

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

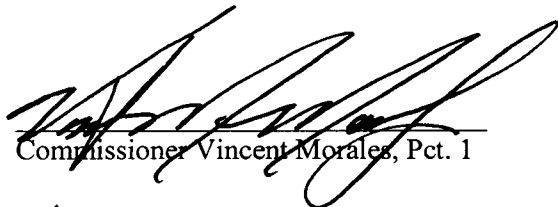
WHEREAS, Fort Bend County residents would be better served if the Commissioners Court members are able to pass and receive information during an emergency without fear of violating state law.

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

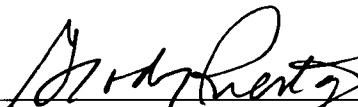
PASSED and APPROVED on January 29, 2019.



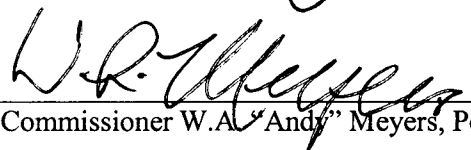
County Judge KP George



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

