



Director of Communications

Jazz Clayton-Hunt
908-226-2507

CITY OF PLAINFIELD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL
515 WATCHUNG AVENUE
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060
(908) 753-3310 (OFFICE)
(908) 753-3634 (FAX)

Email: adrian.mapp@plainfieldnj.gov



Adrian O. Mapp
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Executive Order #5 Cancels Halloween Activities in the City of Plainfield

Plainfield, NJ – October 8, 2020 – Mayor Adrian O. Mapp has issued Executive Order # 5, which cancels Halloween activities in the City of Plainfield for the year 2020.

COVID-19 statistics since the pandemic began serves as a reason for the cancellation of the Halloween activities. As of October 8, 2020, there are 2,495 total positive confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plainfield since the pandemic began. Though Plainfield has seen a drastic decline in numbers, it can only continue to be contained if we adhere to safety guidelines.

Halloween activities traditionally consist of “trick-or-treating,” “trunk-or-treating,” and gathering for parties, carnivals, or festivals with large crowds. These activities do not allow individuals to follow the six-foot social distancing guidelines, which help prevent the virus's spread. This country has borne witness to the consequences of large gatherings; many of those gatherings end with COVID-19 infections in 10 or more individuals. By nature, trick-or-treating is a social activity that, even with the use of masks and facial coverings, can result in the contraction of the virus.

The rate of infection in the State of New Jersey is rising once again. While Plainfield's numbers have stabilized, residents must remember that Plainfield does not exist in a vacuum. One resident can bring the infection from outside Plainfield City borders and infect many within. Residents should continue to take the steps necessary to safeguard the vulnerable. One night of trick-or-treating is not worth the risk of infection or fatalities.

Door to door trick-or-treating makes it extremely difficult to maintain proper social distancing. Additionally, the sharing of food is also deemed a risk by the New Jersey Department of Health. Instead of trick-or-treating this year, Mayor Adrian O. Mapp and the City of Plainfield encourage city residents to donate monies otherwise spent on Halloween candy to local charitable organizations. Residents, parents, and guardians are also encouraged to find creative and safe alternatives for their children instead of trick or treating. Many Halloween activities can be found online, which allow for creative and artistic expression in children.

Mayor Adrian O. Mapp continues to place all residents' safety, health, and well-being as a first and vital priority.

“We must act with caution in our city and prioritize our health even during days which are traditionally very social.” Said Mayor Adrian O. Mapp, “Let’s act with selflessness and consider the well-being of our most vulnerable neighbors with every decision that we make amid this pandemic. Instead of partaking in social activities, I encourage everyone to make Halloween fun in the safety of your homes and create new traditions with your families. We had to adapt and improvise a lot this year, and this is no exception. Let’s continue to exercise caution; our efforts have been successful in slowing the spread of the virus in our city.”

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