

DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, on the 31st day of May, 2021, the Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas, issued a Proclamation certifying that an ongoing surge of individuals unlawfully crossing the Texas-Mexico border poses an ongoing and imminent threat of widespread and severe damage, injury, and loss of life and property, including property damage, property crime, human trafficking, violent crime, threats to public health, and a violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity in certain Texas counties and for all state agencies affected by this disaster; and,

WHEREAS, the health, life, and property of the residents of Refugio County is under imminent threat of disaster from the human trafficking occurring on our border with Mexico. The on-going border crisis has resulted in thousands of illegal aliens invading Refugio County and overwhelming our local, state, and federal law enforcement. This continual violation of our sovereignty and territorial integrity has resulted in residents of Refugio County being assaulted, threatened with violence, and robbed, while also sustaining vast amounts of property damage; and

WHEREAS, the public health and safety of the residents of Refugio County is under imminent threat of disaster from an elevated risk of exposure to unknown variants of COVID-19 resulting from the human trafficking occurring on our border with Mexico. The limited resources of Refugio County cannot adequately furnish the necessary procedures and facilities set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for testing and quarantining of thousands of illegal aliens who may be infected with unknown variants of COVID-19 or other infectious diseases that residents have not been vaccinated for; and,

WHEREAS, the approximately 40 miles of US Highway 77 in Refugio County is a major transportation route for commerce and public traffic. It also serves as a major corridor and one of the preferred routes for drug and human smuggling from Mexico, Central America, and other countries around the world to destinations in Texas and the United States; and,

WHEREAS, there has been a 100% increase in 2021 of illegal immigrant incidents by law enforcement with the volume of apprehensions exceeding 200% over the same period in 2020 requiring "unbudgeted" overtime hours for apprehension, transport, and administrative follow up to these crimes; and,

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Refugio County, Texas has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to ensure the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of county residents.

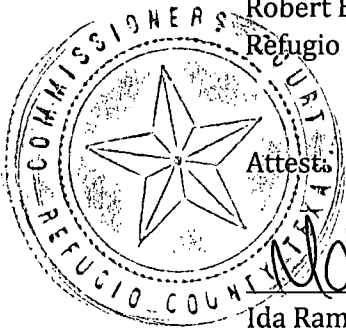
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF Refugio County, Texas:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Refugio County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to Section 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 renewed by the County Judge or continued by the Commissioner's Court of Refugio County, Texas.
3. Pursuant to Section 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 County Clerk of Refugio County, Texas.
4. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Refugio County emergency management plan.
5. Pursuant to Section 362.002(a) of the Texas Government Code, this local state of disaster is intended to authorize, and does hereby declare, that a state of civil emergency exists in Refugio County, Texas, and request the assistance of additional law enforcement to uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the county.
6. Pursuant to Section 433.005(a) of the Texas Government Code, this local state of disaster is intended to request, and does hereby request, that the Governor of Texas provide state military forces to aid in controlling conditions in the county by assisting the County Sheriff in the enforcement of law and the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the county.
7. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available resources and authority granted under both the Constitution of Texas and the Constitution of the United States.
8. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the Refugio County Commissioner's Court, shall continue in effect until terminated by the County Judge. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge at any time deemed necessary.

ORDERED this the 24th day of September, 2021.

Robert Blaschke

Robert Blaschke, County Judge
Refugio County, Texas



Ida Ramirez

Ida Ramirez, County Clerk
Refugio County, Texas