



Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Cover Memo

Meeting Type: City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 2/26/2026

File ID: TMP-6461

Department: Police

Subject:

Type of Action: Approval/Action

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the City of Huntsville, on behalf of the Huntsville Police Department, regarding the Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force (CEHTTF).

Resolution No.

Finance Information:

Account Number: TBD

City Cost Amount: TBD

Total Cost: TBD

Special Circumstances:

Grant Funded: NA

Grant Title - CFDA or granting Agency: NA

Resolution #: NA

Location: (list below)

Address:

District: District 1 District 2 District 3 District 4 District 5

Additional Comments:

RESOLUTION NO. 26 - _____

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the City of Huntsville, Alabama, by and through its police department, are partnering to provide a rapid, proactive, and intelligence-driven law enforcement response to the sexual victimization of children, other crimes against children and human trafficking; to identify and recover victims of child exploitation and human trafficking; and to reduce the vulnerability of children and adults to sexual exploitation and abuse in North Alabama through a joint taskforce named the Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force (CEHTTF); and

WHEREAS, the Huntsville Police Department has a unit of police officers specially trained in investigations of human trafficking and internet crimes against children that is identified by the acronym S.T.R.I.K.E. (Special Taskforce for Investigating Kid Exploitation), and will participate in the mission of CEHTTF; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the attached Memorandum of Understanding is to formalize the working relationship between the law enforcement agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama that the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Huntsville and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, on behalf of the City of Huntsville, a municipal corporation in the State of Alabama, which said agreement is substantially in words and figures similar to that certain document attached hereto and identified as "Federal Bureau of Investigation Birmingham Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)" consisting of thirteen (13) pages and the date of February 26, 2026 appearing on the first page, together with the signature of the President or President Pro Tem of the City Council, an executed copy of said document being permanently kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Huntsville, Alabama.

ADOPTED this the 26th day of February, 2026.

President of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 26th day of February, 2026.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
BIRMINGHAM CHILD EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PARTIES

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** and the **City of Huntsville, Alabama, by and through the Huntsville Police Department (LEA)**. Nothing in this MOU should be construed as limiting or impeding the basic spirit of cooperation which exists between these agencies.

AUTHORITIES

2. Authority for the FBI to enter into this agreement can be found at Title 28, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section (§) 533; 34 U.S.C. § 10211; Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), § 0.85; and applicable United States Attorney General's Guidelines.

PURPOSE

3. The purpose of this MOU is to delineate the responsibilities of the Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force (CEHTTF) personnel; formalize relationships between participating agencies for policy guidance, planning, training, public and media relations; and maximize inter-agency cooperation). This MOU is not intended, and should not be construed, to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or otherwise by any third party against the parties, the United States, or the officers, employees, agents, or other associated personnel thereof.

MISSION

4. The mission of the Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force (CEHTTF) is to provide a rapid, proactive, and intelligence-driven investigative response to the sexual victimization of children, other crimes against children, and human trafficking within the FBI's jurisdiction; to identify and recover victims of child exploitation and human trafficking; to reduce the vulnerability of children and adults to sexual exploitation and abuse; to reduce the negative impact of domestic and international parental rights disputes; and to strengthen the capabilities of the FBI and federal, state, local, and international law enforcement through training, intelligence-sharing, technical support, and investigative assistance.
5. The defined priority threats that are aligned with the mission of the CEHTTFs are:
 - a. **Child Abductions (Non-Ransom and Ransom)**
 - b. **Production/Manufacturing of Child Sexual Abuse Material**
 - c. **Sextortion**
 - d. **Electronic Groups/Organizations/Enterprises for Profit**
 - e. **Travelers/Enticement**

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President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama
Date: February 26, 2026

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- f. **Traders/Distributors of Child Sexual Abuse Material**
- g. **Interstate Transportation of a Minor with Intent that Minor Engage in Any Illegal Sexual Activity**
- h. **Human Trafficking**
- i. **Child Sex Trafficking**
- j. **Adult Sex Trafficking**
- k. **Forced Labor**
- l. **Domestic Servitude**
- m. **International Parental Kidnapping**
- n. **Possessors of Child Sexual Abuse Material**
- o. **Child Sex Tourism**
- p. **Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution – Parental Kidnapping**
- q. **All other Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking matters within the FBI's jurisdiction**

SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

A. Supervision

- 6. Overall management of the CEHTTF shall be the shared responsibility of the FBI and participating agency heads and/or their designees.
- 7. The Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the FBI Birmingham Field Office shall designate one Supervisory Special Agent (CEHTTF Supervisor) to supervise the CEHTTF. The CEHTTF Supervisor may designate a Special Agent to serve as the CEHTTF Coordinator. Either the CEHTTF Supervisor or the CEHTTF Coordinator shall oversee day-to-day operational and investigative matters pertaining to the CEHTTF.
- 8. Conduct undertaken outside the scope of an individual's CEHTTF duties and assignments under this MOU shall not fall within the oversight responsibility of the CEHTTF Supervisor or CEHTTF Coordinator. As stated below, neither the United States nor the FBI shall be responsible for such conduct.
- 9. CEHTTF personnel will report to his or her respective agency for personnel and administrative matters. Each participating agency shall be responsible for the pay, overtime, leave, performance appraisals, and other personnel matters relating to its employees detailed to the CEHTTF. The FBI and the participating agency may provide for overtime reimbursement by the FBI by separate written agreement.
- 10. All FBI personnel will adhere to the FBI's ethical standards, including Department of Justice (DOJ)/FBI regulations relating to outside employment and prepublication review matters, and will remain subject to the Supplemental Standards of Ethical conduct for employees of the DOJ.
- 11. All CEHTTF personnel, which includes Task Force Officers, Task Force Members, and Task Force Participants, must adhere to the applicable U.S. Attorney General's Guidelines and Domestic Operations Investigative Guidelines (DIOG).

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12. CEHTTF personnel will continue to report to their respective agency heads for non-investigative administrative matters not detailed in this MOU.
13. Continued assignment of personnel to the CEHTTF will be based on performance and at the discretion of appropriate management. The FBI SAC and CEHTTF Supervisor will also retain discretion to remove any individual from the CEHTTF.

B. Case Assignments

14. The FBI CEHTTF Supervisor will be responsible for opening, monitoring, directing, and closing CEHTTF investigations in accordance with existing FBI policy and the applicable United States Attorney General's Guidelines.
15. Assignments of cases to personnel will be based on, but not limited to, experience, training, and performance, in addition to the discretion of the CEHTTF Supervisor.
16. For FBI administrative purposes, CEHTTF cases will be entered into the relevant FBI computer system.
17. CEHTTF personnel will have equal responsibility for each case assigned. CEHTTF personnel will be responsible for complete investigation from predication to resolution.

C. Resource Control

18. The head of each participating agency shall determine the resources to be dedicated by that agency to the CEHTTF, including personnel, as well as the continued dedication of those resources. The participating agency head or designee shall be kept apprised of investigative developments by his or her subordinates.

OPERATIONS

A. Investigative Exclusivity

19. It is agreed that matters designated to be handled by the CEHTTF will not knowingly be subject to non-CEHTTF law enforcement efforts by any of the participating agencies. It is incumbent on each agency to make proper internal notification regarding the CEHTTF's existence and areas of concern.
20. It is agreed that there is to be no unilateral action taken on the part of the FBI or any participating agency relating to CEHTTF investigations or areas of concern as described in paragraphs 4 and 5. All law enforcement actions will be coordinated and cooperatively carried out.
21. CEHTTF investigative leads outside of the geographic areas of responsibility for the FBI will be communicated to other FBI offices for appropriate investigation.

