



James R. Fouts - Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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February 17, 2021

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48090

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I want to thank you for your steadfast and strong leadership you and your team have provided our great state during the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has disrupted the lives of all of those who we are so honored to serve. It has forced us to wear masks when in public, to maintain social distance, families have been separated from loved ones, businesses have been forced to close, business practices have had to be changed to keep people safe, and far too many Michiganders have lost their jobs. This once in a lifetime event has disrupted nearly every aspect of our lives and it is vital we all work together to get through these challenges so we may come out stronger on the other side.

Here in Warren, we anticipated early the challenges posed by this insidious virus. In early February of 2020 we placed signage throughout our municipal buildings encouraging people to properly sanitize and avoid spreading germs, and placed hand sanitizer stations throughout our facilities. I tasked each department head to prepare plans for remote working and quickly implemented those plans when you issued the shutdown orders in mid-March of 2020. Through careful preparation and foresight, we were able to keep our residents and workers safe while continuing to deliver vital services to our community.

My administration also understood that this immediate disruption in people's lives would have a devastating impact on Warren families. Whether it be the loss of jobs, concern over shopping in stores, or the lack of help because of separation, many families would suffer in ways they never imagined, including food insecurity. To address this challenge my administration worked with the Forgotten Harvest Food Bank to being delivering contact free food baskets right out front of city hall each Monday since March of 2020. To date thousands of Warren families have received food aid that has helped bridge the gap.

Additionally, it has been vital to expand testing for COVID-19 so we can recognize and help those afflicted with the virus. To help Warren residents my administration partnered with Wayne State University to offer free drive through COVID-19 testing every Thursday and Saturday, again, right out front of Warren City Hall. Each week any Warren resident that wants one a test can get a test from the incredible professionals at Wayne State that to ease their minds, or let those who have gotten the virus can get the care they need.

As you can tell, throughout COVID-19 Warren City Hall has been a place where residents of this community, and surrounding communities, could find help they needed. Whether it be obtaining food to feed their families, free and easily obtained testing, or exercising their right to vote in the 2020 election, Warren residents have been able to find the help they need right here at City Hall.

Now with the approval of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID vaccines approved for emergency use, with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine not far behind, and President Biden invoking the Defense Production Act to ramp up production of more needed vaccine, there is light at the end of the tunnel and hope for a return to more normal life. I thank you for doing all you can to distribute these vaccines in a fair and equitable manner and let us pray that soon the supply will come close to meeting the demand.

I publish my home phone number for constituents and hear every day from Warren residents, particularly our senior citizens, who are anxious to get the vaccine so that they can be reunited with families, but are unable to access the vaccine for a variety of reasons. To assist you in this effort I would like to offer up the use of Warren City Hall as a distribution point for the vaccine. I believe if you contact the heroes at Forgotten Harvest or Wayne State Health you will find that this

location is known to everyone in our community and easily accessible to others in the region as we are located right on Van Dyke Avenue across from the GM Tech Center, and just north of the 696 Expressway. City Hall also has a four-story parking ramp which could be used as a distribution point much like the TCF Center underground parking area has been used in the city of Detroit.

I know it is a priority of President Biden's administration to inoculate 100 million people in his first 100 days in office, and I was very encouraged when the President recently stated his confidence in exceeding that goal. I know your administration is focused on inoculating as many Michiganders as possible to help achieve the President's goal and most importantly to protect our citizens. Since the start of this pandemic it has also been the mission of my administration to protect and care for our citizens, and now I want to help give our residents the armor they need to finally defeat this insidious virus by doing whatever I can to help them receive the vaccine. Warren City Hall has been a place of refuge since the start of this pandemic and could be the place where it is defeated in our community.

In Warren, we are also very proud of our award-winning police and fire departments who are heroes on the front lines every day keeping our community safe. Our first responders under the leadership of Police Commissioner Bill Dwyer and Fire Commissioner Skip McAdams, and my entire administration, stand ready to assist in the effort to get more vaccine into the arms of Warren residents who need it and for those in surrounding communities.

Again, thank you Governor for all you and your incredible team have done to lead our state through these trying times. As the Mayor of the third largest city in Michigan, and one of the most diverse cities in our state, I am ready to work with you to help defeat this pandemic and protect our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Fouts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent part.

James R. Fouts, Mayor
City of Warren