constitution of 1876. The Texas Constitution of 1876 not only provides for the division and election of a County Commissioners Court but also Constables. (Art. V, Sec. 18) My constituents have expressed their concerns about this agenda item. I ask that this agenda item be removed from the Harris County Commissioners Court meeting of March 10th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Cain".

Briscoe Cain
Texas State Representative
House District 128

C: Judge Hidalgo
Commissioner Cagle
Commissioner Radack
Commissioner Garcia
Commissioner Ellis
Constable Eagleton
Constable Sandlin
Sheriff Gonzalez
Honorable Members of the Harris County Legislative Delegation

