

MAYOR KURTZ'S SWIFTREACH FOR JUNE 4 2021 - FINAL

*Hello, it is June 4<sup>th</sup>. Please standby for a message from the Mayor. This message will repeat once.*

**GOOD FRIDAY EVENING, NEIGHBORS. THIS IS YOUR MAYOR GREG KURTZ.**

LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES HAS ADVISED THE CITY THAT IT WILL CLOSE ITS TEMPORARY HOMELESS SHELTER AT THE RAMADA HOTEL LATER THIS MONTH.

LUTHERAN OFFICIALS MADE THE DECISION TO TRANSFER RESIDENTS TO A NEW LOCATION INDEPENDENT OF THE CITY. THERE IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN MY WEEKLY UPDATE ON THE WEBSITE.

WE HAVE MARKED A CRITICAL MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY -- **TOGETHER** WE HAVE MOVED PAST THE PANDEMIC THAT **STIFLED US** FOR MORE THAN A YEAR.

SEEING PEOPLE'S UNMASKED FACES IS INVIGORATING. HOWEVER, WE MUST **NOT ASSUME EVERYTHING IS GOING TO SNAP BACK** TO HOW THINGS WERE PRE-PANDEMIC.

I WAS ALARMED TO LEARN ABOUT A RECENT STUDY ABOUT THE PANDEMIC'S EMOTIONAL TOLL ON CHILDREN.

ACCORDING TO THE STUDY, ADOLESCENTS ARE EXPERIENCING HIGH RATES OF **ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND THOUGHTS OF SELF-HARM** BECAUSE OF THE MANY DISRUPTIONS THEY EXPERIENCED THIS PAST YEAR.

EXPERTS SAY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS TO ASK THEIR CHILDREN HOW THEY ARE DOING AND HOW THEIR FRIENDS ARE DOING.

**IT IS NOT A ONE-TIME CONVERSATION.**

**WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH A LOT AND SHOULD ACCEPT THAT** EMERGING INTO THE "NEXT NORMAL" WILL TAKE TIME AND PATIENCE.

UNTIL NEXT WEEK, PLEASE CONTINUE TO PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND **HELP OTHERS** WHO MAY NEED SOME EXTRA SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT -- AND AS ALWAYS, GOD BLESS.