

**FORT BEND COUNTY RESOLUTION**

**IN SUPPORT OF  
HOUSE BILL 62  
MODIFICATIONS TO GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 551, THE TEXAS OPEN  
MEETINGS ACT**

**WHEREAS**, Government Code Chapter 551 places restrictions on how and when elected officials may communicate; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Bend County is a majority unincorporated county, with 65% of the residents living outside the jurisdiction of a city; and

**WHEREAS**, County Commissioners could not communicate with Emergency Operations or the County Judge, during Hurricane Harvey and other emergencies, for fear of violating the Texas Open Meetings act, which impaired the ability of Commissioners over highly populated areas in Fort Bend County to convey critical information regarding the emergency to the Emergency Operations, County Judge and area residents; understand the severity of the situation; and

**WHEREAS**, The opinion of the Attorney General’s Office is that any communication between three members of Commissioner’s Court without proper notice, even for informational purposes, would be a violation of Government Code Chapter 551; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Bend County residents would be better served if the Commissioners Court members are able to pass and receive information during an emergency without fear of violating state law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Fort Bend County Commissioners Court supports House Bill 62.

PASSED and APPROVED on January 29, 2019.

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County Judge KP George

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Commissioner Vincent Morales, Pct. 1

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Commissioner Grady Prestage, Pct. 2

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Commissioner W.A. “Andy” Meyers, Pct. 3

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Commissioner Ken R. DeMerchant, Pct. 4

ATTEST:

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Laura Richard, County Clerk