

TEXAS SPACE COMMISSION
ORDER NO. 2025-02

TEMPORARY CLOSURE AUTHORITY — CITY OF STARBASE, TEXAS

A standing order issued to the City of Starbase, Texas (City) pursuant to authority granted to the Texas Space Commission (Commission) by Tex. Gov't Code § 482.107(a)(8) to grant temporary closures to promote space-related industries, promote economic development, and further Commission activities.

WHEREAS, under Tex. Gov't Code §§ 482.107(a)(8) and 482.201(a), the Commission may, as necessary to promote space-related industries, promote economic development, and further Commission activities and notwithstanding any other law, issue an order—subject to approval by a municipality's governing body—to temporarily close in a municipality: (1) a highway as defined by Tex. Transp. Code § 221.001; (2) a venue as defined by Tex. Local Gov't Code § 334.001; or (3) an area specified by Tex. Nat. Res. Code § 33.203(11); and

WHEREAS, under Tex. Gov't Code § 424.001(4), any property, including a temporary hazard area, that is related to the operation of a launch complex authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration or any facility used for the launch, landing, recovery, or testing of spacecraft—as defined in Tex. Local Gov't Code § 507.001—is designated as critical infrastructure of the state, and as such, is subject to enhanced protections under law, including criminal penalties for trespass, damage, or disruption under Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 424, thereby underscoring the necessity of controlled access and temporary closures authorized herein to safeguard public safety and operational security in furtherance of state aerospace policy; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of the criminal penalties and protective provisions established under Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 424—including those related to trespass, damage, or interference with designated critical infrastructure—rests primarily with local law enforcement authorities, and accordingly, the City has a substantial governmental interest in developing, adopting, and upholding policies and operational frameworks that support the enforcement of such laws, protect public safety, and ensure the integrity of spaceflight operations occurring within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the City has municipal territory that includes areas designated for launch and testing activities critical to the state's aerospace objectives; and

WHEREAS, “space flight activities” has the meaning assigned by Tex. Civ. Prac. and Rem. Code § 100A.001; and

WHEREAS, portions of the City's municipal territory play a pivotal role in space-related activities in the State of Texas and United States as a whole, and additional space-related activities that may occur in or near the City in the future will significantly promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, the City must adopt a Beach Access & Dune Protection Plan certified by the Texas General Land Office.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSION THAT:

The City, through an ordinance issued by its governing body, or through an order issued by its mayor if the mayor is delegated such authority by the governing body and subject to the limitations contained herein, has the standing authority to temporarily close in a municipality a highway as defined by Tex. Transp. Code § 221.001, a venue as defined by Tex. Local Gov't Code § 334.001, or an area described in Tex. Nat. Res. Code § 33.203(11); and

The City shall not authorize space flight activities on the following days: (1) the Saturday or Sunday preceding Memorial Day; (2) Memorial Day; (3) July 4; (4) the Saturday or Sunday preceding Labor Day; or (5) Labor Day; and

The City shall permit such closures only as necessary for the promotion of space flight activities and aeronautics economic development consistent with the requirements in 43 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.12; and

The City shall ensure that a safety zone perimeter is established in coordination with law enforcement and entities conducting space flight activities; and

The City shall promptly, following the passage of an ordinance issued by its governing body or after the mayor issues an order if the mayor is delegated such authority by the governing body, provide notice to the public of all primary and backup launch dates or test dates and associated activities resulting in temporary closures of highways, venues, or areas—including reasonable proximity to the access points—made pursuant to this standing order; and

The City shall promptly, following the passage of an ordinance issued by its governing body, or after the mayor issues an order if the mayor is delegated such authority by the governing body, provide notice via email of all primary and backup launch dates or test dates to the Executive Director of the Commission; the Chief Clerk of the Texas General Land Office; the Pharr District Engineer of the Texas Department of Transportation; and the County Judge of Cameron County, all primary and backup launch or test dates and associated activities resulting in temporary closures of highways, venues, and areas—including reasonable proximity to the access points—made pursuant to this standing order; and

The City shall maintain adequate records of all temporary closures, make such records available to the Commission upon request, and comply with all with all Texas Local Government Records Act and Texas Public Information Act requirements; and

The City shall not permit the violation of any applicable state and federal laws or regulations; public notice requirements; safety procedures; adopted and certified beach access and use plans; any applicable dune protection plans; and federal license closure limitations, including beach closure restrictions described in the Federal Aviation Administration's environmental evaluation of the site, and this standing order does not provide an exemption from such requirements; and

This Order No. 2025-02 replaces previous Order No. 2025-01; and

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This standing order shall remain in effect unless withdrawn, amended, or superseded by subsequent Commission action or by changes to applicable state law; and

The Commission may revoke, modify, or suspend this authority upon written notice to the City.

ISSUED AND ADOPTED this 19 day of December 2025.



Gwendolyn D. Griffin, Chair