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December 2024 & January 2025

Hello, neighbors! The end of 2024 was packed with important work, and 2025 is off to an even busier start! With that in mind, this edition of the newsletter combines updates from December and January. I appreciate your patience with this delay and look forward to engaging with you about the issues that matter most to our community.

Connect With Me

Mark your calendars! My next Constituent Hour will be on Saturday, March 8, at 11:00 AM at the Gahanna Library. This is a great opportunity to discuss city initiatives, share your concerns, and ask questions about what's happening in our community.

As always, I welcome you to reach out to schedule a time that may be more convenient for you.

Getting to Work

Highlights of Actions, Projects, and Initiatives

- Attended a Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools (GJPS) Ambassadors meeting on 12/4 and 1/8.
- Met with GJPS leadership and Council President Bowers to discuss ongoing collaboration between the school district and the city.
- Adopted the 2025 Budget after several months of discussion and review.
- Facilitated four Juneteenth committee meetings to continue shaping this year's celebration, including seeking sponsors, finalizing program details, and developing the event's logo and branding. Also met with Visit Gahanna and Experience Columbus to explore collaboration and cross-promotion opportunities.
- Re-appointed as Council Liaison to the School Board during January 2 organizational meeting.
- Hosted first constituent hour of 2025 where we discussed the Our Gahanna Table Talks, Creekside development, and the proposed (now dropped) AT&T tariff.
- Participated in Our Gahanna Table Talk with the Planning Commission.

- Participated in a council workshop focused on enhancing collaboration, building a shared vision, and addressing key policy challenges for 2025.
- Attended the State of Our Schools where we heard from superintendent Dr. Deagle and district staff leading strategic plan initiatives.
- Participated in the interview process for applicants for Parks & Recreation Board appointment.

Learn even more by visiting the <u>Council Member Updates page</u> [<u>https://www.gahanna.gov/588/Council-Member-Updates</u>] on gahanna.gov.



Councilmember Weaver, Council President Bowers, and Councilwoman Jones attend State of the Schools.

Resident communication topics:

- Concerns from residents, educators, and local advocates regarding the national immigration crisis and ensuring protections for all community members in school buildings and beyond.
- Small business opportunities.
- ADA compliance requirements for municipal websites.
- Snow removal on residential streets.



Council staff holiday party.



Council members and staff attend municipal complex topping out ceremony.



Councilmembers Jones & McGregor attend the Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting.

About Town

Recap of community events and activities

- **12/3:** Topping Out Ceremony for the new municipal celebrating a key construction milestone.
- **12/11:** Raised funds for GRIN at the Ugly Sweater Happy Hour hosted by Councilmember Padova and others.
- **12/20:** Celebrated the season at the council staff holiday party.
- **1/27:** Attended the swearing-in ceremony for Congresswoman Joyce Beatty.
- **1/3-5:** Participated in the African American Leadership Academy alumni retreat.
- 1/9: Attended the School Board Organizational Meeting.
- **1/16:** Represented our city at the Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting.
- **1/20:** Honored Dr. King's legacy at the Columbus Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast.
- 1/22: Attended Gahanna Glow, a giving circle event benefiting local nonprofits.
- **1/25:** Served as a panelist for LEAD Ohio, sharing insights with those considering a run for office.

In the Know

Stay informed about what's happening in our community

- **Subscribe** to periodic email updates from me and other city communications.
- Attend meetings. Regular Council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month (or the following Tuesday if Monday is a City holiday). Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. Both meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.
- **<u>Receive agendas</u>** for council and board/commission meetings via email.
- **Watch online.** All council and board/commission meetings are streamed lived via the city's Youtube page.

Working with and for you to champion inclusion, access, and a thriving Gahanna for all!

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