

Merisa K. Bowers

GAHANNA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE
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To: Residents of Gahanna;
Members of Council; Mayor Jadwin; City Attorney Ray Mularski
CC: Council Clerk Krystal Gonchar
From: Councilmember Merisa Bowers
Re: **Constituent Update - August Report**
Date: 09/07/2021

General Update - Events and Actions of August 2021:

- Attended Gahanna Division of Police National Night Out at Sunpoint Park on August 3
- Met with Commissioner Erica Crawley on housing issues impacting Gahanna
- Attended Royal Manor Elementary School PTO Pancake Breakfast and Grounds Clean up
- Attended Inaugural "Flow for a Cure" by the [Olivia Strong Foundation](#) at Friendship Park
- Promoted and invited Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio Exec. Dir. to present at Committee of the Whole (available here: <https://youtu.be/2QfDq7S92cA?t=352>)

Constituent Hours

September 7, 2021 at 5:30 pm at City Hall and via Facebook live

Per constituent request, I'll talk a bit about local government structure, the roles and functions of the different branches of our local government, and why it's important to vote in local elections (this year)! Questions, participation, and interaction encouraged!

September 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm via Zoom *Let's Talk Tax Incentives! Abatements, TIFs and Hubs, Oh My!*

Join Gena Shelton, Open Government and Transparency Manager of the Franklin County Auditor's Office, for a conversation about tools for the public to access data and information about property tax abatements, Tax Increment Financing and other tax incentives through the new Franklin County Auditor's Tax Incentive Hub. The Hub is a website that uses GIS technology to show details on every tax incentive in use in Franklin County.

For more on the Hub, see: <https://www.gahanna.gov/tax-incentives-hub-franklin-county-auditor/>

Participants can register to attend here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpFu-hrj0iE9b2jFbIGr4RxuPRPkUdAf3b>

Comments and questions are welcome!

A recording of the meeting will be posted on social media after it concludes.

You may sign up for periodic email updates from Merisa Bowers here:

<https://forms.gle/PMTu8eH5Fy4bN4Si8>

Constituent Issues/Concerns:

#1 Ward Maps/ GIS Down

Constituent asked about determining ward; noted that GIS was down.

Action:

Followed up with constituent via email; followed up to request IT assistance on GIS issue.

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#2 Home Security System Registration

Received email in July from constituent regarding home security system Alarm Permit requirement.

Update:

Will address with City and Police Department public information campaign regarding the need for Alarm Permits

(https://library.municode.com/oh/gahanna/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTSEVENBURECO_CH71_5ALSY).

#3 Gahanna Ward Redistricting

While attending various meetings, the issue of the census and redistricting has come up, including whether Gahanna would redistrict the wards based on the census data.

Discussions with Council Clerk regarding process to determine redistricting, and ordinance in Gahanna Charter requiring action by Council.

105.01 - DIVISION INTO WARDS.

The City of Gahanna redistricts its wards in a manner equitably balanced as to present population and voter registration statistics provided by the Franklin County Board of Elections and City of Gahanna records to prepare for the election of Council members to be elected from wards in the regular municipal election in 2013 and every four years thereafter.

(Ord. 0151-2013. Passed 11-25-13.)

Update:

As of 8/23/21 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Clerk of Council has obtained Board of Elections data regarding registered voters by ward; complete census data pending. Anticipate that once census data is received, Council can determine if the population remains balanced among the current Wards.

#4 Local Government Structure

Constituent requested more information/overview of local government structure

Action:

Dedicated time during Constituent Hour with information on Structure of Gahanna local government

Status:

Scheduled via FB live/in person for Tuesday, September 7

#5 Disc Golf Course

Update:

Follow up regarding interest and status of disc golf course from constituent; addressed desire for disc golf course during Capital Needs Assessment Discussion with Parks and Rec Director Farrell. Project and financing pending.

#6 Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Update:

Follow up with SWACO and Mifflin Township Fire Chief to include Gahanna/Mifflin Twp in October 23 Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Status pending.

#7 Vaccine Mandates and Proof of Vaccination

Received form emails from a couple constituents regarding vaccine mandates and vaccination proof.

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Response: No legislation is pending before Gahanna City Council to mandate any vaccine nor require proof of vaccination. Private business decisions are distinct from local laws.

#8 Update to Codification of Traffic Ordinances

Constituent interested in amending distracted driving ordinances to be more specific and decrease number of exceptions.

#9 Unsolicited Written Materials Ordinance

Received email update from constituent regarding distribution of The Bag after the new ordinance went into effect.

Response:

Offered assistance with follow up; determined that municode has not updated the ordinance online yet; requested information/assistance from Clerk of Council.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

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Gahanna City Councilmember, At Large

9/07/2021

