



PROCLAMATION HONORING AND COMMENDING SOMA NJ 3D PRINTERS ALLIANCE AS "VILLAGER OF THE MONTH" FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 FOR THEIR WORK IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

Whereas, Christopher Reeve once said, “A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles”; and

Whereas, on February 29, 2020, the United States announced its first reported Coronavirus (COVID-19) death near Seattle, Washington; this pandemic had already begun ravaging countries worldwide; and

Whereas, by mid-March, the United States began taking a cautious approach to this relatively unknown disease when the number of confirmed cases rose to 7,000 with 97 deaths nationwide with 427 confirmed cases and 6 deaths within the state of NJ, and 2 of those deaths being in Essex County; and

Whereas, seeing the intense growth of COVID-19 in the tri-state area, the State of New Jersey began to take action on March 16, 2020, to close its schools, non-essential businesses which included but were not limited to retail, recreation, theaters, and gyms; and

Whereas, the State of New Jersey also established a curfew and limited restaurants to move from dine-in services to take out only; and limiting essential businesses to remain open which included anything related to public health, safety, and welfare; and

Whereas, the United States and its populace had never experienced this type of epidemic in our lifetime which quickly created turmoil for millions of Americans which included many Americans to be unemployed, have severe food insecurity, concerns over housing, created emotional distress, brought uncertainty to our businesses and overwhelmed our hospitals; and

Whereas, many individual people and organizations stepped up to become heroes within our community for frontline workers and residents and to which the Community Relations Committee has selected several of those organizations as our COVID Heroes; and

Whereas, one such individual Jacob Ezzo, a South Orange Middle School Music Teacher, saw the need to assist hospitals with PPE when New Jersey was experiencing a severe shortage and created the SOMA NJ 3D Printers Alliance to print face shields for our local hospitals; and

Whereas, Jacob Ezzo started with his personal 3D printer and created momentum within our community to assist with printing and assembling face shields to be distributed to our local hospitals; and

Whereas, Jacob Ezzo worked with former Columbia High School student Zubin Guha, it quickly began to utilize many local student volunteers, countless families in our community and across the state, it also included 10 SOMA residents that were actively involved with the production of face shields - Nino Badridze, Jesse Busch, Devyani Guha, Irene Langloi, Mark Litwin, Jim Myracle, Luke Nunn, Brad Schenker, Kevin Wadsworth, and Christina Wright; and

Whereas, the SOMA NJ 3D Printers Alliance delivered 47,712 face shields, 14,645 ear savers, and supported 39 hospitals and included the distribution of face shields to our local South Orange EMS, Police and Fire Departments; and

Whereas, Jacob Ezzo said it best when asked the question of why he decided to help and said, “I have been raised to help out the community that you grew up in” and not only did that but also helped across the nation; and

Whereas, as of September 13, 2020, the number of COVID-19 cases in the United States surpassed 6.5 million positive cases and 194,000 deaths with 16,072 of those being from the State of New Jersey, it is a great reflection of our community to witness the caring and selfless acts from our residents and businesses.

Whereas, without SOMA NJ 3D Printers Alliance the lives of many of these front line workers would not be as safeguarding as they are today as they provided equipment that was not readily available to them; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHEENA C. COLLUM, Village President of the Township of South Orange Village, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, on behalf of the residents of the Township of South Orange Village, the Village Board of Trustees, and myself, hereby do recognize and commend the Jacob Ezzo and the SOMA NJ 3D Printers Alliance as "Villager of the Month" for September 2020 for the work they have done, and their wonderful and heroic contributions in the Township of South Orange Village.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2020

HONORABLE SHEENA C. COLLUM
Village President of the
Township of South Orange Village