

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: **Constituent Update - December 2024 / January 2025 Report**
Date: February 3, 2025

Thank you to my City Council colleagues for entrusting me to serve as President of Council for 2025, which took place at the organizational meeting of City Council for the City of Gahanna on January 2, 2025. Congratulations to Ward 4 Councilmember Trenton Weaver on his election as Vice President and Chair of Committee of the Whole, and welcome Ward 1 Councilmember Stephen Renner as Chair of Finance Committee for 2025.

After several weeks and many, many hours of review and discussion, City Council [adopted the 2025 Budget](#) for the City of Gahanna on December 16.

General Update - Events and Actions of December 2024 - January 2025:

- Attended the internal Top Out Ceremony at the 825 Municipal Complex (under construction) with City Staff on December 3.
- Met with new Community Liaison Officer Blair Thomas on December 4.
- Participated in the annual **Santa Race 5k hosted by Visit Gahanna** on December 7.
- Began planning for **2025 Council workshop**, met with and sought proposals from consultants, began developing goals and outline.
- Planned for and participated in meeting with GJPS leadership and City Council-GJPS Liaison Councilwoman Jones on December 10.
- Worked with Council staff on developing **City Council newsletter policy and template** throughout the month.
- Participated in the **Strategic Plan Steering Committee** meeting to learn “Table Talk” meeting-in-a-box on December 11.
- Attended the **Power a Clean Future Ohio Awards Event** with City Administration and Councilman Stephen Renner (City of Gahanna received awards for Clean Energy Aggregation program) on December 11.
- Recognized [Councilman Stephen Renner](#) for completing a Master in Sustainability, Security, and Resilience at Ohio University and for his commitment to public service with a Resolution on December 16.
- Hosted Old Ridenour-area residents for Strategic Plan Table Talk session on December 17.



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- Received information and briefly discussed anti-wholesaling policy with Columbus Realtors Association Government Affairs Director on December 19.
- Developed concept, logistics, and promotion of **“Walk for Women Weekend”** events throughout December-January with Council office staff, GPD, Administration, and Visit Gahanna.
- Attended swearing-in of former State Representative Richard Brown to the Franklin County Common Pleas Court on January 5.
- Attended Columbus Metropolitan Club annual **Blue Chip Economic Forecast** regarding regional economic projections, opportunities, and threats on January 8.
- Collaborated to develop [resolution authorizing participation in OML objection](#) to Proposed AT&T Tariff January 10 - 13.
- Developed agenda, prepared for and attended leadership touchbase meeting with Mayor, City Attorney, Council leadership and senior directors on January 13.
- Interviewed four applicants for Parks and Recreation Board Appointment for newly-created Seat 7 throughout December.
- **Hosted Constituent Hour and a Table Talk session** for members of Gahanna Moms Network including Councilwoman Kaylee Padova on January 25.
- Hosted Table Talk session for Rathburn Woods/Farm Creek/Foxwood/Hunters Ridge residents on January 26.
- Attended **Community Improvement Corporation** meeting on January 28.
- Met with Rise Together Innovation Institute Director of Housing and Community Partnerships Keryna Johnson to **discuss housing/zoning policy** pertaining to accessory dwelling units on January 29.
- Heard from GJPS Superintendent and District Leaders on strategic plan pillar progress at **Annual State of the Schools address** with Councilmembers Trenton Weaver and Jamille Jones on January 29.



Constituent Hours

February Constituent Meetings by appointment!

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!

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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:

Throughout December and January, residents voiced concerns and opinions or requested assistance in the following areas:

- Community Grant Program funding
- Engineering permit
- Road condition / Snow removal
- Animal control incidents
- Presence of coyotes
- Trail safety
- LGBTQ protections
- ADA compliance requirements for municipal websites
- 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

February 3, 2025

