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Mr. M. Žbánek  
City of Olomouc  
Horní náměstí  
779 11 Olomouc  
Ceska republika

Datum 15 mei 2020  
Onderwerp Letter of friendship

Very honoured mayor,  
Dear colleague,

I would like to thank you very much for the warm words in your letter. In times like these, good friendships and concern for each other are of vital importance. Compassion and empathy are not limited to time and place. The Corona virus does not know and respect national borders.

It is also a strange sensation in the Netherlands. Many people work from home. Several shops and companies and all catering establishments are closed. Nursing and care homes have not been allowed to receive visitors. Schools are closed, children receive home education. No cultural activities or fun trips. Entrepreneurs are struggling financially. Our intensive care units are full of Covid-19 patients. More than 5,000 people have died from the consequences of this pandemic and many are ill to some degree. It is unreal.

In Veenendaal, we are doing everything we can to combat the consequences of the corona crisis as effectively as possible. We communicate about the measures and maintain them. I am proud to note that many of our residents adhere well to the measures taken by the national government. We take care of each other, but especially of the vulnerable target groups. Everyone is aware of that. Beautiful initiatives are also emerging and, just like in Olomouc, this common enemy connects us. And brings us back again to the core of our existence. It would be wonderful if we could keep this up and continue to propagate it after this crisis. The government is now cautiously seeing opportunities to gradually lift the restrictions.

I am very happy with your offer to help each other if necessary. Of course I offer that same helping hand your way. Together we fight this pandemic and that goes beyond our national borders.

I sincerely hope that we can meet in good health next year. And that all events in and meetings between our cities can continue soon.

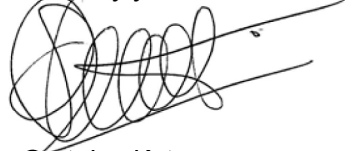
Although I know that this will take a while, I am confident just like you that the Covid-19 virus will be under control sooner or later.

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I wish you, your loved ones, the people who work in your municipal organization and all the inhabitants of Olomouc all the best and, above all, good health. And hopefully see you soon!

Cordially yours,



Gert-Jan Kats  
Mayor of Veenendaal

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STATUTÁRNÍ MĚSTO OLMOUC  
PRIMÁTOR

Meneer Gert-Jan Kats  
Burgemeester van Veenendaal

16th April, 2020

Honourable Mr. Mayor,  
Dear colleague,

It has been a few months since the first case of the COVID-19 disease was diagnosed in China and we are now dealing with a global pandemic. The situation is extremely difficult and completely new to all of us. Despite the fact that there is a great geographical distance between us, we are facing this threat together. We are not in this alone and neither are you.

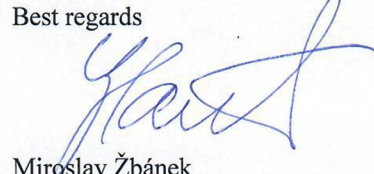
We all certainly try to do the best we can to protect our citizens. Our people found in these tough times inner strength and united to fight the common enemy. The citizens of the Czech Republic voluntarily sew face masks, which we are obligated to wear in public, and distribute them to others who are not able to purchase them. Volunteers run errands for the population groups most vulnerable from coronavirus. The solidarity can be seen everywhere around us and that is something we as the mayors can be really proud of.

If there is something we can do for you, do not hesitate to contact us. We do our best to help you and provide you with any kind of support.

All of the events we planned to invite you to or we already have unfortunately had to be cancelled or postponed. However, we all hope to meet you next year, when we will be already able to share our experience from the fight with this disease.

In the meantime, let me wish you on behalf of the citizens of Olomouc and from me personally lot of health and strength for the days to come. I believe it all will be over soon.

Best regards



Miroslav Žbánek  
Mayor of Olomouc

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