

The Honorable Martin J. Walsh
Secretary of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. NW
C – 2318
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Walsh:

We are respectfully writing to you on behalf of the City of San Marcos, Texas (City) and Texas State University (University) regarding our mutual relationships with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the Gary Job Corps (GJC) facility. Since 1965, GJC has been a staple of the greater San Marcos community, and generations of American families have benefitted from GJC's training and education programs for young men and women. For over 50 years, opportunities afforded by GJC have launched countless careers for its graduates, and the positive impact on the economic and societal well-being of our community has been profound.

According to the latest census numbers, Hays County, which is home to San Marcos, was the fastest-growing county in the United States over the past decade. With such growth came tremendous economic opportunities for our citizens, but it also presented a number of significant challenges for both the public and private sectors. The University and the City are not immune to these challenges, but we believe there are some unique opportunities knocking at our respective doors, and many center on the area in and around GJC and the adjacent San Marcos Regional Airport.

Given the pivotal role that GJC and the surrounding area have played and will continue to play in our growing community, we are writing today to request your assistance in helping the City and University troubleshoot some outstanding issues with the DOL and its oversight of GJC. The issues are impacting key priorities for both the City and University and, given our joint support for these projects, we wanted to highlight the following for your attention:

- The Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center at Texas State was created in 2002 as a partnership between the University and local law enforcement agencies to address the need for active shooter response training. From those humble beginnings, ALERRT's scope has grown exponentially and has since been awarded more than \$110 million in state and federal funding over the years and has trained more than 180,000 law enforcement and other first responders nationwide. Back in 2004, the first ALERRT structure was built on DOL property and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by GJC, the ALERRT Center, and the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Labor, which stated: "Gary Job Corps expressly grants permission to ALERRT Center at Texas State University for the use of a 65-acre tract of land." Texas State has reached out to the DOL Regional Office about transferring the ownership of the land to the University, and the discussions are ongoing.
- The City and the DOL have also been working on a multi-year improvement plan to create a new roadway into GJC and the neighboring city-owned San Marcos Regional Airport, but the discussions have been ongoing for some time without firm resolution in sight. We need to conclude these discussions in order to begin construction on the state-funded highway FM 110.
- In both City and University discussions with the DOL, we have learned that some existing excess GJC property may be declared surplus. The two items noted above could be positively impacted by the DOL's decision to reduce the current GJC acreage, and we believe this is an excellent opportunity for our three organizations to explore this and other mutually beneficial projects.

The initiatives highlighted above span several offices within the DOL, and we are hopeful that you can help us streamline these discussions and connect us with the specific point-person within the DOL that will serve as the primary contact on all things related to the disposition of excess land moving forward. With our shared interests and common goals, we believe such a direct connection at the DOL will benefit all parties involved. To this end, please let us know the best person at the DOL with whom to connect in this regard.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Trauth
President
Texas State University



Jane Hughson
Mayor
City of San Marcos, Texas

