March 26, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to report just how well our community is coming together during this challenging time. We are truly responding not merely as friends and neighbors but as one family. Our residents have shown their absolute resiliency, so quickly mobilizing grassroots volunteering efforts and creating organizations which have been so effective and instrumental in helping others in real time.

We are all extremely grateful for the continuing fundraising efforts by our Basking Ridge Chinese community and I again encourage everyone to donate to this needed cause for future efforts on their GoFundMe page at: https://www.gofundme.com/f/basking-ridge-covid-2019-donation

In addition, Messrs. Muneeb Kahn and Belal Khalid of the Ahmadiyya Community In Islam have generously offered to reach out and support the efforts of the Basking Ridge Helping Basking Ridge (BRHBR) organization. I want to personally thank them and the entire Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for reaching out to our OEM and Board of Health in addition to the BRHBR. I will regularly encourage all our residents to visit "Basking Ridge Helping Basking Ridge" on their Facebook page and contact them to help get involved, whether it be volunteering yourself, or making a donation.

Additionally, if on the horizon there are any new volunteer groups being contemplated or formed to help our community, please make sure you contact our OEM and Board of Health for information on safety protocols and precautionary measures which will need to be established beforehand for everyone’s safety.

It is truly inspiring to watch our community continue coming together to help provide what is needed to all our affected residents. By volunteering and helping each other during these difficult times, we not only show the world who we are, we also provide valuable first-hand examples and lessons to our children and young people who one day will be our future leaders. Again, I couldn’t be prouder of our town and all its residents. Everyone, keep up the good work, stay safe and remain vigilant. Let’s all maintain personal restraint, practice social distancing, stay calm and patient and above all, remain positive. God bless you all.

Very sincerely yours,

Jim Baldassare
Bernards Township
Mayor