



Incorporated 1897

Borough of Chatham

BOROUGH HALL

54 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE • CHATHAM • NEW JERSEY 07928

RESOLUTION # 21-174

RESOLUTION HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS WHO GIVE OF THEMSELVES EACH WEEK AT THE CHATHAM COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION ON THEIR ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION

WHEREAS, Chatham is noted for its volunteerism, and volunteerism allows us to provide many services which would otherwise have to be contracted out or not provided at all; and

WHEREAS, volunteers stepped forward at the start of the COVID-19 shutdown, a necessary measure that unfortunately led a number of Chatham residents to lose their employment and, as a result, become “food insecure”, many for the first time in their lives; and

WHEREAS, this pandemic-caused unemployment, did not discriminate, as it affected both low- and high-income wage earners, and members of every age group, among others; and

WHEREAS, many families left jobless had to wait, in some cases, months before their unemployment benefits began to arrive due to the sheer volume of new unemployment claims, thus leaving many families in dire need of food; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham United Methodist Church began a “Pop-Up” pantry early on during the COVID-19 crisis, whereby residents could donate non-perishables for those in need, allowing the food insecure to take non-perishables as required on a 24/7 basis; and

WHEREAS, just weeks into the crisis, it became obvious that non-perishable foods would not be sufficient to meet the requirements of those in need, thus giving rise to the weekly fresh produce food distribution made possible through a platform established by the local business, Boxcar, whereby generous residents could order a box of produce, a gallon of milk, and a dozen eggs online for distribution to the food insecure every Wednesday; and

WHEREAS, multiple entities, including assorted businesses, restaurants, Girl Scout troops, Boy Scout troops, Kiwanis members, and other organizations too many to enumerate, and, most importantly, our generous Chatham residents, all stepped up repeatedly to augment this weekly fresh-food distribution; and

WHEREAS, other forms of assistance were additionally conceived in the form of supermarket gift cards (spearheaded by the Helping Hands of Chatham), shelf-stable lunches, and “the bread ministry” whereby bread and bagels were donated by local merchants – all of which served to round out the diet of the food insecure; and

WHEREAS, over 20+ volunteers have gathered weekly each Wednesday afternoon at the rear of the Chatham United Methodist Church to distribute food to food insecure residents of all ages, and this food drive has presently reached the one-year mark (and counting); and

WHEREAS, the Chatham Borough Department of Public Works and the Chatham Borough Volunteer Fire Department assist each week in the logistics of serving those in need; and

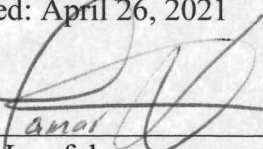
WHEREAS, the volunteers of the Chatham Community Food Distribution resolve to remain in operation as long as COVID-19-related unemployment continues to exist.

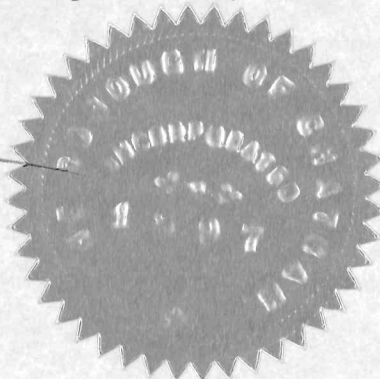
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Chatham, that we salute these generous and selfless volunteers for their laudably humane and, yes, heroic action to ensure that no one in Chatham shall go hungry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Council wishes the volunteers continued fulfillment of their noble mission, and hereby requests that the residents of Chatham continue their generous support of this merciful food drive so as to aid and assist all those in need. We are all in this together. Thank you, Chatham!

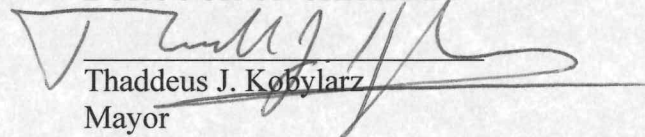
Adopted: April 26, 2021

Attest:


Tamar Lawful
Borough Clerk



BOROUGH OF CHATHAM


Thaddeus J. Kobylarz
Mayor