



April 23, 2020

The Honorable Lina Hildago  
Harris County Judge  
1001 Preston, Suite 911  
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Judge Hildago,

I write today as chairman of The Woodlands Township Board of Directors to express our concerns regarding Harris County's order mandating that residents wear face coverings in public or face up to a \$1,000 fine. While the Township Board agrees that individuals should take necessary precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19, the Board opposes mandating something that should be a matter of personal responsibility in addition to the egregious fine for non-compliance.

The Woodlands Township is unusual in that our boundaries encompass areas within both Harris and Montgomery Counties. The Village of Creekside Park located in Harris County has over 15,000 Township residents. The Harris County order places an undue burden on these residents and poses issues with how the Township administers programs and assists these residents who find themselves required to comply with orders different from the other residents in the Township. Our residents, from both Montgomery and Harris County, commonly travel within both areas of the Township as essential employees and to access essential services, including healthcare.

Further, we have concerns about the enforcement of this order. The Township provides law enforcement services for its residents in Harris County through Harris County Constable Precinct 4. The Constable's Office has been an incredible partner with the Township. This new order places an additional burden on these officers at a critical time. Law enforcement should not be placed in a position of putting additional stress upon residents who worry about being fined if they go into public to access needed essential services. These stresses have the potential to erode the public trust and injure the well-established relationships between the Constable's deputies that work in the Village of Creekside Park and our residents.

Fighting this pandemic requires that we all work together – citizens and government. We are proud of how residents of The Woodlands have taken personal responsibility during these difficult times to help slow the spread of COVID-19. We are equally proud of the frontline responders who continue to work to keep our public safe. Together, we are being successful in accomplishing the goal of flattening the curve. Now is not the

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time for government to overstep its authority and to place unnecessary mandates on the very residents it serves. Township residents – and all Texans – have shown time and again that we are capable of responsibly addressing any challenge we face. We encourage Harris County to rescind the order mandating face coverings, or at a minimum, rescind any fine for non-compliance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordy Bunch".

Gordy Bunch

Chairman, The Woodlands Township

Cc: The Honorable Greg Abbot, Texas Governor  
The Honorable Ken Paxton, Texas Attorney General  
The Honorable Jack Cagle, Harris County Commissioner Precinct 4  
The Honorable Ken Herman, Harris County Constable Precinct 4