

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

Resolution IN SUPPORT OF NON-EMERGENCY sUAS USE FOR MITIGATION, RESEARCH, & ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, the use of modern technology allows more data to be gathered than by traditional means; and,

WHEREAS, sending a machine instead of a human protects the lives of our first responders and emergency management personnel at all times; and,

WHEREAS, constantly monitoring our critical infrastructure for assessment and analysis helps inform relevant County departments about the status of said project; and,

WHEREAS, use of sUAS (small unmanned aircraft systems) allows for all stages of data gathering from pre-disaster analysis, immediate disaster monitoring, activity after the primary disaster situation, and then for longer term recovery and maintenance efforts; and,

WHEREAS, the current Texas Government Code 423 prohibits activities of non-emergency flights by sUAS systems for training, planning, and mitigation unless a state of disaster or law enforcement investigation is created; and,

WHEREAS, Federal Government law allows for other governmental bodies to utilize sUAS technology for activities such as planning, migration, and engineering assessments without declaring a state of disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

This 29th day of January, 2019, Fort Bend County Commissioners Court does hereby express its support of reconciling Texas State Law with Federal Law by adding into the Government Code §423.002:

- a. It is lawful to capture an image using an unmanned aircraft in the state:
 - (22) if the image is captured by state or local government personnel, or a person who is under contract with or otherwise acting under the direction or behalf of state or local authorities, for the purpose of performing non-disaster emergency management activities such as inspecting, maintaining, preparing public infrastructure facilities.

County Judge KP George

Commissioner Vincent Morales, Precinct 1

Commissioner Grady Prestage, Precinct 2

Commissioner Andy Meyers, Precinct 3

Commissioner Ken DeMerchant, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk