Twitter Thread by Andy Berke



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Normally at this time of year, I get to tout the successes we've enjoyed in #Chattanooga in the past 12 months, like initiatives that help our families, ribbon cuttings for park improvements, and economic development deals that bring good jobs.

This year has been different. 1/

As we enter 2021, it is also important to count our blessings. This painful, strange year, for example, has indeed brought renewed clarity to a lot of what is truly important. 2/

I'm thinking about the nurses, doctors, home healthcare staff, and medical providers who have been working harder than ever to care for COVID-19 patients and others. Every day, we witness their sacrifice and service. 3/

I'm thinking also about the police, firefighters, public works employees, teachers, child care workers, and other truly essential personnel who have shown unrelenting dedication to keeping us safe and educating our young people against truly staggering odds. 4/

The pandemic has been brutal on our small businesses and Chattanoogans already living on the edge. I appreciate our Economic & Community Development Dept giving rent and utility assistance and other kinds of support to the business owners and employees who need it the most. 5/

This year also saw a public outcry demanding an end to systemic racism and our country's mistreatment of people of color. Every day, I see the pastors, protestors, and others working to ensure this country lives up to its founding ideals. I hear their calls louder than ever. 6/

There is also hope as we move into the new year. Safe, effective vaccines are already making their way into our community. Every day, I see our community taking action to protect themselves and each other. Learn more about how to get ready at https://t.co/OPEbeZcIPO. 7/

Through the many challenges we have faced together, we get more and more clarity on the things that really matter. Family. Community. Our health. Our hope. 8/

2021 will surely bring its own fair share of surprises and new opportunities to Chattanooga. Let’s stay focused, stay safe, and keep working together. 9/9