



## **CITY OF LAREDO'S AMENDED COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDERS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laredo ("City") is a Home Rule City, acting under its Charter adopted by the electorate pursuant to Article XI Section 5 of the Texas Constitution and Chapter 9 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Laredo City Council have been duly elected and qualified and vested with the authority through its police powers to pass and enforce any law that is reasonably necessary to protect the public health; and

**WHEREAS**, since the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Washington State on January 21, 2020, more than 25,236,129 individuals across the United States have contracted the disease resulting in more than 419,731 fatalities; and

**WHEREAS**, health officials have confirmed that in Texas, more than 2,251,646 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 leading to 35,071 fatalities; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 25, 2020, President Donald J. Trump approved Governor Greg Abbott's request that the State of Texas be designated as a major disaster declaration following the announcement by the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, John Hellerstedt, of a public health disaster for all counties in the state, as COVID-19 "poses a high risk of death to a large number of people, creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease's method of transmission, and evidence that there is community spread;" and

**WHEREAS**, on April 3, 2020, the CDC officially recommended that all individuals wear cloth face coverings in public settings, especially where other social distancing measures were difficult to maintain, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Chapters 121 of the Texas Health & Safety Code, and 85 of the Texas Administrative Code, the City Council appointed Dr. Victor Trevino as its Local Health Authority ("Local Health Authority") with the duty to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the jurisdiction of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, to date there have been 38,452 residents of the City of Laredo who have tested positive for COVID-19 with most of these being infected through close contact with asymptomatic carriers, there have been 609 deaths related to the virus, and because of our geographical location and proximity to Mexico, the Local Health Authority has identified the level of community transmission as substantial, so that a proactive and aggressive approach remains needed to mitigate the local spread of this infectious disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Health Authority is of the opinion that in addition to practicing social distancing and staying home as much as possible, additional control measures are necessary to