

July 15, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott,

Thank you for your continued leadership during these unprecedented times. As you are aware, due to the economic trauma of this pandemic, our cities are being called on to provide services that would historically be outside the normal scope of municipal operations. While the effects of this pandemic are not measured by visible physical damage as would be seen from a natural disaster, the financial harm to our communities will be as great, if not greater than a devastating natural disaster, and the financial harm will likely last long into the future.

In response, Congress has allocated an unprecedented but necessary amount of federal funds; however, to date most Texas cities have been unable to access those funds intended to assist them in this current crisis. We ask that you assist us by heeding the Congressional intent and U.S. Treasury Guidance documents and allow cities to utilize these funds which will provide for a much faster economic recovery.

The requirement that 75% of our allocated funds must be spent on medical expenses, public health expenses, and payroll expenses for employees substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the public emergency makes it almost impossible for cities like ours to effectively respond to the magnitude of the problem in the timeframe allotted by Congress. Allowing cities to determine the most effective use of the funds within all six categories provided in the Treasury Guidance will result in a faster recovery of the health and economy of our cities and state.

Full disbursement of the funds to the larger cities and counties moved quickly, and most have already implemented direct benefit programs to assist their residents and businesses. Cities and counties under populations of 500,000 and their residents have the same need for prompt assistance through these funds. Under current TDEM Guidance, we are limited to just 20% of our allocation up front and must go through an audit process before receiving additional funds. Cities throughout Texas handle state and federal grant funds daily and maintain sophisticated systems and qualified professionals to ensure accountability and reporting, regardless of population size. We are accustomed to providing these types of assurances for other grant programs to remain in compliance, and CRF funds should not be any different.

It is clear within our communities and across Texas that business closures, restricted occupancy, and limited services significantly contributed to our initial joint successes at flattening the curve and delaying the spread of the virus. Under the current 75-25 restrictions, unlike the larger cities we are not able to effectively assist the recovery of local businesses who were so critical to this massive public health effort.

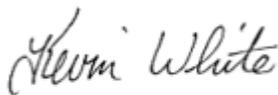
Our small and mid-sized cities preserve our state's unique heritage and are home to businesses that

are the heart of the Texas economy. We need your help to ensure the viability of these very businesses. On behalf of every resident in our cities, we hope we can count on your support to remove these unnecessary restrictions.

Sincerely,



Kyle Deaver
Mayor, City of Waco



Kevin White
Mayor, City of Mineola



Connie Schroeder
Mayor, City of Bastrop



Flora Braly
Mayor, City of Andrews



Andres Rodriguez
Mayor, City of Bracketville

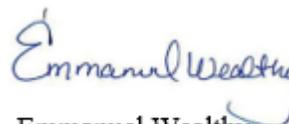


Terrill Bartlett
Mayor, City of Canadian

Willie Leal, Jr.
Willie Leal, Jr.
Mayor, City of Poteet



Andres Ramos
Mayor, City of Alpine



Emmanuel Wealthy
Mayor, City of Wilmer



Gina Fulkerson
Mayor, City of Wimberley



Geary Smith
Mayor, City of Mexia



Tim Handren
Mayor, City of Boerne

Sam Miller
Sam Miller
Mayor, City of Sudan



David Dreiling
Mayor, City of Greenville

Ginger Nelson
Ginger Nelson
Mayor, City of Amarillo



Roy McDonald
Mayor, City of West Orange

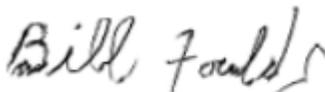


Wendell Dunlap
Mayor, City of Plainview

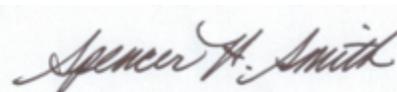


Bill Blackburn
Mayor, City of Kerrville

Lynn Ramsey
Lynn Ramsey
Mayor, City of Shamrock



Bill Foulds
Mayor, City of Dripping Springs



Spencer Smith
Mayor, City of Harker Heights



Kerry Symons
Mayor, City of Perryton



C.R. Evans, Jr.
Mayor, City of Overton



Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez
Mayor, City of Pharr



Dr. Ianthia Fisher
Mayor, City of Crockett



Becky Ames
Mayor, City of Beaumont



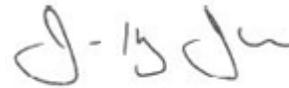
Dan Pope
Mayor, City of Lubbock



Karen Felker
Acting Mayor, City of Borger



Patrick Payton
Mayor, City of Midland



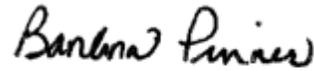
Jeff Jordan
Mayor, City of Kaufman

Mike Hendricks

Mike Hendricks
Mayor, City of Luling



Anthony Groves
Mayor, City of Brady



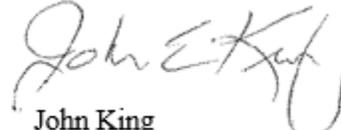
Barbra Pinner
Mayor, City of Levelland



Terri Brown
Mayor, City of Marshall

Phil Barefield

Phil Barefield
Mayor, City of Quitaque



John King
Mayor, City of Rockdale

Darren Braddy

Darren Braddy
Mayor, City of Cooper



Stephen Santellana
Mayor, City of Wichita Falls

Gilbert Gomez

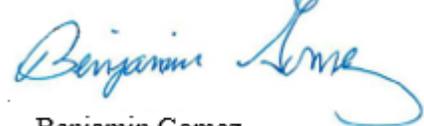
Gilbert Gomez
Mayor, City of Robstown

Tom Reid

Tom Reid
Mayor, City of Pearland

Dorothy Welch

Dorothy Welch
Mayor, City of Splendora



Benjamin Gomez
Mayor, City of San Benito

Nin Hulett

Nin Hulett
Mayor, City of Granbury



Paul Gohman
Mayor, City of Bronte



Bruno Lozano
Mayor, City of Del Rio



Pete Saenz
Mayor, City of Laredo



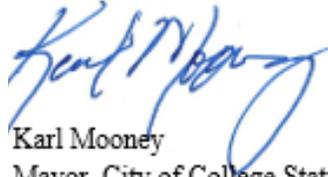
Andrew Nelson
Mayor, City of Bryan



James Yarbrough
Mayor, City of Galveston



Brenda Gunter
Mayor, City of San Angelo



Karl Mooney
Mayor, City of College Station



Clinton Sawyer
Mayor, City of Amherst