

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS**

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**ROCKDALE COUNTY  
PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
Thursday, July 21, 2011

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**Houchard Becomes First Rockdale Citizen Elected to Atlanta Regional Commission Board**

**ROCKDALE** – Rockdale County’s tenured resident, Mike Houchard, was elected to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Board last week, making him the first Rockdale citizen to ever serve on the private citizen panel.

“To have a regional presence is a historic moment and a landmark victory for Rockdale County,” Chairman and CEO, Richard A. Oden said during Tuesday’s work session. “Rockdale, you now have a (citizen) voice at the table.”

Of the 39 board members elected annually to represent the 10 counties and 68 cities within the Metropolitan Atlanta region, only 15 are private citizens. Chairman Oden nominated Houchard, endorsed his candidacy and recommended him to the ARC for approval.

“This is an incredible accomplishment for Rockdale County and the entire District 6 community,” Representative, Pam Dickerson (D-95) said. “My colleague, Representative Steve Davis (R-109), and I were pleased to partner with Chairman Oden to champion Mr. Houchard’s nomination.”

After living in Rockdale for 41 years, Houchard is quite conversant about the county’s public roads and infrastructure. Houchard will join Chairman Oden on the board beginning January 1, 2012 to make decisions regarding regional planning issues such as land use, environmental impact and transportation.

“Chairman Oden, I want to thank you for your efforts and foresight to provide Rockdale County with the opportunity to have citizen representation at the ARC,” said Houchard. “There are a lot of challenges facing the Atlanta region, and for us to have the opportunity to directly communicate our concerns are a bonus we really appreciate.”

“To the citizens of Rockdale and the citizens of Gwinnett and DeKalb, I will champion those interests and issues that we have to best of my ability,” Houchard said.

“Mr. Houchard is such a vested member in our community, selecting him was an obvious choice,” Chairman and CEO Oden said. “I know Mr. Houchard will do great things for the Commission and for Rockdale in return.”

Houchard will represent District 6, a combination of Rockdale County and sections of East DeKalb and Southern Gwinnett counties.

*(Photo attached)* ROCKDALE COUNTY IS A PERFECTLY POSITIONED COMMUNITY WITH A ROCK-SOLID APPROACH DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE, QUALITY OF LIFE, AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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