



April 3, 2020

Dear Citizens:

I hope everyone is safe, healthy and practicing responsible social distancing. As a reminder of areas to keep in mind, please be conscious of all of the places that the public touches on a regular basis such as the ATM, the car wash pad and wand, the video dispensing machines, gas pumps and check out pads at most retail stores. The virus can live on paper for 24 hours so consider this when handling mail. Remember to take precautions and sanitize your hands and steering wheels after each use.

There have been many questions regarding the congregation of churches. The governor recently issued Executive Order GA 14 which defines essential services to include “religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship.” The Governor also issued a guidance memo with the order. “This guidance provides clear direction for houses of worship to protect the health and safety of Texans as they continue to hold religious services, exercise their religious liberty, and serve their faith communities.” The memo states “Houses of worship must, whenever possible, conduct their activities from home or through remote audio or video services.” In addition it states “If a house of worship cannot conduct its activities remotely, then the White House and CDC guidelines still control in order to stop the spread of Coronavirus.”

For example, a church may hold Easter services in its parking lot, with attendees remaining in their cars (windows down), parked in every other parking spot, with the minister using amplification to preach. Or because Executive Order GA 14 permits drive-thrus to operate, then a house of worship may, according to their faith practices, provide communion or a blessing through a similar drive-up service.

It is required that funeral services are limited to graveside only and fewer than 10 people. All other recommended precautions should be taken.

All citizens are encouraged to use personal protective equipment. I realize these are in short supply but make your best effort to try to locate one.

I know that being outside is a stress reliever for many people. Please remember to maintain a safe distance from other people using the parks. The playground equipment has not been sanitized and parents should use caution is allowing children to play on it.

Finally, the grocery stores are doing their best to keep the City supplied with the necessities of life. Use curbside or delivery service whenever possible. Go to the store prepared to purchase what you need. Do not visit or linger, be deliberate in the mission and exit so that other people

can make purchases. Please take this situation seriously and follow the guidelines which will hopefully flatten the curve soon.

Sincerely,

Don Denbow
Mayor