



NEWS Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ROCKPORT POLICE & COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY MEET

ROCKPORT, TX – In an effort to continue improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Rockport Police Department and the Aransas County criminal justice system, City of Rockport officials recently met with County District Attorney Kristen Barnebey. Today all parties are pleased to issue this joint statement.

City of Rockport and Rockport Police Department:

“We are glad to have the opportunity to work together with the County District Attorney to help ensure the safety of every Rockport resident,” said Interim Police Chief Fred Fletcher. “As stewards for our community, we have begun to collaborate regularly to improve communication between our offices and continue to modernize the Police Department’s services to leverage our ability to collaborate to support our neighbors who may become crime victims. It is our responsibility to actively implement effective procedures that prioritize our community’s safety and values.”

The City of Rockport remains dedicated to modernizing and updating its Police Department. Since Interim Civilian Police Administrator’s Fred Fletcher’s appointment, the Rockport Police Department has focused on a wide variety of topics including engaging the community, enhancing accountability, reviewing and revising department policies and procedures, and improving the way officers on patrol are investigating and filing cases so victims and those accused of crimes have access to timely and fair justice. It is important to the Rockport Police Department to continue its commitment towards enhancing a two-way dialogue with all agencies and we look forward to working with the County District Attorney’s office to improve the entire criminal justice system.

Aransas County and County District Attorney’s Office:

“Providing honest and transparent information is necessary to educate the public about the criminal justice system’ both in general and specifically’ here in Aransas County,” said County Judge Burt Mills. Ensuring the City is realistic in its representations to the public will assist in the community partners coming together. The County and the County District Attorney’s office are committed to helping resolve the police department’s current transition.

Aransas County and City of Rockport:

Having received clarification regarding Brady and Morton issues from the County District Attorney's Office, the City and County are pleased to announce the formalization of ongoing efforts to collaborate to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the local criminal justice process. We intend to follow up on community member Richard Smith's recent recommendation in the Rockport Pilot to jointly engage in a regular and formal ongoing discussion that is transparent, accountable, and innovative to build a resolution and relationship that will best serve our community's needs.

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