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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **City of McAllen to Close McAllen Development Center to Public**

*Business still operational, visitors not allowed inside*

Starting this Monday, March 23, 2020, the City of McAllen will close the McAllen Development Center to the visiting public. The departments housed in the building, which include Building; Engineering; Health & Code Enforcement; Planning; Tax and Utility Sewer Administration will continue to be operational but will move to web-based or drop-off service only.

“The McAllen Development Center is a robust building, responsible for the great development and growth of our city,” said McAllen City Manager Roel “Roy” Rodriguez, P.E. “Daily, at any given point, the number of people visiting the facility exceeds the current crowd limits. Therefore, for the health and safety of our employees and the community at large, we will be closing the doors and asking for all who would visit the Development Center to utilize alternative methods to conduct business.”

The McAllen Tax Assessor Collector is encouraging those property owners to pay their taxes via the drop box located on the property, or online with lower fees for electronic check payments. The drop-box is located on the south side of the building, facing Cedar Avenue. Please place payments in a sealed envelope and do not place any cash or any other payments in the drop-box. Mail in payments can be sent to P.O. Box 220, McAllen TX 78505-0220. Payments made with U.S. Postal Service postmark on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> are considered timely. Commercial meter imprints are not considered postmarks.

Taxes can be paid online at <http://mytax.eztaxonline.com/mcallen/tax/faces/search.jsp>. Beginning immediately, citizens who pay their property taxes online through the website will pay a \$1 fee for all electronic checks, through April 30, 2020. Standard credit card fees still apply.

For developers needing to drop-off plans, a drop-box will be placed outside of the building at both entrances, located on 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Date Palm Avenue. Plans for building permits; planning applications; right-of-way; health permits, etc. should be properly secured and labeled and dropped off in the drop-box. Staff will collect frequently to continue the review and development process in the most efficient manner possible.

For planning and health applications, payments may be made via check only. Building fees will be accepted at the time of building permit issuance.

Other services, such as applying for permits are available online. Visit [www.buildmcallen.com](http://www.buildmcallen.com) for various permits.

For more information call 681-1250.

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