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Dear Residents,

The City, State, and Country (the world) are fighting an 'invisible enemy' – this enemy is contagious and deadly.

The Fresno County Department of Health has informed us that our city has 12 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 2 of our citizens have passed. This is very concerning, and heartbreaking – and the numbers may grow, if we, as a community, ignore the recommendations and guidelines of CDC and Government Officials. Stay Home, Avoid Travel, Avoid Crowded Public Places, Avoid Large Gatherings, Social Distancing (keep 6 foot Distance), Wash your hands and wear mask to reduce the transmission of Covid-19.

Since we are a small town I know, in my heart, that we can get the cooperation of all our residents. I know Easter is a very special day, and it is one of our most celebrated holidays in our town. The meaning of Easter is sacred to many of us, and it's a time to rejoice & celebrate. Though it's disappointing to not be able to physically get together with all of your family members, technology makes it possible for us to enjoy such special occasions. Stream a Church service, video conference with loved ones, enjoy your favorite foods for a special meal, decorate & hide eggs or something else in the house for your kids. Be safe

This virus is unforgiving, and what is most alarming is that a person (anyone) can be carrying the virus, and may not be showing any symptoms, but can continue spreading the illness. This is why it is so important for people to follow the Shelter-In-Place order – to Stay Home – and protect your family. Only go out when it is absolutely necessary and use a face mask, as often as possible, but most importantly when in public.

We have already started to see our small businesses shut their doors, change their normal business practices & hours. It has devastated our residents. Many have lost their jobs and are very concerned about their livelihood.

This is why I am asking for your cooperation – the community's cooperation – to help prevent the spread of the virus, and to encourage everyone to stay at home. We must follow the CDC Guidelines and Orders delivered by our officials. The City, Police and Fire Departments are doing the best they can under these enormous circumstances, but we, the community, have to help and do our part – Stop the Spread and Prevent COVID-19.

We are "FIREBAUGH STRONG." Let's do the right thing. We can all do our part, Stay at home, look out for our families, and one another. Together we can get through this.

*Mayor Elsa Lopez*  
*City of Firebaugh*