MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Sept. 23, 2020

As we enter the sixth month of a pandemic that feels like it's lasted even longer, we can now look back and confidently say that while much has changed, much also remains the same. Our daily lives are consumed by two polar opposites: waves of unrelenting uncertainty and the reliability of the mundane habits we've grown accustomed to, such as wearing masks, washing our hands and maintaining social distancing.

To look at life before the pandemic is to feel like an eternity has passed. For many of us, the hopes we once had for 2020 are now akin to the sun sinking below the horizon. It all reminds me of a quote by John Lennon: "Life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans." Lennon's words hold true as Temple Citians continue to solider on.

The truth is this pandemic is far from over, and in the meantime, public health officials are looking at the road ahead with long-term planning in mind. Current trends across Los Angeles County are showing that young adults—namely those between 18 and 34—comprise the largest segment driving up infection rates. It's an unfortunate cycle: Young people tend to underestimate their own risk, not believing they're likely to become ill or pass the virus to others. Meanwhile, those dying from COVID-19 continue to skew much older, with the virus posing the biggest threat to those over 65.

For now, at least, the county's public health orders are unlikely to change. According to a recent teleconference with L.A. County Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer, we could be waiting at least six weeks until further direction is given to possibly relax restrictions. This is because new data coming into the public health department is indicating a possible uptick in cases following Labor Day weekend.

Only once infection rates have begun to decrease will we be able to move into the state's next reopening tier, which would allow for the revival of more businesses, including indoor spaces for retailers and other service providers. Let's continue to do our part to reach that goal.

Thankfully, Temple City's infection rate hasn't increased at the same pace of other communities' rates. So far, we've seen an estimated 511 confirmed cases and 41 deaths (mostly in the city's convalescent care facilities). For updated local and regional statistics, download our COVID-19 Situation Summary Report at **templecity.us/coronavirus**.

In addition, city councilmembers recently approved the COVID-19 Continuity Plan, which identifies the City's service goals and priorities during the pandemic. Among some of the focal points encapsulated by the plan's 80 recommended actions are initiatives geared toward civic engagement, financial solvency, public information and response planning.

I encourage you to learn more about the City's current priorities and essential functions during the pandemic, all which take into consideration public health orders, minimal service interruption and no-net budgetary impact. To view the plan, head to **templecity.us/covidplan**. The site also includes up-to-date progress reports on some of the initiatives detailed in the plan, as well as information on what residents can expect over the next 60 days.

On a lighter note, Halloween hasn't been canceled in Temple City but might look a bit different this year. In lieu of our annual Halloween Carnival, we'll be hosting a drive-through event at Live Oak Park where families can remain in their vehicles while enjoying a series of themed displays. Kids will also receive treat bags (provided via contactless delivery, of course). Stay tuned for details coming soon on our City website (**templecity.us**) and social media accounts (**@ConnectWithTC**).

Another community-favorite event, our Car Show, will go on this year but in a virtual format. Prepare to head online Oct. 10 for an up-close introduction to classic cars from all over Temple City, including pre-1980s antiques, hot rods, classics, customs, muscle cars and more. Ready to show off your own car? There's still time to enter our showcase, which will see viewers vote for their favorite vehicle from the comfort of home. For more information, visit **templecity.us/carshow**.

Finally, if you're feeling stuck in the house, we invite you to take part in our new HealthyTC wellness program. Each month, we'll challenge participants to join us in a different outdoor activity; this month, the name of the game is running, and there's no fee to join the race. Learn more at **templecity.us/healthytc**.

Regardless of good times or bad, it is truly my honor to serve as your mayor. My term has been dramatically different than I originally anticipated, but nonetheless worth every minute of every day as we march forward together. On behalf of the city council and all City staffers, thank you for your continued support. Stay safe and healthy, and may God bless you and your families.

Cordially,



Tom Chavez
Mayor