



COUNTY JUDGE
Fort Bend County, Texas

The Honorable KP George
County Judge

(281) 341-8608
Fax (832) 471-1858

February 25, 2022

Dear President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and Governor Abbott:

The residents of Fort Bend County are heartbroken by the news coming out of Ukraine and extend our hearts and spirits with all those in harm's way from Russian aggression. As one of the most ethnically diverse and among the fastest growing counties in America, Fort Bend County has a population of the four major ethnic groups, including White, Hispanic, Asian, and Black. Our community is urban, suburban, and rural, in addition to having a range of representation that spans the economic and geographic spectrum of the world.

We stand with the thousands of Ukrainian Americans that call Fort Bend County and the greater Houston area home in denouncing Russia's unprecedented, unprovoked, and undemocratic violent assault of a free nation. As the news of this war comes to every corner of our world at a rapid pace with the development of technology, it is also our responsibility to stand up for democracy, oppose authoritarianism, and hold Russia accountable. While Ukrainian families are facing this immediate threat, many of our allies throughout the world are sitting in fear and thinking: Who's next? We all must find ways to oppose the Russian government and the warfare it has unleashed on our allies and global communities.

In addition to supporting President Biden, our military and diplomatic leaders, and global allies as they mount a justified and swift response to this deliberate attack, I am specifically calling for the following charges:

1. **EXPULSION:** Expel the Russian Consular Mission out of Houston including the expulsion of Russian High-Ranking Officials from the Houston area.
2. **FINANCIAL SANCTIONS:** The State of Texas needs to authorize the Texas Department of Information Resources, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Secretary of State, Texas State Auditor's Office, and other relevant agencies to review all state contracts to ensure none of them are with Russian state-owned companies, either directly or as subcontractors; work to terminate any contracts that include Russian state-owned companies as contractors or subcontractors; and ensure future procurement efforts analyze any possible connections with Russian state-owned companies. All State of Texas funds should divest from Russian-owned assets.
3. **DIVEST:** Urging higher education institutions to review and reconsider any grants or projects they have with Russia, and to divest endowments from Russian-owned assets.
4. **CYBER SECURITY:** Directing the Department of Information Technology to focus on protecting the state and local government's critical infrastructure from Russian cyberattacks or misinformation efforts.
5. **COMMUNITY:** Fort Bend County is ready to welcome refugees of this conflict and provide support. We will work with the State of Texas, Federal Government, and Fort Bend nonprofits and faith institutions to continue and enhance interagency and collaborative efforts to support Ukrainian-born Texans and those who are fleeing this conflict, including but not limited to exploring all options for housing, opportunities for future employment, and access to resources.

We stand on the side of freedom and democracy. War, violence, and chaos threaten the very foundations of our global economy and community. Our diversity makes us stronger and that includes the thousands of Ukrainian Americans that call Fort Bend and the greater Houston area home.

KP George
Fort Bend County Judge