HAND DELIVERED

ROBERT P. SHARPE
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[redacted] • 713-485-9006

August 17, 2026

Honorable Lloyd L. Lane
Freestone County Judge
Freestone County Courthouse
118 East Commerce Street
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Members of the Freestone County Commissioners Court

Dear Judge Lane and Members of the Commissioners Court:

I respectfully request that the following item be placed on a future Commissioners Court agenda for discussion and possible action:

"Citizen request for review of victim advocacy capacity under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 56A.201 and comparison with peer counties."

I have prepared a short written letter on this subject and request the opportunity to present it and answer questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Sharpe

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(Submitted solely as a private citizen; not in any official party capacity)

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August 17, 2026

Honorable Lloyd L. Lane
Freestone County Judge
Freestone County Courthouse
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Honorable Clyde Ridge
Freestone County Commissioner, Precinct 4
Freestone County Courthouse
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Members of the Freestone County Commissioners Court
Via Copy: District Attorney, Freestone County

Dear Judge Lane, Commissioner Ridge, and Members of the Commissioners Court:

I write as a private citizen and taxpayer concerning victim advocacy capacity in Freestone County.

Texas law already requires it. Under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 56A.201, "The district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county attorney who prosecutes criminal cases shall designate a person to serve as victim assistance coordinator in that jurisdiction." Article 56A.202 then assigns specific duties to that coordinator, including ensuring that victims receive the rights granted by Chapter 56A, sending victim-impact statements and Crime Victims' Compensation applications, and working with law enforcement and the courts. Article 56A.203 also requires each local law-enforcement agency to designate a crime victim liaison. The question is not whether Freestone should have a designated coordinator—state law already says it shall. The practical questions are whether that person is given the time, training, visibility, and support needed to perform the duties, and whether the County provides any budget assistance.

Republican Party of Texas Platform. The 2026 Republican Party of Texas Platform states that "district attorneys have a duty to seek justice for victims of all forms of crime and oppose policies that systematically decline to prosecute crimes." Supporting a functioning victim-assistance capacity is consistent with that duty and with the Party's broader commitment to law and order and protection of the vulnerable.

What surrounding counties already fund. A review of nearby counties shows that Freestone is an outlier in leaving this function without dedicated support:

• Leon County employs a full-time Victim Assistance Coordinator (public payroll ~$68,400 in 2024).

• Limestone County's adopted budget includes a dedicated line—"Victim Assistance Discretionary GF"—of $42,000.

• Navarro County maintains a Victim Assistance Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office with published contact information and active services.

• Anderson County (also adjacent) employs a Victims Assistance Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office and has maintained a formal job description for the position.

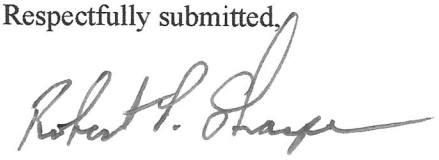
Freestone County currently allocates no dedicated county budget line for a victim assistance coordinator. Victims in Freestone should not have fewer resources than victims in Leon, Limestone, Navarro, or Anderson.

A low-cost immediate step. Even before a funded position is in place, the District Attorney's office could display a simple QR code in the public area where victims appear. Scanning the code would open a short page listing local and state resources: Crime Victims' Compensation, protective-order information, domestic-violence and child-abuse hotlines, 211 Texas, and regional advocacy partners. The cost is minimal. I am willing to help design and produce that QR code and resource page at no cost to the County if the Court and the District Attorney find it useful.

Request. I ask the Court, in coordination with the District Attorney's office, to confirm who is currently designated under Article 56A.201, review whether that person has the support needed to perform the statutory duties, compare Freestone's arrangement with the peer counties listed above, and report what would be required—full-time, part-time, grant-supported, or at minimum the QR-code resource tool—to ensure consistent, accessible advocacy for crime victims in Freestone County.

Thank you for your service and for considering this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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