



# City Of Garfield

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I have never been prouder to not only be a lifelong resident of Garfield but to also have the privilege of being the Mayor. As we are all aware, our city recently had two devastating fires in the past 2 months that left 8 families displaced. Although we have been going through some very trying times, especially with the pandemic changing everyday life, I am pleased and proud to say that I have witnessed our Garfield residents rally together to unite our community and help each other in any way they can.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Garfield Fire Department and the Garfield Police Department for their prompt and efficient aid during their successful responses. Because of everyone's swift and professional actions, their extensive training, and most importantly, their valiant services, we, the community, have far less tragic circumstances to endure.

Homes and infrastructure can be replaced, but not lives. Their efforts resulted in no injuries or loss of life, and for that we as a city are endlessly grateful. We cannot thank them enough for dedicated and courageous service to our community.

I continue to see our residents and community organizations step up and meet the challenges faced by helping others in any way possible. From a tragic event to a pandemic, to even volunteering to help get our residents counted for the 2020 Census, multiple volunteer organizations came together to lend a hand. Garfield Neighbors, Strangers Helping Strangers, the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, GPD Community Affairs, and Garfield United continue to get supplies, raise money, make masks, provide meals on a daily basis, deliver meals to our seniors, and provide school supplies, PPE supplies, and household and hygiene products. We all work together as one community. These are just a few examples of our residents' commitment to our community. Again, I could not be prouder to be from Garfield. Soon the year 2020 will be over, and eventually we will move back to a new normal way of life, but what everyone has done in the last eight months will go down in the history of Garfield lore.

We are finally cleaning up and developing the containment property on Monroe St. and River Road, which will bring a strip mall with a storage facility. The commencement of developing Passaic Street into a true downtown with shopping, cafes, lounges, and restaurants is finally happening and let's not forget the starting of phase 2 of the River Road Park (Monroe St. to Passaic St.), is happening soon. Lastly, we finally will be removing those dangerous tracks along Monroe St., the VISION OF GARFIELD has never been brighter. With All these projects happening the tax ratable Garfield will be receiving, over a 10-year period is close to 20 million dollars...real money.



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With that being said, we face municipal budget challenges as a result to the COVID outbreak, our ultimate mission as a municipality currently is to be fiscally prudent. Our major objective is to keep our tax base stable as possible, and according to our tax accessor 97% of our residents are paying their taxes on time. Another goal that we are achieving is promoting economic viability and enhancing economic stability. I am happy to inform you that the development and redevelopment in Garfield continues to grow and I strongly believe that there is business that wants to invest in our city, that will keep our tax base stable for years to come.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the dedicated employees of the City of Garfield, as they continue to keep Garfield moving forward. Additionally, I would like to thank the members of various Garfield's Boards and Commission; and all the volunteers who donate countless hours of their time for the advancement of Garfield. You are what make Garfield, "The City of Champions"

*Richard 'Riggs' Rigoglioso*  
Mayor