



**Honorable Judge  
C.H. Burt Mills, Jr.**  
Aransas County Court House  
2840 Highway 35 N.  
Rockport, TX 78382  
361-790-0101



**Chairman  
Malcolm Dieckow**  
Aransas County Navigation District  
911 Navigation Circle  
Rockport, TX 78382  
(361) 729-6661



**Honorable Mayor  
Patrick R. Rios**  
Rockport Service Center  
2751 S.H. 35 Bypass  
Rockport, TX 78382  
361-729-2213

**ORDER CLOSING ROCKPORT BEACH  
ISSUED BY  
ARANSAS COUNTY JUDGE,  
ARANSAS COUNTY NAVIGATION DISTRICT CHAIRMAN,  
AND MAYOR OF ROCKPORT**

WHEREAS, Aransas County, Aransas County Navigation District, and the City of Rockport, Texas, have declared a state of emergency in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 418 related to the Corona/COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, information issued by the federal Center for Disease Control and the Texas Department of Health Services (DSHS) related to the Corona/COVID-19 virus have stressed undertaking steps to control the virus; and

WHEREAS, those entities have urged that the failure to take steps to diminish the spread of the virus will result in the overwhelming of the health care system in this area with a concomitant increase of mortality; and

WHEREAS, the DSHS Region 11 has confirmed the presence of Corona virus in Aransas County caused by community spread and the number of active cases in the County continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, the present emphasis is the control of community spread of the virus by limiting the number of citizens who are interacting within a given area; and

WHEREAS, in nearby Nueces County the number of cases of COVID-19 has increased to the extent that the health care system will be overwhelmed and the number of cases in Nueces County have shown an alarming dramatic increase; and

WHEREAS, the presence of a high concentration of citizens, especially from Nueces County and other localities of high infection, to the County of Aransas and City of Rockport and its beaches presents an opportunity for community spread of the virus, creating a clear and present public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City, County, and State have taken steps to discourage people from congregating in highly concentrated groups in an effort to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus while allowing businesses to

reopen; however the spread of the contagion has increased alarmingly and now requires further action by the Judge, Chairman, and Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the concentration of traffic near the Rockport Beach prevents the passage of police, fire and EMS vehicles in a timely manner and thus is a clear and present public safety hazard; and

WHEREAS, the resources available to the City are diminished and therefore the efficient allocation of personnel and resources to protect the public health and safety requires the closure of Rockport Beach; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this control measure is to curtail the concentration of individuals in various areas to reduce the chance of community spread of the virus from person to person and allow the provision of first responder services rapidly and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code §418.108(g) allows a county judge or a mayor of a municipality "to control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area and the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in the area."

WHEREAS, Tex. Health & Safety Code §122.006 allows a county and home rule municipality to adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the municipality against communicable disease.

**NOW THEREFORE, AS COUNTY JUDGE FOR THE COUNTY OF ARANSAS, CHAIRMAN FOR THE ARANSAS COUNTY NAVIGATION DISTRICT, AND MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT, WE HEREBY FIND AND ORDER THAT:**

SECTION I. The findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this ORDER are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the Judge, Chairman, and Mayor and made a part hereof for all purposes;


SECTION 2. The Rockport Beach will be closed to all vehicular traffic. No access to the Rockport Beach will be permitted by vehicles other than Emergency/First Responders and Navigation District service vehicles. Vehicles can park on the Fair Grounds located immediately outside the Beach area.

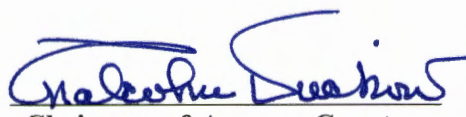
SECTION 3. A violation of this order shall be a Class C misdemeanor punishable as permitted by law. This Order may be enforced by any City of Rockport Police Officer, County Sheriff's Deputy, State Highway Patrol Officer, State Fish and Game Officers, or any other peace officer.

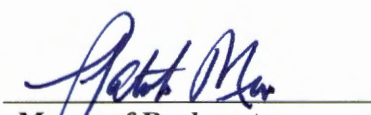
SECTION 4. In accordance with the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration shall take effect on Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. and shall terminate on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 12:01 am or until further Order of the County/Navigation District/City of Rockport.

SECTION 5. This order does not supersede the most recent orders of June 29, 2020.

**SO DECLARED AND ORDERED on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.**

  
Aransas County Judge  
C.H. Burt Mills, Jr.

  
Chairman of Aransas County  
Navigation District  
Malcolm Dieckow

  
Mayor of Rockport  
Patrick R. Rios

Posted @ 3:25 PM  
**FILED**  
AT 3:15 P. M.  
JUL 16 2020

**VALERIE K. AMASON**  
COUNTY CLERK, ARANSAS CO., TEXAS