



NEWS Release

City of Rockport · 2751 SH 35N Bypass · Rockport, Texas 78382 · (361) 729-2213

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ROCKPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT “ROCKED” BY CORONAVIRUS

ROCKPORT, TX – After the 4th of July weekend, several Rockport Police officers began showing symptoms of COVID-19, including Police Chief Greg Stevens, who tested positive for the virus last week. So far two other RPD officers have tested positive and three more are awaiting results along with two civilian employees. Two additional officers are scheduled to be tested Tuesday.

According to Police Chief Greg Stevens, there is no conclusive evidence as to who was the first to contract it and how. “An estimated thirty thousand visitors were in Rockport during the July 4th holiday time, and unfortunately our police officers could not avoid being in and amongst the crowds.” He goes on to say “regrettably, this is a vivid reminder of how quickly the virus can strike and spread”.

Chief Stevens said last week he suffered from a headache, high fever, severe body aches, tightness in the chest, and a loss of taste and smell. Other officers and employees reported the same or similar symptoms. Chief Stevens reported Sunday that he was feeling much better and was recovering well at home. At this point, none of the infected officers or civilian employees have required medical treatment and are currently in self quarantine.

Because the current reporting system through the Texas Department of State Health Services does not provide names, it is unknown whether these cases are among the ones that have been reported through the daily announcements posted by the City’s Community Relations Director and Aransas County’s Public Information Officer.

The Police Department has taken steps to reallocate manpower resources to ensure police services are not interrupted, and the Aransas County Sheriff’s Office, along with Troopers from the Department of Public Safety, have committed to help with staffing levels should the need arise. Additionally, precautionary measures have been taken to ensure that officers do not further spread the virus to each other nor to the public.