B. Confidential Human Sources

22. The disclosure of FBI informants, or Confidential Human Sources (CHSs), to non-CEHTTF personnel will be limited to those situations where it is essential to the effective performance of the CEHTTF and only with prior FBI approval. These disclosures will be consistent with applicable FBI guidelines and policy.
23. Non-FBI CEHTTF personnel may not make any further disclosure of the identity of an FBI CHS, including to other individuals assigned to the CEHTTF. No documents or information which identify, tend to identify, or may indirectly identify an FBI CHS may be released without prior FBI approval.
24. In those instances where a participating agency provides a CHS, the FBI may become solely responsible for the CHS's continued development, operation, and compliance with necessary administrative procedures regarding operation and payment as set forth by the FBI.
25. The United States Attorney General's Guidelines and FBI policy and procedure for operating FBI CHSs shall apply to all FBI CHSs opened and operated in furtherance of CEHTTF investigations. Documentation of, and any payments made to, FBI CHSs shall be in accordance with FBI policy and procedure.
26. Operation, documentation, and payment of any CHS opened and operated in furtherance of a CEHTTF investigation must be in accordance with the United States Attorney General's Guidelines, regardless of whether the handling agency is an FBI CEHTTF participating agency. Documentation of state, county, or local CHSs opened and operated in furtherance of CEHTTF investigations shall be maintained at an agreed upon location.

C. Reports and Records

27. All investigative reporting will be prepared in compliance with existing FBI policy. Subject to pertinent legal and/or policy restrictions, copies of pertinent documents created by CEHTTF personnel will be made available for inclusion in the respective investigative agencies' files as appropriate.
28. CEHTTF reports prepared in cases assigned to CEHTTF personnel will be maintained at an FBI approved location; original documents will be maintained by the FBI.
29. Records and reports generated in CEHTTF cases which are opened and assigned by the CEHTTF Supervisor with designated oversight for investigative and personnel matters will be maintained in the FBI investigative file for CEHTTF.
30. CEHTTF investigative records maintained at the Birmingham Field Office of the FBI will be available to all CEHTTF personnel, as well as their supervisory and command staff subject to pertinent legal, administrative, and/or policy restrictions.
31. All evidence and original tape recordings (audio and video) acquired by the FBI during the course of the CEHTTF investigations will be maintained by the FBI unless the

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original recordings were made on LEA's equipment by non-CEHTTF personnel. In that event, the original recording shall be maintained by LEA in accordance with its policies and procedures. The FBI's rules and policies governing the submission, retrieval, and chain of custody will be adhered to by CEHTTF personnel.

32. All CEHTTF investigative records will be maintained at an approved FBI location. Placement of all or part of said information into participating agency files rests with the discretion of supervisory personnel of the concerned agencies, subject to CEHTTF Supervisor approval.
33. Classified information and/or documents containing information that identifies or tends to identify an FBI CHS shall not be placed in the files of participating agencies unless appropriate FBI policy has been satisfied and only with prior FBI approval.

INFORMATION SHARING

34. Records or reports created or obtained by the CEHTTF are the property of the FBI and disclosure of such records, if it occurs, shall be pursuant to applicable federal law, with the approval of FBI. If such records are shared outside of the CEHTTF with state and/or local law enforcement agencies, such records are merely loaned to the non-Federal agency and are subject to retrieval by the FBI at its discretion. In the event that the Huntsville Police Department receives a request pursuant to Alabama's public records statute, the civil or criminal discovery process, or other judicial, legislative, or administrative process, to disclose CEHTTF records, the Huntsville Police Department will immediately notify the FBI of any such request in order to allow sufficient time for the FBI to seek to prevent disclosure through appropriate channels, if necessary.
35. No information possessed by the FBI, to include information derived from informal communications between CEHTTF personnel and FBI employees not assigned to the CEHTTF, may be disseminated by CEHTTF personnel to non-CEHTTF personnel without the approval of the CEHTTF Supervisor and in accordance with the applicable laws and internal regulations, procedures, or agreements between the FBI and the participating agencies that would permit the participating agencies to receive that information directly. Likewise, CEHTTF personnel will not provide any participating agency information to the FBI that is not otherwise available to it unless authorized by appropriate participating agency officials.
36. The Parties acknowledge that this MOU may provide CEHTTF personnel with access to information about U.S. persons which is protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 and/or Executive Order 12333. The Parties expressly agree that all such information will be handled lawfully pursuant to the provisions thereof. The Parties further agree that if this access to information by CEHTTF personnel requires a change in privacy compliance documents, those changes will be accomplished prior to access being granted.
37. Each Party that discloses personally identifiable information (PII) is responsible for making reasonable efforts to ensure that the information disclosed is accurate, complete, timely, and relevant.

