

HONORABLE AURORA MARTINEZ JONES

126th District Court Judge
TRAVIS COUNTY CIVIL DISTRICT COURTS
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767



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Re: Cause No. D-1-GN-24-009589; The State of Texas v. Sunrise Community Church, Inc., d/b/a Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center; Mark Hilbelink; and Real Property known as 4430 Menchaca Road; in the 126th Judicial District, Travis County, Texas

On August 29, 2025, this Court heard Plaintiff, The State of Texas (the “State”)’s, *Application for Emergency Temporary Restraining Order*. The State’s request sought to enjoin Defendant, Sunrise Community Church, d/b/a Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center (“Sunrise”), from offering services to the homeless. The Court took the ruling under advisement.

The Court, having considered the pleadings on file, admitted exhibits, argument of counsel, and additional information submitted by counsel, finds that the Court’s concerns with the issues presented during the hearing are so substantial that the requested relief currently before the Court is not sufficient, and that a full evidentiary hearing on the State’s *Application for Temporary Injunction* should be set, immediately.

As a designated Civil, Family and Juvenile Court for Travis County, this Court’s absolute priority is the safety and well-being of children in our community, and the Court must balance that priority with the health and well-being of their parents, their family, and their community. We know that it takes a village to raise a child, and this is no exception. Any solution to the issues occurring in and around Joslin Elementary School must support *both* children *and* their community—including those members who are experiencing homelessness.

Given that there were representations made to the Court on August 29, 2025, that there are already plans in motion to relocate Sunrise’s Homeless Navigation Center services to another part of the community, the scope of the Temporary Injunction hearing will be specific as to a plan to **accelerate Sunrise’s relocation of these services to the new location** and to determine whether these services should be suspended pending their relocation.

The Court, therefore, Orders that this matter be set for a full evidentiary hearing on the State's *Application for Temporary Injunction*, **to be set at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 6, 2025, for two (2) days, before the 126th District Court at the Travis County Civil and Family Courts Facility in Courtroom 8B, located at 1700 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas 78701.**

In particular, the Court will expect to hear evidence and testimony as to how the relocation of Sunrise's Homeless Navigation Center services to the new location may be accelerated. The Court encourages the parties to include presentation from any community stakeholders critical to achieving this resolution—for example, from the City of Austin, Travis County, or other entities key to the relocation.


In addition, the Court will also expect to hear evidence and testimony as to whether a suspension of Sunrise's Homeless Navigation Center services will ensure the safety and well-being of the children at Joslin Elementary School pending the accelerated relocation of Sunrise's Homeless Navigation Center services to the new location. The Court anticipates this will likely include one or more representatives from Austin Independent School District (AISD), Joslin Elementary School, and any members of the neighborhood in and around Joslin Elementary School who may have substantially relevant information.

The Court also notes its appreciation for AISD having reached out to the Court to provide assistance in this matter and looks forward to further supportive information that may be provided at the upcoming hearing from AISD as this matter reaches resolution.

When decisions of the Court will so greatly impact the lives of the most vulnerable people this Court serves, those decisions cannot be made lightly, with haste, or without the proper remedies offered appropriately before the Court. The Court believes the consideration and due process afforded with a full evidentiary hearing will provide a sound approach to reaching such a critical decision for this community, and will be prepared to move forward with the parties on October 6th.

For any procedural questions in preparation for the hearing, please contact my Briefing Attorney, Emma Hilbert.

Regards,


Aurora Martinez Jones
126th District Court Judge

CC: Kenneth Walker II, General Counsel, AISD (via email: kenneth.walker@austinisd.org)
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