

CITY OF PEABODY

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

September 2020

Dear Friends,

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has upended many aspects of our lives and our community. Since March, schools, businesses, and places of worship have closed and cherished community events have been cancelled. Although our City has united to reduce transmission of the virus, many lives have been lost and we face a difficult road ahead.

Recently, acting on the advice of our Public Health Director, I made the difficult decision to close the Torigian Senior Center until at least January 2021. The Senior Center is a hub for thousands of older residents and has long been the envy of the entire North Shore region. From transportation to meals to social services to our Adult Day Health Center; our Senior Center is a big part of what makes Peabody so special - chief among the reasons why Peabody is designated as an Age-Friendly community by the World Health Organization and the AARP of Massachusetts.

Although its doors will be closed for the rest of this year, the Senior Center continues to be a source of aid and comfort for many Peabody residents. Thanks to dedicated staff and volunteers, meals are still being delivered and transportation and social services still provided to many of our most vulnerable older residents. As Mayor, I have been privileged to witness extraordinary giving each day by so many caring individuals who make up the fabric of our community. It is indeed an inspiration during these difficult times.

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19 and we have a shared obligation to protect them during this public health emergency. Although we miss dearly the lunches, holiday parties, classes, and other events that make the Center so special, we recognize that our sacrifice is helping to save lives.

An optimist by nature, I believe that better days lie ahead. For now, please continue to do the important things which help keep our families and fellow citizens safe and healthy. Remember, our Senior Center staff are only a phone call away and I look forward to seeing you back there as soon as circumstances allow. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr.
Mayor, City of Peabody