

Merisa K. Bowers

GAHANNA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE
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To: Residents of Gahanna; Members of Council; Mayor Jadwin; City Attorney Priya Tamilarasan
CC: Clerk of Council Jeremy VanMeter
From: Council President Merisa Bowers
Re: **Community Report - February/March 2025 Report**
Date: April 4, 2025

The Walk for Women Weekend was held on February 1 - 2. In partnership with Visit Gahanna and the Gahanna Division of Police, the weekend's events aimed to ensure that women feel safe and free to move throughout Gahanna's extensive sidewalk and trail system. Following incidents in late 2024, there was a need to stand together to demonstrate our shared commitment to safety and community support. The weekend's events were attended by Gahanna and area residents, Central Ohio stakeholders and leaders including Girls on the Run, the White Castle Foundation, the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, and representatives from neighboring communities Powell, Reynoldsburg, Mifflin & Jefferson Townships. State Senator Beth Liston and State Representative Meredith Lawson-Rowe attended the Walk, and the City received a Commendation from State Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio. Thank you again to all who supported the event, with special gratitude to Community Liaison Officer Blair Thomas and Ohio Herb Center's Amanda Ferguson for their work on the weekend's events. [A brief recap](#) was presented at the City Council meeting on March 3.



General Update - Events and Actions of February - March 2025:

- Attended GLHS **Diaspora** performance on Feb. 1.
- Attended the MORPC **Data Day** Seminar at Columbus Community College including sessions on cybersecurity, [Community Benchmark Report](#), community inclusion in infrastructure projects, and change leadership on Feb. 5.
- Attended the **Gahanna Rotary Gala** on Feb. 8.
- Learned about social services demands and funding at the Columbus Metropolitan Club forum [“When Safety Nets Shrink”](#) on Feb. 12.
- Hosted **Strategic Plan Table Talk session with 254 Teen Center** Volunteers and Youth on Feb. 12.
- Developed agenda, prepared for and attended leadership touchbase meeting with Mayor, City Attorney, Council leadership and senior directors on Feb. 10 and March 10.
- Heard from GJPS Superintendent and regional partners on career opportunities, workforce readiness, and diverse post-graduation paths at **“From Classroom to Career”** event with Councilmember Jamille Jones on Feb. 11.



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- Met with Councilmembers Jamille Jones and Trenton Weaver to **review affordable housing policy research** on Feb. 17.
- Attended Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting on February 19.
- Supported and celebrated the Gahanna-Jefferson Schools at the **GJEF Gala** on Feb. 22.
- Compiled research and introduced memo on [elected official compensation](#) with discussions at Committee of the Whole meetings on Feb. 24 and Mar. 24.
- Learned communication techniques from executive HR professional on managing diverse teams at the Ohio Women in Government lunch and learn on Feb. 27.
- **Toured the construction progress** at the Municipal Complex at 825 Tech Center drive on Feb. 28.
- Prepared and presented a joint Resolution/Proclamation for [Women's History Month recognizing London Studer](#) for breaking barriers in the sport of baseball on Mar. 3.
- Attended retirement ceremony for GPD Officer Sherman Buck on Mar. 10.
- Volunteered at Gahanna elementary school book fair on Mar. 12.
- Prepared for and testified in [opposition of Senate Bill 104](#) on Mar. 12 before the Ohio Senate Local Government Committee. [Written statement](#) and [recorded testimony](#) at 45:20.
- Prepared letter in support of grant funding for Somali Cultural Festival upon request by event organizer on Mar. 17.
- Joined Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce lunch and learn event on HR and Employment Trends on Mar. 20.
- Interacted and shared insights with **Gahanna Citizens Academy participants** on Mar. 20.
- Attended MORPC State of the Region on Mar. 21.
- Developed **food waste reduction** and home composting advocacy materials in March.
- Attended Capital Improvement Plan Advisory Committee meeting on Mar. 24.
- Celebrated local businesses, community partners, and neighbors at the Gahanna State of the City event on Mar. 27.



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Upcoming Constituent Hours

Join me at the Grand Reopening of the Gahanna Plant Library at Creative Options on April 12 at 10am at 560 Officenter Pl.!

Councilwoman Kaylee Padova and I will be co-hosting a Community Meet-up at the Gahanna Branch Library on Sunday, April 13 from 1:30 - 2:30pm.

**CONSTITUENT HOUR
& STUFFY SWAP**

JOIN COUNCILWOMEN BOWERS AND PADOVA FOR CONSTITUENT HOUR AT THE LIBRARY AS WE TALK ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AND SHARE EASY WAYS TO REDUCE WASTE—LIKE REUSING AND SWAPPING ITEMS WE ALREADY HAVE!

BRING A GENTLY USED (AND WASHED) STUFFED ANIMAL TO EXCHANGE FOR A “NEW-TO-YOU” ONE, JUST IN TIME FOR EASTER BASKETS. ANY LEFTOVER STUFFIES WILL BE DONATED TO SPREAD A LITTLE EXTRA JOY.

**When: 4/13/25
1:30-2:30pm
Where: Gahanna Library
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2**

Save the date! Gahanna’s Herb Day is Saturday, May 3!

To schedule a meeting, coffee, or call, please email merisa.bowers@gahanna.gov or call 614-342-0040.

Where can you most influence the day-to-day lives of your neighbors? The answer is local government! I welcome your thoughts, questions, and information about what's going on in Gahanna!

*You can join various Gahanna CivicEngage newsletter lists - **including the new bimonthly City Council Newsletter** - by creating a [“Notify Me” Sign In](#) account and selecting the desired newsletter lists.*

Constituent Issues/Concerns:

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Throughout February and March, residents voiced concerns and opinions or requested assistance in the following areas:

- Support for the Walk for Women Weekend
- Short term rentals
- Engineering permits
- Sidewalks and trails, construction quality, city maintenance programs, etc.
- Animal control incidents
- Adequate lighting at Big Walnut Trail, Gahanna Heights, and Royal Manor Elem.
- Traffic safety on Morrison
- Speeding concerns in Fox Wood subdivision
- Support for inclusivity and belonging training and nondiscrimination practices
- Update on Parks facility replacement (skate park)
- Paperclip Project for Holocaust Victim Remembrance by GLHS students
- Honoring physician/practice partner
- Fair Housing recognition and proposed legislation
- Local action/engagement sparked by change in federal administration/policy

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

Merisa K. Bowers, Council President

Gahanna City Councilwoman, At-Large

April 4, 2025

