



## A Message from Mayor Wax

December 15, 2017

As mentioned in the December 6<sup>th</sup> message, the Long-Term Recovery Group did not meet this week so that members can participate in the Community Workshops/Focus Groups.

1. **Rebuilding Rockport-Fulton Community Workshops/Focus Groups.** Government officials, business owners, realtors, educators and concerned citizens came together this week to discuss the needs and issues that face our community as we move forward. We are so appreciative of the time, energy and intellectual capital contributed by our citizens. The input we received from these meetings will be used to develop our economic development and housing program plans, which will be presented in early January. State Representative Geanie Morrison, who was also at the wrap up session this afternoon, met with us later in the day to reinforce her support and has committed to return when the strategic plan is presented in January.

While we have many non-profit organizations working with residents in repairing damage to their homes and businesses, a bigger issue is the loss of affordable housing. This is a key priority for us. We know the answer doesn't lie in manufactured housing units and trailers. Rather, there is a significant need for affordable housing here and now be it single family homes, duplexes or multi-family units/apartments.

2. **Aransas County and the Texas General Land Office (GLO).** This morning members of the local governments, the Long-Term Recovery Team, and State Senator Lois Kolkhorst met with representatives from the GLO to discuss the housing issue in Aransas County.

As we work together in development an effective plan, we want to insure not only that it's properly designed for seeking funding, but that it reflects what our community needs and wants.

3. **City of Rockport Utility Bills.** If you haven't noticed, the utility bills went out. Please do not worry about the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Due to the damage to City Hall, the printing and mailing of all bills is being handled by an out-of-town supplier. We apologize for any inconvenience.

It's getting better every day!!