



A STATEMENT FROM MAYOR JEFF WAGNER

{**APRIL 24, 2020 – Pasadena, TX**} As many of you already know, the face mask mandate from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo is set to go into effect on Monday, April 27, 2020. Her order comes with fines up to \$1000. Judge Hidalgo did not consult with me or the vast majority of other Harris County mayors before imposing this order.

This mandate has drawn a huge amount of criticism regarding its constitutionality, it's validity and more importantly, its motives. I know there are very strong feelings on both sides of this issue, but one thing remains same...the importance of the safety and personal freedoms of our residents.

Pasadena is made up of the hardest-working people I know. While our safety is **always** my first priority, I also know **thousands** of you have been hurt by the economic impact of this crisis. The last thing you need to worry about is whether or not a Pasadena Police Officer is going to write you a ticket if you don't have a mask.

Our City will not bow to the draconian overreach of Harris County mandates that take away our personal freedoms. Our police officers will continue to do their jobs and focus on stopping **real** criminals.

I truly do acknowledge the importance of stopping the spread of this virus and I appreciate everything our residents are already doing to help in that effort.

If you choose to wear a mask, then you are welcome to do so. If you choose not to wear a mask, please remember to follow the current CDC guidelines, including social distancing, that can be found on www.coronavirus.gov