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TOWN OF EASTCHESTER

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Supervisor's Office
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April 3, 2020

Re: Town of Eastchester Update

Dear Fellow Residents:

I hope this letter finds you healthy and well. Presently we have in excess of 150 Covid-19 cases in the Town and its two villages. That number is as of several days ago therefore it is likely higher as of the date hereof.

Please continue the practice of social distancing. It is important to be disciplined for your own benefit and the benefit of your loved ones, friends and coworkers. Our playgrounds have been closed but out parks remain open for singular recreation. Avoid gatherings there and other places. Some people still do not get it – there are to be no lessons given on the tennis courts, no pickup basketball games, no group walks or exercise classes, etc.. This includes young people as well. We have teenage virus cases in the Town. Young people are not immune. Keep an eye on your kids and know what they are doing when they leave your home.

Town Hall has a greatly reduced staff but remains open for appointment constituent service only. The email addresses and phone numbers for each department are on our website and available in the Town Hall Lobby. Call for an appointment and we will get back to you shortly. There are drop boxes in the lobby as well for any documents you may need to file or submit. A reception desk has been located in the lobby for your assistance.

Town tax bills have been sent out to tax payers. Please be advised that the Town collects taxes for the County of Westchester, the Eastchester Fire District and both the Water and Sewer Districts in addition to the Town tax itself. Please be further advised, that the Town must, by New York State and County law, send out tax bills. We mandatorily have to issue bills and collect taxes in accordance with the New York State and County law. There is no discretion and the Town government has no ability to stop or waive the process, to create installment payments or change due dates. We also, by New York State and County Law, have no ability to waive interest and penalties for late payments on our own as this is strictly controlled by the State and County. However, working together with our County Executive, the County Board of Legislators and my

fellow Supervisors and Mayors, we have collectively sponsored an amendment to the County Law controlling penalties and interest on late payments. Payments are late if they are received after April 30th, 2020. The proposed amendment to the County law would significantly reduce the penalties and interest on late fees. The County is not reducing the amount of taxes it is asking Eastchester to collect for them but is working with the Supervisors and Mayors to reduce the amount of penalties and interest on late fees. The Fire Department, the Water and Sewer Districts and the Town tax are also not being reduced but we are recommending a reduction of the penalties and interest for late payments. I would have preferred that this action take place before the tax bills were sent out but it did not, so we are advising everyone now. The County Board of Legislators needs to have a public hearing on this matter (changing its law) which should occur in about a week to ten days. The Governor is also able to issue an Executive Order which would change the state laws on this exact subject but we are asking the County to amend its law to accomplish the same goal. We will keep you posted as this develops. We envision that most tax payers will pay on time to avoid penalties and interest but for those who have been directly impacted by the virus economically, a reduced penalty will hopefully help you.

Tax payments can be made by mail or remotely by credit card or direct transfer online. We will accept in person payments in the Tax Department on the first floor but we discourage that for obvious reasons. We are only permitting a few people into the office at a time, appropriately spaced, so there may be a wait. We are also short staffed so kindly be patient. Please do not bring cash. Banks and the Post Office are open to secure official bank checks or money orders.

Please be further advised that the next Town Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 21st. We will not have an opportunity to address the Board during that Town Board meeting. We may also conduct the meeting by partial video conference or phone conference for some members. The meeting will be televised and rebroadcast as usual.

Please visit our website. There is a listing of several coronavirus links which you may find useful. There are links for reporting price gouging and securing small business administration loans, etc.. There is also a section devoted to our local restaurants and delis which we would hope you would patronize during this time. Ordering take-out food and purchasing gift certificates helps keep them going during this difficult time. As a Town, we have constantly asked them for donations for our scouting programs, recreation programs and school functions so it would be nice to help them in their time of need.

Additionally, the section on our website pertaining to landscapers remains unchanged. We have yet to receive a final determination from the state as to whether or not landscaping is permitted. Presently, it is not permitted as it has been deemed a non-essential business. I am confident that as the next few weeks expire and grass starts to grow, there will be a modification to that restriction. Once again, we will keep you posted once the state makes a decision on this subject matter.

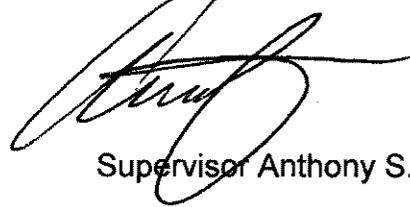
Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our first responders, nurses, and physicians who live or work in the Town, for all of their efforts and

fortitude. I would also like to recognize our sanitation and highway workers together with Town Hall staff who are working very hard in this trying time as Town Government is an essential business.

Eastchester has not been immune to the loss of life resulting from this pandemic. Several residents have died as a result of contracting the virus including Town Board member Glenn Bellitto. Please keep Glenn and his family in your prayers together with the other residents who have lost their lives within the Town of Eastchester, the Village of Bronxville and the Village of Tuckahoe.

Be smart. Be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony S. Colavita', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name of the supervisor.

Supervisor Anthony S. Colavita