



To: Residents of Gahanna;
Members of Council;
Mayor Jadwin;
City Attorney Ray Mularski
CC: Director of Public Safety Keith Winn;
Director of Public Service Grant Crawford;
Chief of Police Jeffrey Spence;
Council Clerk April Beggerow
From: Councilmember Merisa Bowers merisa.bowers@gahanna.gov
Re: **Constituent Update - July Report**
Date: 08/03/2020

General Update:

Constituent Hours were held on July 6 (Senior Center patio) and July 20 (Creekside Plaza). I had one phone call scheduled for July 6 during this time (canceled) and two attendees in person on July 20.

National League of Cities is holding the Constituency Groups Summit virtually this month; I am registered to attend August 13 and August 14. Topics include Evictions, Voting, and Public Safety.

Ohio Municipal League's Newly Elected Council Training Seminars scheduled earlier this year were postponed due to COVID-19 and rescheduled into a webinar. I am attending the sessions virtually.

Constituent Issues/Concerns:

#1: Facial Covers/Masks

Received substantial emails from constituents regarding the use of and mandating facial coverings/masks due to COVID-19.

Action:

- Drafted and circulated a Memorandum on proposed local masks policy
- Phone calls, emails, and conversations with neighbors and constituents
- Requested discussion on July 6 Committee of the Whole
- Followed up to encourage policy that would empower private business-implemented mask requirement.

Response:

Mayor issued Executive Order; Governor issued county-based mask mandate if Level 3 or up; County issued county-wide public health order regardless of level; Governor then issued state-wide mask mandate.

#2: Neighbor Conflict

Received emails from a constituent regarding the issuance of a building permit.

Action:

Reviewed concerns, discussed with Councilmember Renner (he had previously spoken with Constituent). Responded to Constituent.

Response:

With City Administration and Law Department.

#3: Update on Ohio Distracted Driving Bills

Received email from a constituent regarding the status of bills introduced in the Ohio House and Senate on decreasing/eliminating distracted driving by use of electronic devices.

Action:

Reviewed status of bills.

Response:

Mentioned the issue during council comment at 7/20/20 Council Meeting due to recent fatal crash in Gahanna. Will monitor progress of these bills whether they are voted on or will need to be reintroduced next year.

#4: Resident Concern - condition of housing (heat)

Received social media messages from a constituent regarding tenants' concerns about heat in apartments. She stated that there is no air conditioning/it's not working, and it has approached 90 degrees in some units.

Action:

Reviewed concerns, suggested constituent send request through City's Webform; emailed City Attorney and Director of Public Service & Engineering.

Response:

City Attorney advised it was a private, landlord-tenant issue. I communicated that to the constituent and gave her the phone number of the Columbus Bar Association.

#5 Civil Service Commission Proposal - Add Points for Community Service

Received an email from a Constituent suggesting that a way to increase diverse police hiring is to offer points to applicants for service to the community.

Action:

Reviewed email; reviewed response from Mayor, which included affirmation that the administration would consider this as a topic when evaluating best practices for Gahanna law enforcement.

Response:

Pending; will seek follow up prior to year-end.

#6: DORA status

Received an email from a constituent asking for update on status of DORA.

Action:

When Public Hearing set on agenda, emailed constituent with update, Application and Ordinance language.

Response:

No further action required.

#7 Westside Flooding/Survey Project

Constituents concerned about spring flooding; stated that more rainfall happened the year prior but did not have flooding impact to homes that this spring flooding did.

Action:

Met with constituents to listen to concerns; discussed administration proposal for study.

Response:

Constituents observed council discussion on issue; will monitor for results and recommended remedy.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

Merisa K. Bowers, 08/03/20

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