



LORA J. LIVINGSTON
Local Administrative Judge

Travis County Courthouse
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DISTRICT COURTS

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August 17, 2021

Mr. James Valadez
Chairperson, Travis Central Appraisal District Board of Director
Post Office Box 149012, 850 East Anderson Lane
Austin, Texas 78714-9012

Dear Mr. Valadez:

Thank you for your letter dated August 13, 2021. I am pleased to know that like me, you are just as concerned about the large number of ARB member resignations of late. Like you, I also appreciate the impact of COVID-19 on the participation of many members. However, as you note in your letter, this is a problem that affects our community in many significant ways and I am eager to work with you to find a solution.

As you know, the number of applications received for these positions has often fallen short of the number of positions the TCAD Board seeks to fill. In recent years, we have not received enough qualified applicants to fill all of the positions. Outreach efforts have expanded in recent years, and yet, it has been difficult to find enough interested citizens to fill the vast number of positions requested by the Board. Early in my involvement in the appointment process, I was asked to appoint only a few dozen members. The quality of the applicant pool was excellent and there was robust competition for appointments. However, more recently, I have been asked to appoint a few hundred members and that has proved to be problematic. Perhaps an evaluation of the entire process, with a goal toward creating greater efficiencies and streamlining the process might be in order. Or, perhaps, we must simply increase the recruitment process in some very significant ways. Something must be done to ensure this work is completed timely and completed with the goal of top quality in mind.

I certainly welcome your thoughts on how this situation might be rectified. I believe that recruitment efforts should begin immediately. Perhaps some additional public service announcements will help generate interest in this work. I sincerely hope that the TCAD Board will do everything in its power to employ effective strategies to increase awareness and support for this important public service.

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August 17, 2021
Page Two

I will make myself available if it would be helpful to meet about these issues, at a time convenient for you and your staff. Please let me know how you would like to proceed. Thank you for your service to Travis County.

Sincerely,



LORA J. LIVINGSTON
Local Administrative Judge
Travis County, Texas

LJL/

cc: Mr. Martin Wilbanks, Taxpayer Liaison
Mr. Thomas King, Jr., Chairperson, Travis Appraisal Review Board