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## **News for Immediate Release**

Mayor Cognetti issues recommendations for retail stores to limit customers and faith-based organizations to suspend in-person activities

SCRANTON, PA—Mayor Paige G. Cognetti issued two proclamations for the City of Scranton today, recommending that retail stores limit the number of customers at any given time and that faith-based organizations suspend in-person activities during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to prevent unnecessary person-to-person contact.

"We are entering a very difficult and critical period of days and weeks in our fight against COVID-19. I cannot stress enough that we must stay home in order to save lives," said Mayor Cognetti.

"While the health and safety of our citizens is paramount, we recognize the extreme difficulty and stress that business owners are experiencing. My recommendations set forth today are meant to help our dedicated business owners and their brave employees manage through this time and give everyone confidence that, to the extent that anyone leaves their homes, they will be able to practice social distancing and follow other guidelines as outlined by the CDC.

"We realize that during this period of high stress many residents want to visit their place of worship. While this is understandable, it is critical that we find alternative, remote means of worshipping and connecting with our faith leaders.

"Adopted properly, these practices will save lives and may help to mitigate the curve in our area. The actions we take today will help us get through this crisis, and get us to a place where it is once again safe to go out and support our great businesses, and congregate at our places of worship."