



**NELSON W. WOLFF**  
JUDGE  
COUNTY OF BEXAR  
TEXAS



**RON NIRENBERG**  
MAYOR  
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
TEXAS

April 1, 2020

Dear Friends and Fellow Leaders:

In times of hardship and uncertainty many look to their faith for comfort and guidance. San Antonio has been blessed as a City of Faith, rooted in compassion, with a collective of faith leaders and congregations that daily and especially during times of unrest, has united to give us hope and lift up our entire community.

Your leadership is needed now more than ever. Our neighbors need you for life modeling of our better selves to make it through to the other side of COVID-19. There is no doubt that we are all in this together and we will get through this, together.

As we meet the challenge at hand, to reduce the spread of this indiscriminate COVID-19 virus and save lives, our public health authorities are clear: the most effective measure we have to date is to reduce gatherings and practice physical distancing. We are so grateful for your proactive leadership by adapting to these practices with courage and conviction. You are saving lives.

Despite confusing information you might hear, we are in a period of rapid and dangerous community spread of the COVID-19 virus. Without continued implementation of the health guidance on public gatherings and exposure, we are at risk of having our medical response assets becoming overwhelmed.

To continue protecting the health and well-being of our community, while also not overwhelming the capacity of our front-line health workers, hospitals and emergency workers, we ask for your leadership in clearly modeling and clearly communicating to all your congregants and all those we mutually serve.

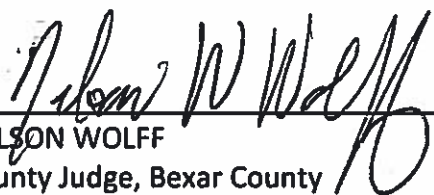
We are requesting your cooperation to take the following steps to continue our efforts to curb the virus's spread and save lives:

*In deep honor and respect for the separation of church and state as well as respect for our mutual responsibility to all of our San Antonio neighbors, the City and County urge that, during the Stay Home Work Safe Order, all religious worship and prayer services continue to be conducted through alternatives (not in-person), using such methods as phone-to-phone, telephone conferencing, video, live-streaming services, calling for peace through home prayer, etc.*

We know that this is difficult to be asked given the importance of faith in our society, especially in San Antonio. Our faith community is so much a part of San Antonio's basic nature. Yet, through this collective action, we are giving our community hope that there are brighter days ahead, that not one of us is forgotten in this global pandemic, and that we are in this together.

Thank you in advance for your compassionate discernment and continued leadership. We count on you. Please count on us. Together we will do this knowing that, one day, the sun also rises.

In trust,

  
NELSON WOLFF  
County Judge, Bexar County

  
RON NIRENBERG  
Mayor, City of San Antonio