



CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL



# The Villager



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RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt

## Racial Disparity review is now available

For years, Austin's minority communities have complained about the unfair treatment by members of the Austin Police Department. But the complaints fell on deaf ears; because the investigations were always conducted by members of the APD.

In an effort to get a better look at the situation, the city created the Police Monitors Office to investigate these complaints. That failed; because the Monitor's office could not issue their findings until the APD gave its approval. As a result the results were always the same; there was no wrong doing by members of the department.

The city now has two groups doing an evaluation of the department and its members. These departments are the Office of Police Oversight (OPO) and the Equity Office. The office was given the assignment to examine APD motor vehicle stops data from 2015-2018.

The organization has issued its first report and it is safe to say that it contained exactly what the African/American and Hispanic/Latinos communities knew it would. The data reveals racial disparities in motor vehicle stops in 2018, with Black/African Americans as the most overrepresented of all racial/ethnic groups in Austin.

In 2018, Black/African Americans made up 8% of the Austin population, 15% of the motor vehicle stops and 25% of the arrest. I think that it is safe to guess which racial group came in second.

In order to see the full report or get more information, go to the City of Austin website and look up Joint Report: Analysis of APD Racial Profiling Data, Office of Innovation, and Equity Office.



David C. Fleeger, MD

## Texas Physicians Say: Remain Calm, Protect Yourself, Stay Safe

Statement by Texas Medical Association (TMA) President David C. Fleeger, MD, about Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's state of emergency declaration regarding COVID-19.

(TEXAS) - "The physicians of the Texas Medical Association stand by Governor Abbott in his emergency declaration to benefit our state. This move is warranted and beneficial for Texas.

"Please understand, though, that today's medical emergency in our state is the same as it was yesterday, and physicians' prescription remains the same: calm vigilance.

"Texas physicians want to remind our patients to remain calm and practice smart public health precautions. Your doctors are here to help Texans cross as safely as possible through the COVID-19 wave.

"Here's what you need to remember to protect yourself: Wash your hands thoroughly and often; cough into your elbow or a tissue then throw it away; avoid touching your face; and by all means, stay home if you are sick. If you have a fever and cough, call your doctor's office for instructions; do not automatically go to your

doctor's office or to an emergency department.

"If you're mildly ill, you don't need to go to the emergency room, or even your doctor's office, because there is no treatment. So if you're reasonably healthy, you can take care of a mild illness yourself, as you would the flu.

"However, if you are in a risk group including older people or those with underlying health issues, call your doctor's office for advice about what to do. And of course anyone experiencing severe emergency symptoms like shortness of breath should seek medical care - but call first if at all possible.

"TMA and Texas physicians stand beside Governor Abbott, Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner of Health John Hellerstedt, MD, and other Texas leaders, working to keep our patients healthy and safe.

"Be calm, be cautious, and take care of each other."

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Independent, pop guitarist announces new single.

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Austin Links celebrate 30 years of stellar service.

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Xinos and Kudos pursue excellence in education.

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## Courageous, Painful Step to Protect Us: Rep. Doggett Statement on Austin COVID-19 Preventative Measures



U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett

(Washington, D.C.)

Today, as Austin Mayor Steve Adler announced the closing of Austin bars, restaurants, and limiting gatherings to 10 people as protective measures against the COVID-19 pandemic,



Gov. Greg Abbott announced Tuesday that the Texas National Guard will be activated in response to the novel coronavirus outbreak in the state. Photo credit: Bob Daemmrich for The Texas Tribune

U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), released the following statement:

"Like the courageous decision to shutter SXSW, Mayor Adler is taking the necessary step to limit suffering and deaths. Communities across Texas, espe-

cially in our neighboring counties, should do the same. With little national leadership, local governments must act. The pain for small businesses and their employees will be great; the inconvenience to the rest of us is not insurmountable. These drastic

steps are necessary because of multiple Trump Administration failures to heed warnings and prepare. Contrary to the oft-repeated Trump lie that anyone can be tested, America still lacks sufficient testing capability to determine COVID-19's spread. Ad-

ditional limitations will likely be required. Today's action represents the least worst alternative—to hunker down, maintain social distancing, care for one another, and work to make it through the storm. Together, we can do this."

## Trump's Failings as a Leader can no longer be Ignored



Thomas Wyatt VILLAGER Co-editor

(Op-Ed) – Today, I find myself out of my space. You know that space? That space where you always wish to take the high road when someone is influencing you to go low? My high road is to remain positive and constructive; To forward wisdom, encouragement, and hope. I want to be the one to tell you,



"It's all good, playa - You have nothing to be worried about!"

Today?! Today isn't that day. Today, I feel vitriol pouring from me like venom from a black mamba. And it's all because of Donald Trump. I hardly ever roast Trump

in media forums such as this. I do not write about his daily flops on a weekly basis. I could. I should. But I don't. I save such comments for private conversations. And even then, it's because he said some lie about Obama. Trump always

swipes at the man. Trying to bring Barack down to his level because he, himself, will never elevate to Obama's heights. Trump only enforces the argument that Class has boundaries.

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