

Merisa K. Bowers

GAHANNA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE
City of Gahanna, 200 S. Hamilton Rd., Gahanna, OH 43230
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To: Residents of Gahanna; Members of Council; Mayor Jadwin; City Attorney Priya Tamararasan
CC: Clerk of Council Jeremy VanMeter
From: Council President Merisa Bowers
Re: **Constituent Update - June 2024 Report**
Date: July 12, 2024

General Update - Events and Actions of June 2024:

- Recognized June as **CPR and AED Awareness Month** with multi-faceted presentation and public comments on June 3.
- Celebrated **LGBTQ Pride Month with a Resolution** and **ceremonial presentation** (at 1:35) to **GJPS School Board Member Dion Manley with guest GJPS Teacher Chris Wagner** on June 3.
- Attended Columbus Metropolitan Club forum on **60 Years of the Civil Rights Act** on June 5.
- Celebrated the retirement of **GPD Community Liaison Officer Kelie Moffitt** on June 5.
- Continued to advance **municipal aggregation and sustainability initiatives**.
- Developed agenda, prepared for and attended meeting with Mayor, City Attorney, and senior leaders on June 10.
- Met with **ICMA Veteran Intern Chris Isbill** as part of his week-long internship on June 11.
- Prepared for and attended **quarterly City/School meeting** with Mayor, Superintendent, School Board President and Liaison, and Council Liaison to GJPS on June 11.
- Celebrated outgoing Columbus Bar Assn. President and Gahanna resident Chris Vonau and welcomed incoming President and GJPS District resident Aracely Tagliaventi at CBA Annual meeting on June 13.
- **Attended LGBTQ Elected Leadership Policy Luncheon** hosted by Columbus Council President Shannon Hardin on June 14.
- Volunteered at and attended the **25th Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival** June 14 - 16.
- Shared breakfast with Columbus Metropolitan Library Executives, Staff, and Friends at the Gahanna Branch Library on June 21.
- Coordinated with Central Ohio Transit Authority to schedule **LinkUS presentation** on June 17.
- Celebrated **Juneteenth with Resolution** presentation to **Keena Smith, Founder and CEO** of Women's Center for Economic Opportunity on June 17.
- Promoted and attended SWACO and City Hazardous Waste Collection Day on June 22.
- Continued to solicit for and obtained PAAC appointment applications from residents.
- Attended the **City's Active Transportation Plan Open House** on June 25.
- Continued to research and collect information on **short term rental economics and policy**.
- Was interviewed by external auditor for FY 2023 for annual State audit on June 26.
- Supported the **Gahanna Pride Community Event** on June 26 at Hannah Park.

Constituent Hours

Join me at the **Gahanna 175 Vintage Baseball Game and Jubilee** on **Saturday, August 10!**

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This year's **Parks and Rec Muddy Miler** will be **Sunday, August 18!** [Sign up for your time slot!](#)

The **Gahanna Area Arts Council** presents the **Columbus Jazz Orchestra at Headley Park** on Saturday, **August 24 at 5:30pm**. This will again be a night to remember!

Constituent Hours to resume in September.

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

****NOTE that Councilwoman Bowers is utilizing a new email communication system. This new email system aligns with the City's new CivicEngage platform. **You can join various Gahanna CivicEngage newsletter lists by creating a "Notify Me" Sign In account and selecting the desired newsletter lists.***



From top left, clockwise: At the Gahanna Branch Library; GJPS Teacher Chris Wagner and Board Member Dion Manley receiving LGBTQ Pride Month Resolution; celebrating outgoing Community Liaison Officer Kelie Moffitt and incoming CLO Kaylea Pertz with Councilwoman Padova; CPR & AED Awareness Month Resolution Presentation to Gahanna Parks & Rec and Public Safety team members; with City Attorney Tamilarasan at Gahanna Pride; Gahanna Moms volunteering at Blues & Jazz to donate tips to GRIN.



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Constituent Issues/Concerns:

1. Gahanna city flag
Proposal from The Gahanna Foundation regarding flag redesign proposal; discussed in COTW on 6/10.
2. Zoning and infrastructure
Email from resident regarding meeting to discuss intersection of housing, zoning, and infrastructure to create modern, walkable community; responded and met with resident to discuss new Zoning code, ATP, and other considerations.
3. Concerns with neighbor/code violation/overstaying lease
Resident emailed multiple city officials regarding Ward 1 property concerns; discussed with GPD.
4. Flag proposal
Received email correspondence from resident in support of councilmember comments during flag redesign proposal discussion.
5. Street Trees
Received correspondence from residents regarding street trees; seeking additional information.
6. 100% Renewable Energy and Sustainability Efforts
Received emails from residents in support of aggregation sourced with 100% renewable energy.
7. Sidewalks and Connectivity
Followed up with resident regarding pedestrian connectivity between neighborhoods; invited resident to ATP Open House.
8. Heil Drive traffic
Received resident concern regarding traffic on Heil Drive. Obtained speed and volume study recently performed by GPD.
9. Police Misconduct settlement database
Received email from resident suggesting the implementation of a police misconduct settlement database; followed up with City Attorney and responded to resident.
10. Street resurfacing
Fielded questions and complaints from residents regarding new street resurfacing; obtained additional information from Dir. of Engineering Komlanc.
11. Preservation Zone between Foxwood and Rathburn Woods
Received email from resident regarding encroachment in Preservation Zone between Foxwood and Rathburn Woods; discussed with Sr. Dir. of Operations; met with resident and discussed; met with neighbor and issue has resolved; will follow up with Foxwood HOA president.
12. Leaf and yard waste collection
Received follow up email from resident regarding leaf collection; responded and scheduled time to meet to discuss further.
13. PAAC Appointments
Received email from resident inquiring about process for applications for Public Arts Advisory Committee appointments; responded.
14. Aggregation contract

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Resident emailed encouraging close scrutiny and oversight, parameters for aggregated electric contract.

15. City Communications

Received email from resident regarding alignment of City communications and suggestions for improvement; responded to resident to schedule time to discuss further.

16. 100% Renewable Energy Support

Resident emailed to express support for 100% Renewable energy for municipal aggregation plan.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

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Council President

Gahanna City Councilwoman, At-Large

July 12, 2024

