

Robert P. Magnus

Office of the Mayor

YourVoice@oconomowoc-wi.gov

262-569-1111



January 15, 2021

Dear Community Resident,

We have just said goodbye to one of the most challenging years in our collective lifetimes. As we begin a new year, I want to take this opportunity to reach out and check in with City residents. While it will not happen immediately, I am optimistic that 2021 will put us back on the path toward a life that feels and looks more “normal”. We have faced challenges at every level and in every facet of our lives. While we are indeed “all in this together”, every one of us has been impacted a bit differently. Each of us has unique challenges regarding health, mental health, job, finances, family, and more.

Overall, I have been very impressed with our community’s response to the pandemic. I truly believe that none of us can bear the idea of a family member, friend or neighbor hurting in any way. I am confident that we will continue to adapt and support each other in the months ahead. Please know that the city is here to help and support you in whatever manner we can.

Although there are many important issues arising from the pandemic, I would like to address two issues in this letter: First, the behavioral health impact has been devastating and is affecting people of all ages. Second, the impact on our local businesses and industries.

Mental Health Impact

Unfortunately, the true social and emotional health impact of this pandemic may linger for months and years to come. We are already seeing an increase in suicide rates, depression, and addiction. We need to have open discussions on these topics and find the right resources at the right time for individuals in our community.

Resources: There are many local resources to help and we are fortunate to have one of the foremost providers in mental health care right here in our community – Rogers Behavioral Health (www.rogersbh.org). In addition, there are many other trained medical professionals in the greater community at the ready.

Dial 211 at any time from any phone to be connected to a live, trained service professional in our area who can help with a wide range of problems from health, food insecurity, rent and utility assistance. All calls are private and confidential.

*Be Safe – Be Smart – Be Kind
Shop Local & Support our Community*

Visit Waukesha County Health & Human Services at www.waukeshacounty.gov/HHS or contact them by email at hhs@waukeshacounty.gov or by phone 262-548-7212.

Action Item: Small acts of kindness go a long way. Support each other, check in with neighbors, and reach out to professionals if you see someone in need.

Business Impact

2020 was a challenging year with many businesses just trying to keep their doors open. Many retailers, and some industries, experienced a slower yearend in 2020, which typically provides the necessary financial cushion to go into the new year. Our city focus in the next 120 days is to continue to promote shopping locally and supporting those industries that may need our help.

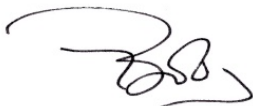
Resources: Our city website has a wealth of information. The area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business District Association are also strong community assets to provide information. Visit: www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/35/Business-Resources

Action Item: Learn more about our local businesses by searching our city website. Shop locally when you can, the financial impact of recirculating our own dollars within our community has a profound positive impact on our business' health, personal finances, and efforts to keep our community strong. Connect with local businesses to see if they provide delivery or curbside pick-up. The next three months are typically slow for retail businesses, please support them if you are able.

As I mentioned above, I am optimistic about the New Year, but we all need to work together. The city is here to help support you in whatever manner we can, or be a conduit to connect you to the resources you need. Dialog and communication are key to understanding our community's needs and concerns. To that end, please reach out to me directly via the following email at YourVoice@oconomowoc-wi.gov if you would like to connect to share your ideas and concerns. Together we can continue to build a strong community and assist those in need.

My best to you, your families, our businesses, and their employees in the months ahead. My door is always open. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



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