



Eddie Treviño, Jr.
County Judge

MEMORANDUM

TO: Public and Law Enforcement within Cameron County
FROM: Eddie Treviño, Jr.
County Judge
DATE: April 17, 2020

Car washes may be considered Essential Business under the Cameron County Shelter in Place Order and should not be prevented from conducting their business.

The Cameron County Shelter in Place Order became effective on March 25, 2020. On page 3 of the Order, “Essential Infrastructure Operations” are exempted and are defined in subsection 3(a)(iii) as:

“All business and operations necessary to the operations and maintenance of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors as identified by the National Cybersecurity Infrastructure Agency (CISA) and outlined at: ...”

One of the sixteen critical infrastructure sectors identified by the original CISA guidance document is “Transportation and Logistics.” One of the subcategories of the Transportation and Logistics industry is “Automotive Repair and Maintenance Facilities.” The North American Industry Classification System Code describes all the categories that fall under the heading of Automotive Repair & Maintenance. According to the NAICS, car washes (specifically 811192) are a part of this category.

Furthermore, on March 28, 2020, CISA released an updated Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce. This revised version of the CISA Guidance document referenced in the Cameron County Order includes the sector “Hygiene Products and Services” on page 15. Specifically, the services deemed essential are:

“Workers providing disinfection services, for all essential facilities and modes of transportation...”

Under this authority, car washes in Cameron County may resume operating on April 17, 2020, while carefully observing social distancing practices. Further, any public surface areas touched by customers such as pay stations, wands, and vacuums shall be cleaned in between customers. In addition, employees shall have minimum contact with the occupants. The public must also be responsible for their personal hygiene in public areas.