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38. The FBI is providing access to information from its records with the understanding that in the event the recipient becomes aware of any inaccuracies in the data, the recipient will promptly notify the FBI so that corrective action can be taken. Similarly, if the FBI becomes aware that information it has received pursuant to this MOU is inaccurate, it will notify the contributing Party so that corrective action can be taken.
39. Each Party is responsible for ensuring that information it discloses was not knowingly obtained or maintained in violation of any law or policy applicable to the disclosing Party, and that information is only made available to the receiving Party as may be permitted by laws, regulations, policies, or procedures applicable to the disclosing Party.
40. Each Party will immediately report to the other Party each instance in which data received from the other Party is used, disclosed, or accessed in an unauthorized manner (including any data losses or breaches).
41. Each party agrees to provide, upon request, details regarding the handling and maintenance of data in electronic and paper recordkeeping systems maintained pursuant to the provisions of this MOU, in order to allow the other party to ensure that appropriate security and privacy protections are in place. Such information shall be provided to the extent allowable by the laws, regulations, and policies governing each party.

PROSECUTIONS

42. CEHTTF investigative procedures, whenever practicable, are to conform to the requirements which would allow for either federal or state prosecution.
43. A determination will be made on a case-by-case basis whether the prosecution of CEHTTF cases will be at the state or federal level. This determination will be based on the evidence obtained and a consideration of which level of prosecution would be of the greatest benefit to the overall objectives of the CEHTTF.
44. In the event that a state or local matter is developed that is outside the jurisdiction of the FBI or it is decided to prosecute a CEHTTF case at the state or local level, the FBI agrees to provide all relevant information to state and local authorities in accordance with all applicable legal limitations.

A. Investigative Methods/Evidence

45. For cases assigned to an FBI Special Agent or in which FBI CHSs are utilized, the Parties agree to conform to federal standards concerning evidence collection, processing, storage, and electronic surveillance. However, in situations where the investigation will be prosecuted in the State Court where statutory or common law of the state is more restrictive than the comparable federal law, the investigative methods employed by FBI case agents shall conform to the requirements of such statutory or common law pending a decision as to venue for prosecution.

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46. In all cases assigned to state, county, or local law enforcement participants, the Parties agree to utilize federal standards pertaining to evidence handling and electronic surveillance activities as outlined in the Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide (DIOG) to the greatest extent possible. However, in situations where the statutory or common law of the state is more restrictive than the comparable federal law, the investigative methods employed by state and local law enforcement agencies shall conform to the requirements of such statutory or common law pending a decision as to venue for prosecution.
47. The use of other investigative methods (search warrants, interceptions of oral communications, etc.) and reporting procedures in connection therewith will be consistent with the policies and procedures of the FBI.

B. Undercover Operations

48. All CEHTTF undercover operations will be conducted and reviewed in accordance with FBI guidelines and the United States Attorney General's Guidelines on FBI Undercover Operations. All participating agencies may be requested to enter into an additional agreement if an employee of the participating agency is assigned duties which require the officer to act in an undercover capacity.

USE OF LESS-THAN-LETHAL-DEVICES¹

49. The parent agency of each individual assigned to the CEHTTF will ensure that while the individual is participating in FBI-led task force operations in the capacity of a task force officer, task force member, or task force participant, the individual will carry only less lethal devices that the parent agency has issued to the individual, and that the individual has been trained in accordance with the agency's policies and procedures.
50. The parent agency of each individual assigned to the CEHTTF will ensure that the agency's policies and procedures for use of any less-lethal device that will be carried by the task force officer, task force member, or task force participant are consistent with the DOJ policy statement on the Use of Less-Than-Lethal Devices.²

¹ Pursuant to Section VIII of the DOJ Less-Than-Lethal Devices Policy dated May 16, 2011, all state/local officers participating in joint task force operations must be made aware of and adhere to the policy and its limits on DOJ officers.

