

# City Council Meeting

## Agenda Item

### Data Sheet

Meeting Date: November 18, 2024

**Topic:**

Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Tomball and Harris County, by and through Harris County Public Health (HCPH), for a partnership in a wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) program.

**Background:**

Wastewater surveillance provides early detection of emerging diseases to improve public health interventions. When combined with other surveillance data including clinical cases, hospital bed utilization, and laboratory testing, wastewater surveillance data can give a broader scope of disease surveillance to public health departments. Public health agencies often perform this work through a wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) program.

Harris County Public Health maintains a WBE program that is designed to monitor wastewater to detect emerging health threats and provide early warnings for public health interventions. The wastewater data collected will be shared with the objective of using the data to allocate resources efficiently and mitigate potential future diseases surges.

This Agreement has no financial cost exchange associated with it. The County will handle all aspects of the installation, maintenance, and removal of wastewater samplers. Installation of any equipment will be coordinated with City of Tomball treatment plant operators to select a mutually convenient time. During both installation, removal and testing, the County will adhere to all relevant safety and compliance protocols.

**Origination:** Public Works Department

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval for an Interlocal Agreement with Harris County, for a partnership in a wastewater based epidemiology (WBE) program.

**Party(ies) responsible for placing this item on agenda:** Drew Huffman, Public Works Director

**FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE)**

Are funds specifically designated in the current budget for the full amount required for this purpose?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, specify Account Number: # \_\_\_\_\_

If no, funds will be transferred from account: # \_\_\_\_\_ To Account: # \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** Drew Huffman

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Staff Member

Date

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City Manager

Date