

POLK COUNTY



**KENNETH HAMMACK, Sheriff**

1733 N. Washington  
Livingston, Texas 77351  
(936) 327-6810

**BYRON LYONS**  
Chief Deputy

**RACHELL RICHARDS**  
Adm. Assistant

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

To: Commissioners Court  
Reference: Executive Order 2020-038

As Sheriff of Polk County, Texas it is my responsibility to provide public safety and corrections for inmates regardless of environmental and potentially dangerous elements which arise. As you all know this task is not obtained without the sacrifice of my personnel in Law Enforcement, Corrections and Communications. With the COVID-19 pandemic we find ourselves facing an even more challenging and costly element of exposure. On March 16, 2020 Executive Order #20020-038 declaring the general public to stay at home with the exception of essential personnel which covers my entire staff. Because of our obligation you are aware my personnel has been operating under special circumstances in accordance with County Policy 6.05. These special circumstances include but are certainly not limited to my personnel voluntarily obligating themselves to exposure risks by responding to calls for service regardless of the threat, corrections officers maintaining care and control of the jail regardless of the threat; personnel having the stress of potentially exposing family, changing methods of operations by wearing additional protective equipment; being in close quarters with potentially infected subjects; and the increase in call volume because of the stressors being placed on the public because of financial difficulties, thefts and family violence increased.

I petition the Commissioner's Court to also recognize and declare that as of March 16, 2020 the Polk County Sheriff's Office has been operating under special circumstances. I ask for this declaration should funding become available which would allow us to compensate our personnel for this hazardous duty.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Hammack".

Kenneth Hammack, Sheriff  
Polk County Sheriff's Office

RECEIVED

APR 21 2020

POLK COUNTY JUDGE