² Less-lethal – When use of force is required, but deadly force may not be appropriate, law enforcement officers may employ less-lethal weapons to gain control of a subject. Less-lethal weapons are designed to induce a subject to submit or comply with directions. These weapons give law enforcement officers the ability to protect the safety of officers, subjects, and the public by temporarily incapacitating subjects. While less-lethal weapons are intended to avoid causing any serious harm or injury to a subject, significant injuries and death can occur from their use.

The term "less-than-lethal" is synonymous with "less-lethal," "non-lethal," "non-deadly," and other terms referring to devices used in situations covered by the DOJ Policy on the Use of Less-Than Lethal

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Devices. "Less-lethal" is the industry standard and the terminology the FBI has elected to utilize in reference to this policy.

DEADLY FORCE AND SHOOTING INCIDENT POLICIES

51. CEHTTF personnel will follow their own agencies' policies concerning firearms discharge and use of deadly force.

DEPUTATIONS

52. Local and state law enforcement personnel designated to the CEHTTF, subject to a limited background inquiry, shall be sworn as federal task force officers by acquiring Title 18 authority (via the United States Marshals) and Title 21 U.S.C. authority (via the FBI, to participate in federal drug investigations). The FBI will secure the required deputation authorization(s). These deputation(s) should remain in effect throughout the tenure of each investigator's assignment to the CEHTTF or until the termination of the CEHTTF, whichever comes first.
53. Deputized CEHTTF personnel will be subject to the rules and regulations pertaining to such deputation. Administrative and personnel policies imposed by the participating agencies will not be voided by deputation of their respective personnel.
54. State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers (LEOs) who serve on the CEHTTF must be federally deputized under Title 18. They must also be deputized under Title 21 to participate in federal drug investigations. The FBI may likewise require federal LEOs who serve on the CEHTTF to be deputized while assigned to the CEHTTF. The FBI will secure the required authorization for deputations, as needed.
55. Under the terms of this MOU, the Participating Agency agrees that non-LEOs detailed to the CEHTTF will not: (1) participate in law enforcement activities; (2) carry a weapon, either lethal or non-lethal; or (3) participate in the execution of search/arrest warrants.

VEHICLES

56. In furtherance of this MOU, employees of participating agencies may be permitted to drive FBI owned or leased vehicles for official CEHTTF business and only in accordance with applicable FBI rules and regulations, including those outlined in the FBI Government Vehicle Use Policy Guide (1093PG). The assignment of an FBI owned or leased vehicle to participating agency CEHTTF personnel will require the execution of a separate Vehicle Use Agreement.
57. The participating agencies agree that FBI vehicles will not be used to transport passengers unrelated to CEHTTF business.
58. Neither the FBI nor the United States shall be responsible for any civil liability arising from the use of an FBI owned or leased vehicle by CEHTTF personnel while engaged in

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any conduct other than their official duties and assignments pursuant to their federal deputation on the CEHTTF.

59. To the extent permitted by applicable law, and subject to the limitations of liability of municipalities contained in Alabama law, the participating agencies agree to hold harmless the FBI and the United States, for any claim for property damage or personal injury arising from any use of an FBI owned or leased vehicle by CEHTTF personnel which is outside the scope of their official duties and assignments under this MOU.

SALARY/OVERTIME COMPENSATION

60. The FBI and each participating agency remain responsible for all personnel costs for their CEHTTF representatives, including salaries, overtime payments, and fringe benefits consistent with their respective agency, except as described in paragraph 61 below.
61. Subject to funding availability and legislative authorization, the FBI will reimburse to participating agencies the cost of overtime worked by non-federal CEHTTF personnel assigned full-time to CEHTTF, provided overtime expenses were incurred as a result of CEHTTF-related duties, and subject to the provisions and limitations set forth in a separate Cost Reimbursement Agreement to be executed in conjunction with this MOU. A separate Cost Reimbursement Agreement must be executed between the FBI and participating agencies for full-time employee(s) assigned to CEHTTF, consistent with regulations and policy, prior to any reimbursement by the FBI. Otherwise, overtime shall be compensated in accordance with applicable participating agency overtime provisions and shall be subject to the prior approval of appropriate personnel.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

