



## **Bexar County Commissioners Court**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 15, 2015**

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### **County, suburban cities agree to form purchasing co-op**

Commissioners Court on Tuesday unanimously approved an interlocal agreement with 8 suburban cities in Bexar County to create a cooperative purchasing program that will give the small cities greater purchasing power for commodities and services. The program is modeled after the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Under the agreements, the cities of Elmendorf, Grey Forest, Hollywood Park, Kirby, Leon Valley, Sandy Oaks, Schertz and Selma will be able to ride Bexar County contracts with vendors at no extra cost to the County. The suburban cities will pay a 1 percent administration fee each time they make a purchase through the coop, but the County has the ability to increase or decrease the fee to make sure the cost is neutral to the County.

The co-op will allow the cities to reduce their costs of purchasing goods and services, and increase participation of potential vendors in the bid solicitation process. Additional cities will be added to the co-op as their elective bodies approve the interlocal agreement.

County Judge Nelson Wolff convened the first meeting with the leadership of the 26 suburban cities in Bexar County in February of this year to increase communication and coordination between the County and its smaller cities. One of the first initiatives to gain consensus among the cities' mayors was the creation of a purchasing co-op. Because the cities purchase goods and commodities on a smaller scale, they don't enjoy the economies of scale afforded to larger purchases.

"The quarterly meetings between the County and the suburban city mayors have proven to be beneficial to all of us," Judge Wolff said. "It has created a forum through which we can collaborate on issues, whether it is purchasing, lobbying the Texas Legislature, preserving rideshare programs or providing emergency management to our communities."

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