



**For Immediate Release**

April 3, 2019

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## **Harlingen Prepared to Support Non-Profits Sheltering Immigrants Temporarily and to Ensure Safety in the Community**

**Harlingen, Texas**– The United States Border Patrol is now transporting immigrants to the Harlingen Bus Station. The immigrants, seeking asylum, have been vetted by the Border Patrol and are only here temporarily.

The drop-offs in Harlingen began on March 28 and to date, less than 200 people have been brought to Harlingen. Most immigrants already have a bus ticket but some have spent at least one night at the Loaves and Fishes Center located at 514 South E. Street as they wait for their scheduled bus trip. The center, whose mission is to help anyone in our community has received additional cots and other supplies from the American Red Cross to help in this charitable support.

City Manager Dan Serna says the service agency under the leadership of Pastor Bill Reagan has taken the helm of this humanitarian effort. “Loaves and Fishes fulfills an important mission in our community and the City will make sure the sheltering operation is smooth and safe. The immigrants aren’t here to stay. They are traveling to meet up with family in other parts of the U.S. as soon as possible.” At the moment, the City is only providing organizational resources through the Emergency Operations Team and heightened security efforts in the downtown area where the bus station is located.

The City is also assisting Loaves and Fishes and Catholic Charities secure hygiene items from community partners like H-E-B, Walmart, and Sam’s.

## News From The City of Harlingen

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Queen of Peace Catholic Church located at 1509 New Combes Highway has also agreed to serve as a shelter if necessary.

Meantime, City Manager Serna says staff will continue to monitor the situation and ask for federal assistance as necessary.

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