



# News Release

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JANUARY 8, 2021

CONTACT: KEVIN CARRUTH, CITY MANAGER  
PHONE: (361) 729-2213, EXT. 253

## **ROCKPORT RECEIVES PLANNING EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION**

ROCKPORT, TX – For the second year in a row, the City of Rockport Planning Department was selected by the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association to receive its 2020 Certificate of Achievement for the Richard R. Lillie, FAICP Program for Planning Excellence, which recognizes planning excellence in municipalities throughout the State. Rockport was one of 30 government entities to receive the recognition and the only municipality in the Coastal Bend.

Evaluation criteria include the level of training of Planning Commissioners and professional staff, professional qualifications of the planning staff, breadth and currency of master plan components and completion of other planning related projects. The goals of the program include:

- Increasing community awareness of the importance of planning,
- Recognizing planning departments which meet certain professional requirements,
- Recognizing planning efforts that have achieved community support,
- Encouraging the funding of professional training for Planning Commissioners and staff, and
- Aiding economic development and community image.

(more)

In 2019, the City of Rockport was also presented a Silver Medal Resilience Award, which recognized a strategy that increases the ability of a community to recover from and adapt to shocks and stresses (natural disasters, human-caused disasters, climate changes, etc.), resulting in it becoming stronger and better prepared. Additionally, Community Planner Amanda Torres was presented the Texas Chapter Award by the organization's Executive Committee in 2017.

The American Planning Association and the Texas Chapter, through their member's knowledge and experience in planning, help to shape communities and environments that are responsive to the needs and problems of society.