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Houston Police Department

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December 14, 2020

Art Acevedo
Chief of Police



The Honorable John Cyrier, Chairman
The Honorable Dawn Buckingham, Vice Chairman
Texas Sunset Commission
P. O. Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the recommendation for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to eliminate the polygraph licensing program.

The polygraph discipline has become an accepted and valuable forensic application within law enforcement communities. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) ensures that a consistent standard of proficiency is required and maintained for polygraph examiners in the state of Texas. This level of polygraph proficiency ensures that the use of polygraph in private and governmental practices are properly regulated.

The Sunset Advisory Commission's recent suggestion to abandon polygraph licensing would negatively affect public safety. In Texas, many state and local law enforcement agencies administer polygraph testing for pre-employment screening and criminal investigations. Examiners in the private sector use the polygraph for post-conviction sex offender testing. These applications of the polygraph are essential tools used to keep the public safe. As with any professional forensic discipline, established standardized methodologies should be implemented to ensure proper application. TDLR holds polygraph examiners accountable with entrance qualifications, internship rules and continuing education requirements. Without any required regulatory measures and proficient licensing program, the standards of polygraph examinations could not be effectively and consistently maintained. Consequently, the integrity of the polygraph would diminish and thus provide minimum impact on public safety.

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation has maintained polygraph regulation by employing statewide guidelines that govern the use of polygraph. The standards used by TDLR require above-average competencies to hold a polygraph license in the state of Texas. TDLR



provides credibility and the necessary standards for Texas polygraph examiners. Therefore, it is recommended that TDLR continue licensing and regulation of polygraph examiners.

Sincerely,



Art Acevedo
Chief of Police

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