

**COUNTY OF
NOLAN
STATE OF TEXAS**

OFFICE OF
NOLAN COUNTY JUDGE
TIM FAMBROUGH



SWEETWATER, TEXAS 79556

December 11, 2008

Mr. Joey Longly
Director, Sunset Commission
P. O. Box 13066
Austin, TX, 78711

In re: Recommendation concerning Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and Texas Youth
Commission

Dear Mr. Longly:

The Commissioners Court of Nolan County, Texas, is aware of the recommendation of the Sunset Commission staff regarding abolishing the above Commissions and creating a Juvenile Justice Department. Other issues left us unable to enter our planned resolution concerning this in our regular meeting; however, I am aware of the opinions of the Commissioners in this matter.

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission has an excellent reputation. They handle their charge from the Legislature efficiently and are considered to be highly effective. Through their efforts, young people in danger of embarking on a life of crime can be and are dissuaded, no matter the size of the county.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the Texas Youth Commission at this time; however, the experience of the adult system should serve as notice that combining them will not bring TYC to the level of TJPC. Rather, it is likely to lower the effectiveness of TJPC. Whatever savings may be realized by the state in the Report could also be realized through better TYC leadership. Furthermore, those savings will be lost in the support which will have to flow from Austin to the counties if the suggestions in the Report are followed.

If another fourteen days were available, I have no doubt that the Nolan County Commissioners Court would join other Courts across the state in opposing this. Please accept this letter as an indication of our concerns, and leave the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission in its current form and state – a separate agency with oversight and in partnership with the probation departments of the State.

Feel free to contact me for further information. I remain,

Yours truly,

Tim Fambrough
Nolan County Judge