



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of Melissa and Collin College Partner for Future Regional First Responder Center**

Melissa, TX – In March of this year, the Melissa City Council granted 25 acres of land to Collin College. The land, located at State Highway 121 and County Road 420 will be the future home of the college’s law enforcement, fire science, and emergency medical services training facility. The land donation is the culmination of years of negotiations and efforts to attract Collin College to Melissa. According to Collin College Board of Trustees Chair Brenda Goodell, “We are tremendously thankful for the historic land donation in Melissa. Gracious gifts of this proportion will shape our future.”

“The college’s presence in Melissa has both tangible and intangible benefits to Melissa,” said Mayor Reed Greer. “There most certainly will be a positive financial impact because of the volume of visitors to the Collin College regional training facility will bring to Melissa. The opportunities are endless and could include the potential for hotels, restaurants, and consumer service businesses. That being said, the financial impact of Collin College’s presence in Melissa is just a piece of the package. The quality of life a higher education facility brings is one that will impact Melissa for years to come.”

In addition to the future economic impact, the partnership with the College will provide direct benefit to the citizen’s of Melissa in their granting Melissa Police and Fire Departments use of the facility for their respective training needs. Projected amenities include a driving course, a scenario village that replicates real life challenges faced by fire, paramedics, and police as well as a state of the art firing range that allows multiple scenarios/simulations to be staged for various firearms training applications. The agreement allows Melissa public safety personnel access to state of the art training that is not currently readily accessible.

City Administrator Jason Little, said “the focus of true regionalism in its training and facility planning by Collin College is to be commended. Having Melissa serve as the physical location for critical service training of firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians is an opportunity we accept with great pride.

“We look forward to developing a master plan with all the stakeholders in our district for this regional fire and police training center,” said Cary Israel, district president for Collin College.

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