62. Property utilized by the CEHTTF in connection with authorized investigations and/or operations and in the custody and control and used at the direction of the CEHTTF, will be maintained in accordance with the policies and procedures of the agency supplying the equipment. Property damaged or destroyed which was utilized by CEHTTF in connection with authorized investigations and/or operations and is in the custody and control and used at the direction of CEHTTF, will be the financial responsibility of the agency supplying said property.

FUNDING

63. This MOU is not an obligation or commitment of funds, nor a basis for transfer of funds, but rather is a basic statement of the understanding between the Parties hereto of the tasks and methods for performing the tasks described herein. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, each Party shall bear its own costs in relation to this MOU. Expenditures by each Party will be subject to its budgetary processes and to the availability of funds and resources pursuant to applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The Parties expressly acknowledge that the above language in no way implies that Congress will appropriate funds for such expenditures.

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FORFEITURES

64. The FBI shall be responsible for processing assets seized for federal forfeiture in conjunction with CEHTTF operations.
65. Asset forfeitures will be conducted in accordance with federal law and the rules and regulations set forth by the FBI and DOJ. Forfeitures attributable to CEHTTF investigations may be equitably shared with the agencies participating in the CEHTTF.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

66. In cases of overlapping jurisdiction, the participating agencies agree to work in concert to achieve the CEHTTF's objectives.
67. The participating agencies agree to attempt to resolve any disputes regarding jurisdiction, case assignments, workload, etc., at the field level first before referring the matter to supervisory personnel for resolution.

MEDIA RELEASES

68. All media releases and statements will be mutually agreed upon and jointly handled according to FBI and participating agency guidelines.
69. Press releases will conform to DOJ Guidelines regarding press releases. No release will be issued without FBI final approval.

SELECTION TO CEHTTF AND SECURITY CLEARANCES

70. If a participating agency candidate for the CEHTTF will require a security clearance, he or she will be contacted by FBI security personnel to begin the background investigation process prior to the assigned start date.
71. If, for any reason, the FBI determines that a participating agency candidate is not qualified or eligible to serve on the CEHTTF, the participating agency will be so advised and a request will be made for another candidate.
72. Upon being selected, each candidate will receive a comprehensive briefing on FBI field office security policies and procedures. During the briefing, each candidate will execute non-disclosure agreements (SF-312 and FD-868), as may be necessary or required by the FBI.
73. Before receiving unescorted access to FBI space identified as an open storage facility, CEHTTF personnel will be required to obtain and maintain a "Top Secret" security clearance. CEHTTF personnel will not be allowed unescorted access to FBI space unless they have received a Top Secret security clearance.
74. Upon departure from the CEHTTF, each individual whose assignment to the CEHTTF is completed will be given a security debriefing and reminded of the provisions contained in the non-disclosure agreement to which he or she previously agreed.

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LIABILITY

75. The participating agencies acknowledge that this MOU does not alter the applicable law governing civil liability, if any, arising from the conduct of personnel assigned to the CEHTTF.
76. Each party agrees to notify the other in the event of receipt of a civil claim arising from [scope of the FBI's relationship with the MOU's other party]. Both parties agree to cooperate fully with one another in the event of any investigation arising from alleged negligence or misconduct arising from the [operational relationship]. Nothing in this paragraph prevents any party from conducting an independent administrative review of any incident giving rise to a claim. In the event that a civil claim or complaint is brought against a state or local officer assigned to the CEHTTF, the officer may request legal representation and/or defense by DOJ, under the circumstances and pursuant to the statutes and regulations identified below.

