

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 14th day of AUGUST, 2000, there was conducted a EMERGENCY Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Cameron County, Texas, at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.

THE COURT MET AT:

1:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1

CARLOS H. CASCOS, C.P.A.
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2

JAMES R. MATZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

NATIVIDAD ATIVIE@ VALENCIA
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

Hilda V. Treviño Deputy
COUNTY CLERK

ABSENT:

=====

The meeting was called to order by Judge Gilberto Hinojosa at 9:40 A.M.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on August 14, 2000, at 10:35 A.M.:

**(1) PRESENTATION BY EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REGARDING
TROPICAL STORM BERYL**

**ACTION REGARDING AUTHORIZATION OF
COUNTY JUDGE TO PURCHASE AND/OR LEASE
OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT IN PREPARATION
FOR TROPICAL STORM BERYL**

At this time, Judge Hinojosa reported that the Weather Service had informed the County that Beryl was a tropical storm and had determined that the eye of the storm was approximately one hundred miles from Northern Mexico.

He added that the Weather Service anticipated the storm to make landfall the following morning and that it would likely upgrade to a Category 1 hurricane. Judge Hinojosa noted that the storm was fifty miles South of Brownsville and added that a meeting had been held with the Department Heads to schedule an Emergency Meeting. He added that since then, the following Tropical Storm Beryl Commentary had been received:

Judge Hinojosa reiterated that the Weather Channel had reported that the Tropical Storm would become a hurricane and that the storm remained in the same direction as reported earlier. He stated that County Officials had been placed on full alert and added that the high profile vehicles had been ordered to evacuate South Padre Island. Judge Hinojosa reported that initially the Courthouse would be closed at 1:00 P.M., with the exception of County personnel to be working with the Emergency Services, but stated that the time had been changed to 3:00 P.M., based on the last advisory. He stated that the situation would be monitored to determine the closing of the Courthouse and added that if the storm hit Brownsville, the Commissioners= Court meeting would be held Thursday. Judge Hinojosa stated that the County Auditor would need to be allowed to make any emergency expenditures if necessary, but noted that many of the necessary items had been purchased during the last storm, which could be utilized for Tropical Storm Beryl.

At this time, Commissioner Valencia noted that County personnel would be available to assist in the case of any flooding and that sand bags would be provided to the public.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the Red Cross had informed the County that shelters would not be opened until after the storm made landfall, but reported that the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) would open shelters if necessary.

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Presentation regarding Tropical Storm Beryl was acknowledged and the County Auditor was authorized to purchase and/or lease emergency equipment and materials in preparation for Tropical Storm Beryl.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa stated that the Department Heads would be informed and added that the Emergency Operations Center would remain open. He reported that the Building Maintenance Department would secure the County Buildings and added that the Juries had been canceled until next week.

Commissioner Benavides expressed concern as to the Outdoor Resorts area and Judge Hinojosa responded that the City Manager of Port Isabel was currently addressing the matter.

Judge Hinojosa recommended that BISD be contacted to open shelters for Port Isabel residents for last minute evacuations and suggested that the County Armory be utilized as shelter for ten to fifteen families.

Ms. Aurora de la Garza, District Clerk, reported that the Central Jury Room would be available for the families of County employees working during the storm.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the motion to adjourn the Meeting was rescinded.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court recessed until 5:00 P.M., noting that the Court would meet if an emergency situation occurred.

APPROVED this 12th day of **September, 2000**.

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

JOE G. RIVERA
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK
OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS.