

President
Michael C. Savas, CTIP



Executive Vice President & CEO
Leslie Midgley, CAE

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Ron Nirenberg
Mayor
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283

RE: Title Companies in your City and COVID-19 Response

Dear Mayor Nirenberg:

We write today to urge you to consider making clear in any upcoming city announcements regarding mandatory business closures that the title insurance industry will be exempt in the same manner banks will remain open. It is imperative to the real estate sector that title insurance offices remain open alongside the banks. Furthermore, our industry's work—including conducting title searches, examinations, closings and issuing title insurance to protect property owners and mortgage lenders—is crucial to financial sector operations.

Providing clarity about this in any statement or proclamation would be greatly appreciated and, respectfully, we strongly urge you to do so.

We will quickly underscore for you that Texas allows Remote Online Notarization (RON), which creates a safe and consistent approach whereby an online notary can electronically sign documents. This tool equips us to better restrict the face-to-face requirements of real estate transactions. Additionally, our industry members are implementing several protocols at their business locations to maximize the safety of the community.

The Texas Land Title Association is a statewide trade association that represents the Texas title insurance industry and the 15,000 professionals who work for the safe and efficient transfer of real estate. Our membership comprises over 85 percent of all title insurance agents and underwriters licensed to do business in Texas in with active members in 253 of 254 Texas counties.

Again, we respectfully request that you please make clear in any announcement, press release, emergency declaration or other related communications with the public that the title insurance business remains open alongside the banks and other financial institutions so scheduled real estate transactions can continue to occur as scheduled despite these trying times.

Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,

Michael C. Savas, CTIP
President