

PUBLIC SAFETY

LAW ENFORCEMENT

SERVICE DELIVERY AGREEMENT

THIS SERVICE DELIVERY AGREEMENT, is made and entered into this ____ day of October, 2022, by and among **Whitfield County, Georgia**, a body politic and political subdivision of the State of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as the “County”), the **cities of Dalton, Varnell and Tunnel Hill** and the **Town of Cohutta**, municipal corporations organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Cities” and individually as a “City” or “Town.”)

WHEREAS, OCGA §36-70-20 et seq. mandate that Whitfield County and all municipalities located therein shall participate in the development of a **Service Delivery Strategy** through which Whitfield County and said municipalities shall create and maintain a service delivery system which is efficient, effective, and responsive to all citizens of Whitfield County;

WHEREAS, OCGA §36-70-24(1) mandates that said Service Delivery Strategy shall identify steps which will be taken to remediate or avoid overlapping and unnecessary competition and duplication of service delivery, and that said Service Delivery Strategy shall identify the time frame in which such steps shall be taken; and

WHEREAS, OCGA §36-70-25 mandates that said Service Delivery Strategy receive the approval of Whitfield County and the governing authorities of municipalities located within Whitfield County, as is more particularly described in that Code Section;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned, being duly authorized to act on behalf of the above-named parties, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, agree as follows concerning Law Enforcement within Whitfield County:

WITNESSETH

1. Description of Current Service Delivery Arrangements.

The City of Dalton maintains a police force for the purpose of enhancing the safety of the persons who reside and the businesses which operate within the corporate limits of the City of Dalton. This enhancement in law enforcement services to the City of Dalton occurs due to the more intense and frequent patrolling and security checks which are possible due to the existence of a police force which operates solely within the corporate limits of the City of Dalton, and which, as a result, is capable of quicker response times to incidents within the City of Dalton than the response times of the Whitfield County Sheriff’s Department to areas within the City of Dalton. The existence of the City of

Dalton's police force further frees up the Whitfield County Sheriff's Department allowing it to have quicker response times in unincorporated areas of the County.

The City of Tunnel Hill, the Town of Cohutta and the City of Varnell also maintain separate police forces which operate solely within the respective corporate limits of those cities. The separate police force which each of the above-referenced municipalities maintains enhances law enforcement services in those municipalities for the same reasons the City of Dalton's police force provides an enhancement of law enforcement services as described above.

The Whitfield County Sheriff's Department, an office mandated by the Georgia Constitution, has jurisdiction to provide law enforcement services county-wide. As a matter of practicality and efficiency, however, it focuses its attention on providing law enforcement services to the unincorporated areas of Whitfield County.

No duplication exists in the delivery of law enforcement services to the residents of Whitfield County, as each law enforcement agency described above strives to work with other law enforcement agencies to provide efficient, effective, responsive, and comprehensive law enforcement services within Whitfield County. Each separate municipal police force mentioned above is limited to operating within the corporate limits of the city with which it is associated, while assisting other law enforcement agencies within Whitfield County when necessary. Each separate municipal police force within Whitfield County provides enhanced law enforcement services above those which the Whitfield County Sheriff's Department is able to provide, due to the extensive county-wide law enforcement responsibilities of the Sheriff's Department.

2. Future Service Delivery Strategy.

The parties hereto agree that the current service delivery arrangements described above are efficient, effective, and responsive to all citizens of Whitfield County. However, the parties additionally agree that, considering it would serve the above stated purpose, the Whitfield County Sheriff's office may deputize officers of the various municipalities' police forces and that such deputized officers shall have arrest powers throughout the county.

Further, the parties hereto agree that no duplication exists in the provision of law enforcement service within Whitfield County, for the reasons set forth above.

The parties hereto agree that should any party undertake any action which may result in overlapping, competition, or duplication in the current service delivery arrangements or in the future service delivery strategy described in this Service Delivery Agreement, that party shall notify the other parties to this Agreement, so as to facilitate continued compliance with the requirements of Georgia law as referenced above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the undersigned has executed this Service Delivery Agreement on behalf of the respective party set forth below, pursuant to the authority granted to each of the undersigned in the resolution by which each party approved and adopted this Service Delivery Agreement.

Whitfield County, Georgia

By: _____

Jevin S. Jensen, Chairman

City of Dalton, Georgia

By: _____

David Pennington, Mayor

City of Tunnel Hill, Georgia

By: _____

Ken Gowin, Mayor

City of Varnell, Georgia

By: _____

Tom Dickson, Mayor

Town of Cohutta

By: _____

Ron Shinnick, Mayor