



**PHIL SORRELLS**  
Criminal District Attorney  
Tarrant County

September 20, 2023

Federal Aviation Administration  
Mr. Michael Beckles  
Manager, UAS PolicyTeamAJV-P22  
600 Independence Avenue, SW, Suite SE21TS  
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Tarrant County, Texas and the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office Public  
Declaration in Support of Certificate of Waiver/Authorization

Dear Mr. Beckles:

Tarrant County, Texas is completing an application through the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office to renew its Certificate of Authorization (COA) to operate a small Unarmed Aircraft System (UAS) within Tarrant County, Texas.

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Office provides full-service law enforcement services to the citizens of unincorporated Tarrant County and surrounding incorporated municipalities in the county. The Tarrant County Sheriff's Office was created pursuant to the Texas Constitution, Article 5, Section 23 - Judicial Department - Sheriffs.

Tarrant County is a governmental entity and political subdivision of the State of Texas. *See Tex. Loc. Govt. Code* § 71.001; *Tex. Lab. Code* § 504.001; Act approved Dec. 20, 1849, 3d Leg., R.S., ch.17 § 1, 1849 Tex. Gen. Laws 14, 14, *reprinted in* 3 H.P.N. GAMMELL, THE LAWS OF TEXAS 1822-1897, at 452,452 (Austin Gammel Book Co. 1898) Additionally, the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office is a law enforcement agency with county wide jurisdiction. As such any aircraft operated by the County, operating within the parameters of Public Aircraft Operation (49 USC 40102(a)(41)(C)) should be recognized as a public aircraft as defined in 14 CFR 1.1.

Based on the statutory authority referenced, an aircraft owned and operated by Tarrant County is a public aircraft as defined in 49 USC 40102(a)(41)(C).

Tarrant County will not use the aircraft for commercial purposes and is not exempt from the public aircraft definition pursuant to 49 USC 40125(b). Additionally, all planned operations of the aircraft will be for law enforcement missions to include search and rescue that will meet the definition of a "Governmental Function" as defined in 49 U.S.C. 40125 (a)(2).

Respectfully,

Phil Sorrells  
Criminal District Attorney  
Tarrant County, Texas



**DAVID K. HUDSON**  
Assistant Criminal District Attorney,  
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DKH:psm