



City of Tower

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March 24, 2020

To Citizens of Tower:

“During these challenging and unprecedented times” has become a common cliché in communications from government authorities, the CDC and now again from your mayor. But the phrase aptly defines the times that we are living in, globally, nationally, and locally.

Locally, I am proud but not surprised in the many ways that our community has stepped up to protect one another from the growing threat of COVID-19. This is a time when meeting the challenges that we face, health-wise, economically as well as psychologically, we need to care for one another. Our restaurants, grocery store (Zups especially), our police force, and other community services, have shown in countless ways that our community and fellow citizens are important to us and that we will not let them down.

As reported in both city newspapers, there have been significant changes that have occurred recently in Tower’s Fire and Ambulance departments. While it is unfortunate that those changes may have precipitated a temporary reduction in department staffing, we are confident that the Tower fire and EMS will soon be up to full staffing levels, with new, effective and positive leadership, and with a new generation of volunteers who will carry on the proud tradition of both departments.

I want to assure our citizens that our mutual-aid agreements with local townships are in place and ready to serve and that we are developing a responsible and fair agreement with our local township partners for ambulance services. Our EMS service continues to be effective, responsive and ready to serve the public’s needs.

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has made it more difficult and challenging for City officials to be able to effectively communicate regarding the City’s ongoing work to resolve remaining issues. The campaign of misinformation, falsehoods, rumors and outrageous rhetoric being spread by some individuals here locally, and on local social media, is divisive, unfortunate, and, quite simply, irresponsible. I sincerely hope all citizens and officials will resist participating in or buying into such negativity and the campaign of misinformation that is taking place, and know that your elected representatives and the City’s employees are doing everything required to move forward in a positive manner and to maintain the level of services that you deserve.

Thank you,
Orlyn Kringstad
Mayor of Tower

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