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April 1, 2020

To The Citizens Of George West,

My Prayer is that this correspondence finds each of you and yours, Safe and Healthy.

As you are all aware, we are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, caused by the virus, SARS CoV2, resulting in the deadly disease, COVID-19. Please rest assured that the City of George West is engaged and taking action in collaboration with other local government entities.

To better explain this partnership and the processes involved, Live Oak County Judge Jim Huff, the Mayor of Three Rivers, Felipe Martinez, the Live Oak County Health Department Director, Tina Crowe, the Live Oak County Emergency Management Coordinator, Bobby Stewart, and myself are in constant communication with one another regarding the safety of our county and city residents, as it pertains to COVID-19.

The City of George West and the City of Three Rivers are both incorporated into the Live Oak County Emergency Management Plan. There is an inter-jurisdictional agreement between both cities and the county for Emergency Management Operations. Decisions regarding Emergency Management are made by Judge Huff, Mayor Martinez, and myself. Ms. Crowe and Mr. Stewart play an intricate role as the subject matter experts. Our decisions are based on the expertise of these administrators and the resources they provide. To date, all decisions have been unanimous between all 3 government entities and no divergence is foreseen in future decisions. There are many moving parts to what appears to be a well oiled machine that is exceptionally working.

The Live Oak County Emergency Management Organizational Chart places Judge Huff as the Executive Director and Public Information Officer. **ALL OFFICIAL STATEMENTS WILL INITIALLY COME FROM JUDGE HUFF.** Afterwards, Mayor Martinez and I will release Judge Huff's Official Statement on our Websites and Facebook Pages. We are asking that you please wait for Judge Huff's Official Statement before posting anything on Social Media. This will help to alleviate any misconceptions and unwarranted alarm and panic in our communities.

Currently, the State of Texas is receiving vast amounts of information, daily, from all 254 counties, hundreds of hospitals, and testing centers throughout the State. As a result, this has caused some delays in Confirmed Cases being posted on the State Websites. Unfortunately, it is taking the State longer to report results due to the volume of data they are receiving. Consequently, if you do not immediately see information on the State's Website, it does not indicate that an Official Statement from Judge Huff is not legitimate or valid. All statements from Judge Huff, regarding COVID-19 are Official and the test results have been verified and confirmed by our local Health Department.

Lastly, many citizens have inquired as to the name of the COVID-19 Positive individual, their city of residence, their address, and other personal information. Please be informed that personal information will not be released on any COVID-19 positive individual. This is a United States Law mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).


If a public location has been compromised by an individual that has been confirmed Positive with COVID-19, the address of the public location will be released by the Live Oak County Health Department only to specific individuals that were potentially exposed and any requirements that need to be fulfilled with regards healthcare needs and quarantine. If the location is not disclosed, more than likely, a public location has not been compromised. Regardless, please do not call and inquire, the information will not be released. Again, the administrators are prohibited by law to release this information.

Please understand that Ms. Crowe and Mr. Stewart have been tasked with the immense duty and responsibility of keeping us all safe and out of harm's way. Along with our First Responders, Law Enforcement Agencies, Municipal and County Officials and Supporting Staff, Ms. Tina Crowe and Mr. Bobby Stewart are doing an outstanding job in monitoring and protecting our communities. Thank you for dedication and selflessly serving others.

Ms. Crowe and Mr. Stewart are available and willing to answer any questions and address any concerns. For more information, contact Tina Crowe at the Live Oak County Health Department or Bobby Stewart, at the Live Oak County Emergency Management Operations Center.

Please keep our First Responders, Law Enforcement Agencies, Healthcare Workers, and Municipal / County Officials and Supporting Staff in your prayers. Pray for the sick and dying, pray for their families and loved ones. May God be with us and watch over us during this devastating worldwide pandemic. May we all look to Him as our source of strength during these trying times. God bless each of you and God bless America.

With My Highest Regards,



Andrew (Andy) J. Garza
Mayor of the City of George West