ORDER OF COUNTY JUDGE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS AMENDING AND EXTENDING STAY HOME STAY SAFE ORDER

WHEREAS, on **March 14, 2020,** I, Williamson County Judge Bill Gravell, Jr., issued a proclamation declaring a local state of disaster for Williamson County, Texas after making a determination based on statements and information provided to him by the Office of the Texas Governor, Williamson County Emergency Management personnel, the Williamson County and Cities Health District, health professionals and other emergency services agencies serving Williamson County, Texas, and other health agencies serving the State of Texas that extraordinary measures had to be taken in order to protect the health and safety of the Williamson County residents in relation to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued numerous guidelines and recommendations in an attempt to reduce the risk to the health and safety of persons in the United States associated with the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on **March 16, 2020,** Williamson County Judge Bill Gravell, Jr. issued an Order Relating to Large Events and Mass Gatherings Under Local State of Disaster wherein large events or mass gatherings such as conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings and other types of assemblies of fifty (50) people or more were prohibited from being held in Williamson County, Texas until May 11, 2020 or until otherwise terminated sooner or extended by action of the County Judge or Williamson County Commissioners Court; and

WHEREAS, on **March 16, 2020,** the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America were promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC calling upon Americans to take actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 for 15 days; and

WHEREAS, on **March 18, 2020,** the Williamson County Commissioners Court extended the above referenced local state of disaster issued by County Judge Bill Gravell, Jr. for Williamson County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, on **March 18, 2020,** Williamson County Judge Bill Gravell, Jr. issued a Second Order Relating to Large Events and Mass Gatherings Under Local State of Disaster wherein, until May 11, 2020 or until otherwise terminated sooner or extended by action of the County Judge or Williamson County Commissioners Court, "Community Gatherings" of ten (10) people or more were prohibited from being held in Williamson County, Texas; food establishments were ordered to close common dining areas open to the public; and holders of wine and beer retailer's permits or mixed beverage permits were ordered to close common indoor and outdoor bar spaces open to the public and were further prohibited from allowing consumption on their premises; and

WHEREAS, on **March 19, 2020,** Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA 08 Relating to COVID-19 Preparedness and Mitigation stating people shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people and closed all schools until April 3, 2020; and

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County Clerk, Williamson Co., TX

WHEREAS, on **March 24, 2020**, Williamson County Judge Bill Gravell, Jr. issued a Stay Home Stay Safe Order to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to reduce the risk to the health and safety of the people to the maximum extent possible (hereinafter referred to as the "**Stay Home Stay Safe Order**"); and

WHEREAS, the Stay Home Stay Safe Order is subject to expiration at 11:59 p.m. on April 13, 2020 absent further action by the Williamson County Judge; and

WHEREAS, on **March 29, 2020**, to avoid scenarios that could lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths, President Donald J. Trump announced that, based on advice from Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, the restrictive social-distancing Guidelines should extend through April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Dr. John Hellerstedt, and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Birx have stated that the spread of COVID- 19 can be reduced by minimizing social gatherings, and

WHEREAS, on **March 31, 2020**, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA 14 relating to statewide continuity of essential services whereby he ordered that every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household, with said order being on a statewide basis effective 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020, and continuing through April 30, 2020;

WHEREAS, the conditions necessitating a declaration of a local state of disaster continue to exist in Williamson County, Texas in relation to the substantial risk to the health and safety of the Williamson County residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code, a county judge may control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in a disaster area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 418.108(h) of the Texas Government Code, the jurisdiction and authority of a county judge to control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in a disaster area includes the incorporated and unincorporated areas of a county and to the extent of a conflict between decisions of a county judge and a mayor, the decision of the county judge prevails; and

WHEREAS, gatherings of individuals for the health and safety of the people continue to pose a risk for the spread of infectious disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS DISASTER ACT OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS THAT:

SECTION 1. The findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order of County Judge of

Williamson County, Texas Amending and Extending Stay Home Stay Safe Order (hereinafter referred to as the "**Order**") are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the Williamson County Judge and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 2. In order to align the terms of Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA 14 and the Stay Home Stay Safe Order as to religious services, this Order hereby amends, modifies and replaces **Section 11** of the Stay Home Stay Safe Order with the following:

> Pursuant to Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA 14, religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship constitute "essential services" and they should be conducted from home or through remote services. If a church, congregation or house of worship cannot conduct its service remotely, then it should follow the Governor's Executive Order GA 14 by conducting their activities in accordance with President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on March 16, 2020.

SECTION 3. The terms, orders and directives of the Stay Home Stay Safe Order and any prior amendments, determinations, orders or directives issued thereunder which have not been specifically amended herein shall remain the same and shall continue in full force and effect during the effective period set out herein. This shall include any previous or future determination of "Essential" that is less restrictive, but not in contravention to, Executive Order GA 14.

SECTION 4. The Stay Home Stay Safe Order, as amended, and all orders or directives issued thereunder shall be extended and shall continue until **11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020** unless otherwise rescinded, superseded, extended or amended in writing by the Williamson County Judge prior to the said expiration date and time.

SECTION 5. This Order is issued pursuant to and in accordance with the local state of disaster issued by County Judge Bill Gravell, Jr. for Williamson County, Texas on March 14, 2020, which was thereafter extended on March 18, 2020 by the Williamson County Commissioners Court pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION 6. Pursuant to Section 418.108(h) of the Texas Government Code, the Stay Home Stay Safe Order, as amended and extended by this Order, shall continue to control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in Williamson County, Texas and includes the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Williamson County, Texas; and to the extent of a conflict between the orders of the Williamson County Judge and any orders of a Mayor of municipality in Williamson County, Texas, the orders of the Williamson County Judge shall prevail.

SECTION 7. AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 418.173 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE AND AS ADOPTED IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN, A FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN OR WITH ANY RULE, ORDER OR ORDINANCE ADOPTED UNDER SAID PLAN, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE STAY HOME STAY SAFE ORDER, AS AMENDED AND EXTENDED BY THIS ORDER, SHALL BE A CRIMINAL OFFENSE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE THAT DOES

NOT EXCEED $1,000.00 OR CONFINEMENT IN JAIL FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED 180 DAYS. THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, WILLIAMSON COUNTY CONSTABLES, WILLIAMSON COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE, AND OTHER LICENSED PEACE OFFICERS ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ENFORCE THE STAY HOME STAY SAFE ORDER, AS AMENDED AND EXTENDED BY THIS ORDER.

SECTION 8. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

SECTION 9. This Order will be posted on Williamson County's website at www.wilco.org and filed with the Williamson County Clerk. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

This Order is adopted to be effective as of 1:00 p.m. on this the 7th day of April, 2020.

Bill Gravell

Bill Gravell, Jr.,
Williamson County Judge

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Nancy E. Rister

County Clerk, Williamson Co., TX