

I want to give an update on the state of our city at this most challenging time but really nothing has changed. We still have shelter in place, to go only for restaurants, no bars, and good sanitary habits. I expect to know more about stage 1 of Governor Abbott's procedure to start opening businesses in the weeks to come.

As a mayor that has had two disasters during my term of office, I see each event had their own problems and challenges. April 2013 was very clear; we had deaths to deal with, homes to rebuild, infrastructure to repair and funding to secure. But there was a beginning and a plan on rebuilding the city. There were procedures and processes set in place for rebuilding homes, memorials, streets and parks, and it was clear how to proceed to return to some type of normal.

This current experience is quite different. You can't see the virus and it's difficult to know who has it and who doesn't. At first the only suggestion was washing your hands, this seemed crazy right? Then it expanded to shelter in place, shutting down businesses, wearing face masks in public, no school, no sports, and no clear view of recovery. I'm going to shoot you straight, in my opinion I see no clear ending in sight of this plague, well at least not soon.

As of today, the city had one confirmed case of a person infected with the virus. That person is self-quarantined at their residence going on week two now. The police, West Ambulance Service, and the fire department, have all been notified of the address in case they are called into service at that location.

This one case is proof that the social distancing we put in place is working here in West. I know very well the hardships businesses are feeling about this order and rest assured as soon as it's lifted, you'll know. I have my own thoughts about the various stages the business community must go through to reopen but the most important thing is the safety of our residents.

West will follow the lead of the State and the county in the various stages but since we're a small city we may have the chance to incorporate our own ideas into the states procedures that would fit our community. Allowing West to open more quickly and at faster pace than larger cities. We'll just have to see what develops in the next few weeks.

The senior meal program we started a week ago has been very successful. We started with 128 citizens and this number is now at 165. The success of this program is based on the volunteers that stepped up to deliver and it should be noted that a lot of additional work was required by our city administration employees; Shelly, Courtney, and Shannon who answered all the requests, organized the delivery list, and coordinated the preparation of meals to be delivered, and also help to deliver the meals. Thanks to all for a super great job!

Even with all the things going on during this crazy time, I don't think the 7-year anniversary of the tragic events of April 17, 2013 was lost. That date will never be forgotten, and I hope you made it a point to say a prayer or allow a moment of silence. I know seven years sometimes seems like forever and sometimes it feels like yesterday. We have all come such a long way

from that painful experience. May God bestow his grace on those hero's and their families.

God Bless you all.