

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

Resolution In Support of Funding for Probation and Detention Centers

WHEREAS, there has been an ongoing debate around raising the age of being tried as a juvenile to 21. An increase in age would increase the burden on County Probation & Detention Services; and,

WHEREAS, in Texas, a juvenile is anyone who is at least 10 years old, but is not yet 17 years old; and

WHEREAS, those in support of raising the age of juveniles to 21 refer to research showing that the human brain does not reach full development and maturity until mid-20s; and

WHEREAS, it is also argued that a juvenile trial would allow law-breakers to seek rehabilitation rather than being jailed; and

WHEREAS, other arguments push to match drinking age and the age to purchase tobacco with age of juveniles; and,

WHEREAS, projections show that increasing the age of juveniles to just 19 would increase the population of 17 year olds in Fort Bend's detention center from 10% to 33% by 2020 thus needing additional funding to meet such mandates; and,

WHEREAS, community supervision and corrections departments have experienced significant revenue and fee loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic while performing major services to provide safe and effective ways for probation please to be taken in Court

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

This 15th day of December 2020, the **Fort Bend County Commissioners Court**, meeting as a body in Richmond, Texas:

1. Supports additional state funding for juvenile probation and detention centers if the age is raised to 21
2. Opposes budget cuts to local Community Supervision and Corrections Departments

SIGNED, THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2020.

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