CITY OF LAREDO'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious respiratory virus; and

WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19 and ; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas declared a State of Disaster in Texas on March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection is releasing an alarmingly substantial number of immigrants into the City of Laredo, Texas, including individuals who are positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, local Non-Governmental Organizations are overwhelmed with the unanticipated influx of individuals, many of which have been found to have tested positive for COVID-19, and can no longer adequately feed, house, provide medical attention or otherwise accommodate the indidual being released into the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, due to recent increases in the number of released immigrants and the protentional for even greater numbers to come, immigrants being released into the City of Laredo may face inadequate access to medical care, shelter, and other humanitarian necessities including food and water; and

WHEREAS, immigration is under the purview of the federal government and is not under state, county or municipal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo has attempted to solve the issue of immigrants being released into our community by filing a lawsuit against the federal government; and

WHEREAS, statistics prove that the City of Laredo is among the safest cities in the United States and endeavors to maintain this exceptional level of safety; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the humanitarian needs of the immigrants released into the City of Laredo, Texas, including individuals that are positive for COVID-19,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS:

Section 1: That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for the City of Laredo, Texas pursuant to Section 418.08(a) of the Texas Government Code.
Section 2: Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Government code, the local state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of Laredo, Texas.

Section 3: Pursuant to Section 418.018(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

Section 4: Pursuant to Section 418.018(d) of the Government Code this declaration of local state of disaster activates the emergency management plan and all procedures and authority vested in the Emergency Management Officer are invoked.

Section 5: That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this 4th day of August 2021.

PETE SAENZ,
MAYOR

ATTESTED:

JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ALYSSA J. CASTILLON
INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY