



CITY OF MILAN

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 31, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Milan,

What a year, Milan. 2020 has left me almost speechless. We have had a series of challenges this year, including COVID 19. Never in our lifetimes has a city been forced to come to grasp and find a means to function through a pandemic. However, we continue to work through just that.

In March I wrote to you to request that that you remain focused on two things. Specifically, I asked that you remain focused on why we were making certain sacrifices and that you engage with each other in a kind manner. This pandemic will come to an end and it appears 2021 will bring us closer to normalcy in the upcoming months. However, more important than when this pandemic will end, is how we have conducted ourselves while it was among us.

There is little doubt that 2020 will leave mental and emotional scars. However, difficult times are defeated by the positive and uplifting actions of people. Those that have taken this opportunity to tear others down only add to the discouragement that each of us is feeling. Over the last 10 months, I have observed so many gestures of kindness and hope by individuals, councilmembers, and business owners that I hesitate to mention some for fear of overlooking many. However, some stand out to me personally. Many restaurants gave away food during the pandemic to those who were afraid to leave their home. In return, many residents committed themselves to supporting local restaurants. Some businesses and residents devoted their time and money to purchasing PPE equipment for the schools. You came out in droves to support local businesses during Christmas. When some of your fellow residents fell ill, many of you offered whatever support they needed. You have continued to show support for your local charities. People devoted their time and money to make sure that the children were able to enjoy the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus via a drive by parade. In short, I want to say thank you to those who have conducted themselves accordingly. I am honored to be your mayor.

I want to say thank you to members of City Council, City Administrator Kovacs, and city department heads and staff. Despite the challenges that 2020 has brought, many projects were completed this year. Leaf pickup was quicker and less complicated this year, due to their decision to purchase a new vacuum. The Wilson Park parking lot has been paved for the first time in several decades. Riverpoint was repaved and finished for the first time ever. We took time over the Summer to review our law enforcement policies. Two new police cruisers have been purchased. And, we have begun the process to implement a sidewalk improvement program.

Lastly, I want to give my most sincerely appreciation to my wife, Laura. The last ten months have taken a toll on me as well. I have been tested consistently over the last ten months in so many ways, as a mayor, business owner, husband, and father. Through it all, she has been as constant source of strength. She has always listened, loved, advised, and comforted. Thank you for helping me find strength I didn't know I had.

I promise you that this pandemic will come to an end. There will be a time when Third Thursdays will resume, when our parades will return, our fireworks will burst, our children will compete, graduations will commence, we will dine together, we will imbibe a little together, and we will more resemble what we have come to love about our city. However, when we do so, when this time comes, we want to look back and be proud of how we conducted ourselves. We want to be proud of how we helped one another. We want to be proud about how we exercised restraint when we could have reacted. We want to remember the acts of kindness that were showed to us and that we were able to show to others. I say it again, difficult times are defeated with acts of kindness. Let's finish the race we are on the right way. Happy New Year and God Bless each of you.

With Gratitude,

Dominic N. Hamden
Mayor, City of Milan