# ORDER RELATING TO LARGE EVENTS AND MASS GATHERINGS UNDER LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER

**WHEREAS**, on **March 14, 2020**, 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 limit the development, contraction and spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Williamson County, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions necessitating declaration of a local state of disaster continue to exist in Williamson County, Texas in relation to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); 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**, large gatherings of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) may pose a risk for the spread of infectious disease; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidance and a statement that large events and mass gatherings such as conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend such events and introduce the virus to new communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC, in accordance with its guidance for large events and mass gatherings, has recommended that for the next eight (8) weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of fifty (50) people or more throughout the United States and for events of any size to only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing; and the CDC stated that its recommendation does not apply to the day to day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or businesses; and

**NOW, THEREFORE PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER PROCLAIMED BY COUNTY JUDGE BILL GRAVELL, JR. ON MARCH 14, 2020, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS THAT:**

1. Pursuant to Section 418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code, there shall be no 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 held in Williamson County, Texas; and

2. Organizers (whether groups or individuals) shall cancel or postpone in-person large events or mass gatherings that consist of fifty (50) people or more in Williamson County, Texas and, for events of any size, to only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing; and

3. In accordance with the CDC's recommendation, this Order shall be applicable and in force until Monday, May 11, 2020 unless otherwise extended or terminated by the Williamson County Judge or by action of the Williamson County Commissioners Court; and

4. Pursuant to Section 418.108(h) of the Texas Government Code, this Order shall 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 this Order and any decisions of a Mayor of municipality in Williamson County, Texas, the orders set out herein of the Williamson County Judge shall prevail; and

5. This Order shall not apply to the day to day operations of organizations such as daycare facilities, schools, institutes of higher learning, private sector businesses and public sector businesses; and

6. In the event the conditions improve following the date of adoption of this Order and until the end of any applicable period set out herein, the County Judge or the Williamson County Commissioners Court shall reevaluate this Order at that time.

**This Order is adopted to be effective as of March 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Bill Gravell, Jr.,
Williamson County Judge