

Notice – Health Alert Which May Affect Hardin County Appraisal District Operations

Hardin County Appraisal District is aware of the economic impact of the Covid-19, coronavirus. State law requires us to value your property based on its market value (the value it could sell for) as of January 1st of each tax year. Any economic impact on the price properties sell for due to the current health crisis will reflect on your 2021 property values. Our office does not have the authority to reduce the 2020 values based on the current health crisis.

We are recommending the following action at this time for the health and well-being of everyone in our community:

Filing of Protest

You may file your protest using the below methods:

- You can use our **online system**, eprotest.hardin-cad.org. Information and instructions for using this system are on the back of your protest form and on our website. The online appeals system allows you to upload any documentation you would like to submit regarding your protest.
- You may **email** your protest to: hcadarb@gtbizclass.com.
- You may **fax** your protest form to our office at 409-246-4714.
- You may **mail** your protest form to our office at PO Box 670 Kountze, TX 77625.
- You may **drop off** your protest form in the drop box located inside the screened porch at the right side entrance to our office. Please remember to include a phone number and/or email address on the protest form; this is how the staff will contact you.

Please DO NOT come to the office to speak to someone, our office doors are closed to the public and will remain closed until further notice – you may use the DROP BOX ONLY.

PROTESTS ARE CONSIDERED TIMELY, IF THEY ARE POSTMARKED PRIOR TO MIDNIGHT ON THE PROTEST DEADLINE THAT IS ON YOUR APPRAISAL NOTICE.

In-Person Informal Meetings with Staff

Based on the extent of the COVID-19 outbreak, Hardin CAD will not be providing face to face informal settlement meetings between property owners and appraisal staff members. All informal meetings will be conducted via telephone, email, fax, or mail. During this heightened state of health alert, we ask for everyone's patience as our appraisal staff will contact you by phone or email as quickly as they can. With regard to Appraisal Review Board (ARB) hearings, we are encouraging you to consider alternate methods such as:

- **Appearance by Affidavit**
- **Telephone Hearing** – If you select this option, you must submit your evidence to the ARB in the form of an affidavit. You may obtain a copy of the Property Owner's Affidavit of Evidence from our website, www.hardin-cad.org under Forms section (ARB/Protest).
- If you choose to exercise your right to a **Personal Appearance** before the ARB, your hearing will be scheduled at a later date when social distancing requirements have been relaxed. **Please know that at this time we do not have any estimated date of when we will be able to schedule in person hearings, so that is why we are encouraging the options.**

We appreciate everyone's concerns and patience regarding this worldwide health threat and have made these requests not only for the health and welfare of the general public but our staff as well. Please be patient as it will likely take more time to process protests this year than you have become accustomed. If you have questions you may call our office at:

Phone – 409-246-2507
PO Box 670 Kountze, TX 77625

Fax – 409-246-4714

Email – hcad@gtbizclass.com
105 South Pine Street Kountze, TX 77625