

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NON-EMERGENCY SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS USE FOR MITIGATION, RESEARCH AND 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 (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 15th day of December 2020, the **Fort Bend County Commissioners Court**, meeting as a body in Richmond, Texas:

Supports reconciling Texas State Law with Federal Law by adding to The Government Code 423.002:

It is lawful to capture an image using an unarmed aircraft in the state: (22) If the image is captured by state or local government personnel, or a person who is under contract 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.

SIGNED, THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 2020.

County Judge KP George

Commissioner Vincent Morales, Pct. 1

Commissioner Grady Prestage, Pct. 2

Commissioner W.A. "Andy" Meyers, Pct. 3

Commissioner Ken R. DeMerchant, Pct. 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk