



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** December 13, 2021
SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to execute an interlocal agreement between the City of North Richland Hills and Tarrant County for remote video magistration services.
PRESENTER: Jimmy Perdue, Director of Public Safety

SUMMARY:

The City of North Richland Hills (City) and Tarrant County (County) desire to enter into an agreement in which the City will coordinate with the County to provide Remote Video Magistration Services in order to facilitate a more efficient means of ensuring arrested persons are provided with timely access to a hearing before a magistrate.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The City provides detention services for the cities of Watauga, Richland Hills and Haltom City, as well as, in a lesser capacity, the City of Fort Worth. As such, the City's detention facility stands as one of the busier facilities within Tarrant County. Persons arrested and brought to the City's facility are entitled, by law, to a timely hearing before a magistrate.

This hearing provides for judicial examination of authority for the arrest and enables the establishment of a bond, in which case, the magistrate establishes the conditions for pre-trial release of the defendant. Considering the focused activity of the City's shared service facility, the County bears significant expense and workload in transporting prisoners to County facilities for the purpose of conducting magistration and housing.

When the nature of the offense is less significant and/or an obtainable bond is set, defendants are able to make bond and be released without delay. The County seeks to reduce the cost of expenses and labor as well as preserve the rights of arrested persons by not unreasonably prolonging detention. Enabling consistent and timely magistration performed by county judges at the City's facility accomplishes these goals and reduces the amount of persons who must be transported to County facilities only to be subsequently released from that location.

The County has agreed to fund the additional expenses represented by entering into this service. In turn, the City will provide existing manpower to coordinate the on-site magistration services at the City's facility. The interlocal agreement identifies the complete provisions of this arrangement, which includes certain expenses that will be incurred by the City with subsequent reimbursement by the County. This arrangement serves to further the public interest of providing timely magistration, consistent bond schedules, and a more efficient use of tax payer funds.



RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to execute an interlocal agreement between the City of North Richland Hills and Tarrant County for remote video magistration services.