

NEWS RELEASE

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Abilene Mayor Anthony Williams forms committee to advise in the re-opening of local economy

ABILENE, Texas – Abilene Mayor Anthony Williams has formed “Re-Open Abilene,” an informal citizen committee charged with advising Abilene City Council of best practices and community preferences in regards to the re-opening of the local economy following the COVID-19 shutdown.

Re-Open Abilene will function as an advisory citizen's committee, and is not subject to the open meetings act. However, all meetings will be conducted via video teleconference and available for the public to watch on the City of Abilene’s cable channel, website (www.abilenetx.gov), and City of Abilene, Texas Government Facebook page. The work and recommendations of the Re-Open Abilene Committee will also be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Mayor Williams has chosen to form Re-Open Abilene as an informal advisory committee and not an official City commission or board because of the required immediacy of action in the opening of our economy.

The Re-Open Abilene committee will follow parameters set by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to construct and present its recommendations for the re-opening of the local economy to Abilene City Council. The Mayor and City Council will receive those recommendations in open session and use them to form orders or resolutions to best facilitate the re-opening of Abilene businesses and public spaces.

Re-Open Abilene is comprised of twenty-five individuals from industries across the Abilene community including retail, personal/beauty services, medical facilities, childcare, and religious organizations. The committee is led by co-chairs President & CEO of Hendrick Health System Brad Holland, and Mayor Pro Tem and local business owner Weldon Hurt.

Re-Open Abilene will begin meeting the week of April 27, 2020, and share its recommendations to Abilene City Council at subsequent City Council meetings.

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