

"The City on the Grow"

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July 29, 2021 MEDIA CONTACT: Cristina Garcia Public Information Officer cgarcia@weslacotx.gov

## STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19 POSITIVE PATIENTS AT TEXAS INN IN WESLACO

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, the city of Weslaco discovered that the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley has been temporarily housing COVID-19 positive patients at a private business in Weslaco.

A preliminary investigation by first responders revealed that Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley are housing COVID-19 positive immigrants, who have been released from federal custody, at the Texas Inn in located at 1818 N. Texas Blvd. in Weslaco. City administration and officials have reached out to Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley for further information.

While the city of Weslaco has no immigration enforcement capabilities, city officials believe in full transparency and urges non-governmental organizations, such as the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, to inform local governments and officials when and where COVID-19 hot spots are created in our communities.

"Providing us with further information can save lives," said Mayor David Suarez. "We take this matter very seriously, and our priority in Weslaco has been and continues to be the health and wellness of our community. We graciously ask Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley to help us protect all lives, including those most vulnerable to COVID-19 complications."

City officials request that Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley provide further specifics, including any other future plans to providing temporary housing for COVID-19 positive patients in Weslaco. The city also requests that Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley detail what protocols are in place to ensure immigrants are provided food, water and

other resources during their stay at the motel, so that COVID-19 positive individuals can safely remain in quarantine. Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley agreed to meet with Weslaco officials in the near future. The city of Weslaco thanks Texas Inn management and staff for their full cooperation, disclosure, and transparency in regard to this matter.

The safety and well-being of the entire community is of the upmost importance, and we are working with county and state partners to contain COVID-19. As a reminder, anyone who is COVID-19 positive should remain in quarantine for 14 days.

Additionally, the city of Weslaco continues its weekly vaccination clinics at the Knapp Medical Conference Center. The next clinic held by the city of Weslaco is set for Tuesday, August 3 from 7:30 a.m. until noon for anyone age 12 and up. Vaccinations are provided at no cost.

--CITY OF WESLACO--