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**PROCLAMATION  
DISASTER DECLARATION**

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**WHEREAS**, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 16, 2020, there were 82 confirmed cases of COVID-19 located in multiple Texas counties; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many Texans with pending tests for COVID-19 in Texas and the number of confirmed cases is expected to increase; and

**WHEREAS**, as precautionary responses to the increasing presence of COVID-19 in Texas, growing numbers of schools, universities, other governmental entities, and businesses are altering their schedules, and public venues are beginning to temporarily close; and

**WHEREAS**, costs incurred to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 are beginning to mount at the state and local levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Texas has already taken numerous steps to prepare for COVID-19, such as increasing laboratory testing capacity, coordinating preparedness efforts across state agencies, and working with local partners to promote appropriate mitigation efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical for the City of Rockport to take additional immediate and extraordinary steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a state of disaster will facilitate and expedite the use and deployment of resources to enhance preparedness and response.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by Patrick R. Rios, Mayor of the City of Rockport, Texas, that I do hereby certify that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster and that a local state of disaster is hereby declared for City of Rockport pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City of Rockport.

Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Rockport Emergency Management Plan.

That this Proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this 16th day of March 2020.

  
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Patrick R. Rios, Mayor