77. COMMON LAW TORT CLAIMS

- A. Congress has provided that the exclusive remedy for the negligent or wrongful act or omission of an employee of the U.S. Government, acting within the scope of his or her employment, shall be an action against the United States under the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1346(b), and §§ 2671-2680.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this MOU, for the limited purpose of defending civil claims arising out of [operational relationship] activity, any employee detailed from a Participating Agency who is acting within the course and scope of his or her official duties and assignments pursuant to this MOU may be considered an "employee" of the U.S. government, as defined at 28 U.S.C. § 2671. See 5 U.S.C. § 3374(c)(2).
- C. Under the Federal Employee Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act of 1998 (commonly known as the Westfall Act), see 28 U.S.C. § 2679(b)(1), if an employee of the United States is named as a defendant in a civil action, the Attorney General or his or her designee may certify that the defendant acted within the scope of his or her employment at the time of the incident giving rise to the suit. 28 U.S.C. § 2679(d)(1)&(2). The United States can then be substituted for the employee as the sole defendant with respect to any tort claims alleged in the action. 28 U.S.C. § 2679(d)(1)&(2). Decisions to certify that an employee was acting within the scope of his or her employment at the time of the incident giving rise to the suit, see 28 U.S.C. § 2679(d)(1)&(2), are made on a case-by case-basis, and such certification cannot be guaranteed.
- D. If the Attorney General declines to certify that an employee was acting within the scope of employment, "the employee may at any time before trial petition the court to find and certify that the employee was acting within the scope of his office or employment." 28 U.S. C. § 2679(d)(3)."
78. For the limited purpose of defending against a civil claim arising from an alleged violation of the U.S. Constitution pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 or Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, 403 U.S. 388 (1971): An individual

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assigned to the CEHTTF who is named as a defendant in a civil action as a result of or in connection with the performance of his or her official duties and assignments pursuant to this MOU may request individual-capacity representation by DOJ to defend against the claims. 28 C.F.R. §§ 50.15, 50.16. Any such request for individual-capacity representation must be made in the form of a letter from the individual defendant to the U.S. Attorney General. The letter should be provided to Chief Division Counsel (CDC) for the FBI Birmingham Division, who will then coordinate the request with the FBI Office of the General Counsel. In the event of an adverse judgment against the individual, he or she may request indemnification from DOJ. 28 C.F.R. § 50.15(c)(4). Requests for DOJ representation and indemnification are determined by DOJ on a case-by-case basis. The FBI cannot guarantee the United States will provide legal representation or indemnification to any CEHTTF personnel.

79. Unless otherwise authorized by the FBI, liability for any conduct by CEHTTF personnel undertaken outside of the scope of their duties and assignments pursuant to their federal deputation on the CEHTTF shall not be the responsibility of the FBI or the United States.

DURATION

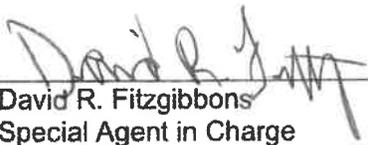
80. The term of this MOU is for the duration of the CEHTTF's operations, contingent upon approval of necessary funding, but may be terminated at any time upon written mutual consent of the agency involved.
81. Any participating agency may withdraw from the CEHTTF at any time by written notification to the CEHTTF Supervisor with designated oversight for investigative and personnel matters or program manager of the CEHTTF at least 30 days prior to withdrawal.
82. Upon termination of this MOU, all equipment provided to the CEHTTF will be returned to the supplying agency/agencies. In addition, when an entity withdraws from the MOU, the entity will return equipment to the supplying agency/agencies. Similarly, remaining agencies will return to a withdrawing agency any unexpended equipment supplied by the withdrawing agency during any CEHTTF participation.

MODIFICATIONS

83. This agreement may be modified at any time by written consent of all involved agencies.
84. Modifications to this MOU shall have no force and effect unless such modifications are reduced to writing and signed by an authorized representative of each participating agency.
85. The Parties agree that any form of electronic signature, including but not limited to signatures via facsimile, scanning, or electronic mail, may substitute for the original signature and have the same legal effect as the original signature.

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SIGNATORIES



David R. Fitzgibbons
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation

2/3/26

Date



Kirk Giles
Chief
Huntsville Police Department

02.12.26

Date

Tommy Battle
Mayor
City of Huntsville

February 26, 2026

Date