

Mary Azbill - Thank You for Rising to the Challenge

From: Steven Bergstresser
To: All_City
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Subject: Thank You for Rising to the Challenge

Good evening.

In the midst of this second week of social distancing and doing our part to stay safe and healthy, I hope you are settling in and have taken time to stop and reflect on the importance of what we accomplish as a team. I think we all agree that it's not what we *have* to do, it's what we *get* to do for the people of Kettering. It's been no easy task, but every one of you has proven to be more than willing to rise to the challenge.

My thoughts and prayers are with our public safety heroes standing on the front line to protect our livelihood and that of our community. Your courage and choice of vocation to make a difference is awe-inspiring. Thank you, KFD and KPD, for your strength and fortitude in making the best of an uncharted situation for all of us. The danger and responsibility you accepted when you took the oath continues to exemplify your selflessness and utmost compassion in protecting our quality of life.

As members of this organization, we all stand on the front line in many forms. We are the voices residents hear when they call with questions. And, until two weeks ago, we were the smiling faces they saw when they came to our offices. Time and again, you prove your passion for public service by offering our residents your time, your expertise and results.

In speaking with some of you during the past two weeks, I am reminded how much we need one another and the extra support you continue to offer to help maintain organizational health. The care that you have for each another and working together to carry out our mission and achieve great things is a testament to the momentum this team holds.

Of course, there are not enough hours to include everything all of you have done to keep the City moving forward; but, please know, it does not go unnoticed that all of you have a hand in this.

- Administrative Systems—well, as most of you read this with remote access, you already know—has worked tirelessly to keep our systems viable and provide all of us with suitable technology and assistance to continue our daily tasks.
- Our Engineering Department continues to manage projects throughout the city to maintain its powerful infrastructure.
- Finance is working to ensure our citizens are at ease through this unique tax season, as well as monitoring potential disaster funding that could later benefit our city.
- Our Human Resources Department has been busy making sure all of you have the information you need relative to the impact this pandemic may have on you and solutions to handle things that might come your way.
- Our Law Department is laser focused on the changing directives and orders being passed down by the state and federal government to ensure we, as an organization, are providing appropriate services to our citizens.
- Our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department is helping to keep Kettering safe by encouraging the public to safely use our parks during this time, along with offering creative suggestions to ensure families are engaged and active.

- Planning and Development is working with the community to help families and businesses navigate through potential rough waters caused by the pandemic.
- Public Service has been instrumental in providing staff and procuring the products and tools necessary to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.
- The Volunteer Office and Senior Services are checking in on so many elderly citizens who give countless hours to our City to ensure they are healthy, safe and cared for.
- Our Kettering Municipal Court established safe work spaces for employees while providing continued services to the community.

And, for every employee who continues to tackle everyday tasks under unconventional circumstances—together, you are the foundation upon which this incredible municipality stands.

KFD and KPD--to you, a standing ovation for your continued strength, courage and energy. You truly are our front line heroes. To every member of this phenomenal team standing on the front line of City services, thank you isn't enough for your flexibility and willingness to do what it takes to continue accomplishing our goals. In one way or another, we all stand together. No matter how big or small the moment, you all continue to stand. I stand with you!

With tremendous respect,

Steve

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