

**From:** Steven Bergstresser  
**To:** All\_City  
**Date:** 4/10/2020 10:54 AM  
**Subject:** Please Read - City of Kettering Employees - Continuing to Stand Together

Good morning, City of Kettering Team.

Well, as Mike Tyson once said, “Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth.” In our case, the punch in the mouth was a global pandemic. Ouch! After the stars went away, we had to ask, “Where do we begin?” “What do we do now?” “How do we implement astronomical changes in a matter of days?”

Here’s the verdict so far. It’s been 25 days since we closed our facilities to the public, established safe working conditions for our employees and did the best we could for our families and our residents while trying to keep our sanity. We didn’t have a similar incident from which to mimic procedures, no forefathers who had been through something like this from whom to seek advice, not even a crystal ball. We had something better—We had each other. We came together with our knowledge and skill sets to create a new way to deliver services. As a team, we weren’t afraid to brainstorm and offer unorthodox ideas that, for now, are part of our normal!

As public servants, you remain committed to providing critical functions to our community during these turbulent times. You are empowered to lead; therefore, our service delivery has been expanded on many fronts. Together, we continue service provision, we take care of vulnerable citizens and help deliver meals to children. You’ve all stepped up to the plate, and the impact of your actions is indelible.

It’s been heartwarming to see businesses, government, healthcare providers, public safety and residents pulling together during this crisis. The spirit of compassion reveals the best of us. Twenty years from now, the history books will talk about a time the world stopped, the economy fell flat, **BUT**, humanity prevailed. Please continue calling friends and family, checking on your neighbor, saying a prayer for those battling this disease and for those on the front lines in this

fight. And, take time to hit the pause button and do something for yourself.

Thank you for the many ways you've chosen to stand together, join forces and support our residents. I'm not alone in being grateful for the work you are doing. I've received countless emails and compliments from residents thanking you all. I know you don't seek praise, but your efforts never go unnoticed.

I am proud and inspired by the way this organization has risen to this challenge with flexibility, resilience, courage – and a caring heart.

Thank you for standing with me, having faith in me and for your enormous contributions. Let's continue to work together and make this one of our finest hours.

Enjoy your families and have a blessed and happy Easter.

Steve

**Steve Bergstresser, P.E.**

Acting City Manager

Assistant City Manager / City Engineer

City of Kettering | 3600 Shroyer Road | Kettering, Ohio 45429

v. [937.296.2412](tel:937.296.2412)

| f. [937.296.2550](tel:937.296.2550)

| [Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org) | [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org)

*The City of Kettering invites people with disabilities to enjoy our programs, services, parks, and facilities.*

*Please call [296-2439](tel:296-2439) for more information about accessibility or to request a modification.*

*For TTY assistance, contact Ohio Relay Service at [800-750-0750](tel:800-750-0750).*

*Email to and from the City of Kettering is open to public inspection under Ohio's public record law.*

*Unless a legal exemption applies, this message and any response to it will be released if requested.*

