



## **A Message from Mayor Wax**

August 28, 2017

I personally want to assure our citizens that we're making great progress.

Texas Task Force 1 has completed their door-to-door evaluation. These on-site visits were to assess the viability of structures for habitation and conducting business. Despite what you might have heard, they do not enter the structures. We've been told that approximately 30 – 40% of the houses and businesses in Rockport are completely destroyed. Another 30% are substandard and cannot be rebuilt.

There are approximately 2000 electric workers in the City. They're fixing power lines, traffic lights, and other infrastructure so we will be able to "join the grid" once AEP is able to transmit to Rockport. The company started in Corpus Christi and has restored more than 80% of the power. They are moving north and inroads are being made in Portland.

Testing of the pressure and lines of the water system are underway to determine if there is a problem with that infrastructure. We're having to use gravity at the moment since we're not receiving any pressure from San Patricio Municipal Water District, our provider.

I spent a great part of the day with Governor Abbott, Senator Cornyn and the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and his senior staff drawing attention to our needs. They have assured me that "we will not be forgotten" despite all the media attention is on the Houston area. Their sincerity is evidenced by the fact that two members of the Director's staff are remaining to set up FEMA's on-site operations.

And, President Trump has announced his intentions to visit us within the next few days to get a first-hand look at the devastation.

Contrary to the comments made on social media and non-mainstream media, there is not widespread looting and multiple deaths. There has only been one, which happened the day of the storm and was a result of a fire. We're sorry for the loss of any life, but take comfort in knowing how fortunate we all were during this catastrophic event. While there have been some injuries --the most severe include a broken leg and two, stress-related cardiac issues -- none of them life threatening.

I want to reiterate that now is not the time to return. No power, no water, no bathroom facilities, no gasoline, no stores and no restaurants. There is still debris on the roadway and many residents coming in to check their homes have left with remnants that puncture their tires.

If you haven't already done so, I urge you to visit the FEMA site ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) to register for transitional housing assistance until City amenities and power have been restored,

During this period of uncertainty, we must all remain calm and work together to rebuild our fine City.