

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HB 78 RELATING TO THE CREATION OF A MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR INCARCERATION DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, Residents of Fort Bend County, Texas need broader access to a mental health jail diversion program and crisis stabilization program when entering and leaving jail; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Bend County is the fifth fastest growing county in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Adults with untreated mental health conditions are eight times more likely to be incarcerated; and

**WHEREAS**, Jails are becoming the largest institutions for people with serious mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, It is difficult for jail staff to identify mentally ill residents at intake; and

**WHEREAS**, Courts are so backlogged with cases residents are staying in jail for longer periods of time; and

**WHEREAS**, Partner with the State of Texas to allow Fort Bend County to support a broader jail diversion program to reduce the frequency of arrests, recidivism and incarceration among persons with mental illness. A program providing short term residential treatment in a crisis stabilization unit.

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

THAT ON DECEMBER 15, 2020 THE **FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**, MEETING AS A BODY IN RICHMOND, TEXAS, ADOPTS THIS RESOLUTION AND URGES THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW FORT BEND COUNTY TO SUPPORT A BROADER MENTAL HEALTH JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM AND A CRISIS STABILIZATION PROGRAM WHEN ENTERING AND LEAVING JAIL.

SIGNED THIS 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBERE, 2020

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K.P. GEORGE  
COUNTY JUDGE

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VINCENT MORALES  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

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ANDY MEYERS  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

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JAMES "GRADY" PRESTAGE  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

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KEN R. DEMERCHANT  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

ATTEST:

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LAURA RICHARD, COUNTY CLERK