

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 Tamilarasan
CC: Clerk of Council Jeremy VanMeter
From: Councilmember Merisa Bowers
Re: **Constituent Update - March 2024 Report**
Date: April 12, 2024

General Update - Events and Actions of March 2024:

- Attended **Gahanna Community Chorus** community concert at Gahanna Lincoln High School on March 2.
- After lengthy discussions and consideration, supported and voted for **revised traffic code** that includes **increased penalties for distracted driving offenses that cause severe injury or death** on March 4.
- Coordinated **Women's History Month Resolution** in collaboration with Council Clerk and Councilwoman Jamille Jones and invited **Nurse Manager Jatu Boikai and State Representative Dr. Beth Liston** to deliver remarks on March 4.
- Followed up with Administrative staff to **implement uniform Councilmember newsletter distribution option.**
- Met with Gahanna resident and sustainability professional to discuss **sustainability policy** and approaches on March 6.
- Advanced and collaborated with Council Clerk and City Attorney to solicit applicants and appoint **trustees for initial New Community Authority** board for Crescent development.
- Throughout the month, researched and further discussed aspects of **proposed zoning code** including Accessory Dwelling Unit litigation with Bowling Green, OH City Attorney.
- Celebrated International Women's Coffee Day on March 7 with Ohio Women in Government's Coffee Networking Event.
- Coordinated with Council Clerk VanMeter and Administration Staff to **post Management Analyst position** for Council Office, began reviewing resumes of applicants with Clerk VanMeter.
- Listened to stories of recent and distant Gahanna history at the **Gahanna 175 Storytelling Event** at the Gahanna Sanctuary on March 8.
- Attended the **Columbus Chamber of Commerce Women in Leadership Luncheon** on March 12.
- Discussed **community choice aggregation** with Ohio Environmental Council Managing Director of Energy Policy on March 14.
- Attended **Sunshine Law Training Continuing Legal Education** Seminar on March 14.



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- Attended **MORPC State of the Region** on March 15.
- Spoke with **GLHS Government students** in Mr. Landon Smith's classes on Local Government, Gahanna government structure and community issues on March 19.
- Drafted a **[Gun Storage Safety Resolution](#)** in collaboration with Be SMART and Gahanna Division of Police; communicated with Valparaiso, IN Councilwoman regarding the concerns and discussions in passing a similar resolution.
- Coordinated with Council Office Staff on flyers/takeaways for State of the City event.
- Attended the **State of the City** at La Navona on March 28, spoke with residents, community organization leaders, and regional organizational representatives.
- Along with Councilwoman Jamille Jones, met with School Board President Kara Coates and School Board Finance Chair Daphne Moehring on legislative matters including gun storage safety resolutions, institutional zoning, and tax incentives on March 29.
- Hosted a **Constituent Hour** at the Gahanna Library on March 30.



Images from top: Gahanna Community Chorus performs at GLHS on March 2; Presentation of Women's History Month and Lucy, Betsey, and Anarcha Days of Recognition Resolution with Nurse Manager Jatu Boikai and State Rep. Dr. Beth Liston; Council Clerk VanMeter and Deputy Clerk McGuire interact with attendee at the State of the City.

Constituent Hours

Meet me at the **[Make Gahanna Yours Litter Clean Up](#)** on Saturday, April 20 at 9am at Friendship Park or the Gahanna American Legion Post 797 **[Walk In Our Boots 5k](#)** at 10am at Veterans Memorial Park!

Constituent Hour will be held Saturday, May 11 at 1:00 p.m. at the **[Gahanna Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library](#)**.

For updates on constituent hours and for periodic email updates from Councilwoman Bowers sign up here: <https://forms.gle/PMTu8eH5Fy4bN4Si8>

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

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Constituent Issues/Concerns:

1. Zoning and Code Enforcement
Reviewed email from constituent regarding RVs and trashcans visible in driveways; discussed with Councilmember Jones who addressed the issues.
2. Strawser Paving contract and 2023 incident
Received email from resident advising of minor crash in August 2023 with Strawser equipment; forwarded to administration for follow up; discussed via email with resident; resident advised he was contacted by Strawser and all was resolved.
3. Health Department Contact
Received request for contact information for Franklin County Health Department regarding business regulations. Responded.
4. Follow-Up on Prior Emails requesting street light placement
Corresponded with administration regarding constituent request for additional street lights; Administration requested placement by AEP.
5. Bright Blocks
Received requests for information and interest regarding prior and upcoming Bright Blocks projects at Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Merisa K. Bowers
Merisa K. Bowers
Council President
Gahanna City Councilwoman, At-Large
April 12, 2024

