

## A RESOLUTION OF THE GALVESTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT ASSERTING GALVESTON COUNTY'S EXCLUSIVE PILOTAGE AUTHORITY AND OPPOSING ANY EXTRATERRITORIAL RATE-SETTING OR REGULATORY ACTION BY THE BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

WHEREAS, Chapter 67 of the Texas Transportation Code governs pilotage in ports and waterways located within Galveston County, establishing a distinct regulatory framework separate from that of other Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 66 of the Texas Transportation Code applies exclusively to ports located within Harris County and authorizes the Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports to regulate pilotage only within Harris County boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Section 67.003(b) of the Texas Transportation Code expressly provides that Chapter 67 "does not affect the existing laws for ports in other counties, and those laws do not apply to ports located in Galveston County," thereby preserving clear county-specific jurisdiction over pilotage matters; and

WHEREAS, the Bolivar Roads anchorage area lies entirely within the geographic and jurisdictional boundaries of Galveston County and outside the limits of Harris County; and

**WHEREAS**, any attempt by a regulatory body or pilot association operating under Chapter 66 to establish rates, fees, or operational authority over pilotage services in Galveston County waters would constitute an **unauthorized extraterritorial action** inconsistent with the Texas Transportation Code; and

WHEREAS, such action would create confusion in maritime operations, impose conflicting pilotage rate structures, and could expose pilots or operators to penalties under Section 67.072 of the Texas Transportation Code for charging rates inconsistent with those established for Galveston County ports; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Galveston County has a duty to uphold state law, protect the integrity of county jurisdiction, and ensure lawful and efficient maritime operations within its territorial waters;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commissioners Court of Galveston County, Texas, that:

The Court **affirms** that pilotage within Galveston County is governed solely by Chapter 67 of the Texas Transportation Code and that no entity regulated under Chapter 66 possesses legal authority to establish or apply pilotage rates within Galveston County waters.

The Court **opposes** any effort by the Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports, or any other regulatory body, to implement or enforce rate zones or tariffs affecting any portion of Galveston County waters, including but not limited to the Bolivar Roads anchorage.

The Court **urges** all relevant state and local agencies to recognize and preserve the statutory separation of pilotage authority between Texas counties as established by Chapters 66 and 67 of the Texas Transportation Code.

The County Judge is **authorized and directed** to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports, the Texas Department of Transportation, and any other relevant maritime or governmental authorities.

Attest:

Dwight D. Sullivan, County Clerk

Darrell Apffel, Comm., Pct. #1

Joe Giusti, Comm., Pct. #2

County of Galveston, Texas

Mark A. Henry, County Judge

Hank Dugie, Comm., Pct. #3

Robin Armstrong, MD, Comm., Pct. #4