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**For Immediate Release:** Sheriff Gary Cutler's response to County Judge's order on curfew

**March 26, 2020 1:30 pm**

Sheriff Gary Cutler response:

We have received some questions about the Curfew that is included in the latest County Judge's Order. The Judge's Curfew runs from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. for the next 2 weeks. People have wondered how the Sheriff's Office might use the Curfew to interact with the public.

I am writing to inform the public that the Hays County Sheriff's Office will not be using the Curfew as a basis for traffic stops. When Sheriff's Office deputies see a vehicle on the roads of Hays County, regardless of the time of day, they will assume it is because someone is going to work at an Essential Business, or doing something else permitted by the Judge's Order. If there is independent Reasonable Suspicion or Probable Cause to stop a driver or pedestrian, at any hour of the day, then my deputies will continue to do their jobs, as they always do. I encourage you to contact the Sheriff's Office to request assistance, regardless of the time of day or night without fear of reprisal.

Your right to privacy is important to me. I do not feel COVID-19, as it has currently affected Hays County, should be a basis for a Curfew. The virus doesn't care what time of day it is and is just as concerning at 2 p.m. as it is at 2 a.m. A "Stay at Home, Work Safe" Order, in my view, is an around-the-clock effort by this community to curb the impact of COVID-19. The challenges we face are real, the virus and the steps needed to contain it depends on all of us. I ask the citizens for voluntary compliance to this order. If you don't have to leave your home, please stay home. My office and I are here to stand with you. Working together, Hays County will remain strong.

**This release was prepared by Lt Dennis Gutierrez with the Hays County Sheriff's Office. For further media related questions contact the HCSO media pager 512-395-2117 or email at [SO-PIO@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:SO-PIO@co.hays.tx.us) .**