

## JAMILLE JONES

City Council,  
Member At Large

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## May/ June 2025

As summer unfolds, I'm feeling grateful for the energy of our community, the stories you've shared with me, and the chance to celebrate meaningful milestones together. From our very first Juneteenth celebration to thoughtful conversations at Popsicles in the Park, it's been a busy and rewarding few months around Gahanna.

## Gahanna Juneteenth: A Celebration of History, Culture & Community



Gahanna Juneteenth volunteers

In past newsletters, you've heard me speak about planning Gahanna's first-ever Juneteenth celebration. On June 14, that vision came to life!

Gahanna Juneteenth was a beautiful day rooted in history, joy, culture, and connection. From the Thioassane Institute African drummers and dancers who opened the program to Gifted Hands Drumline that closed the show



to the performers, poets, musicians in between, every moment reflected the spirit of celebration that Juneteenth represents.

I want to express deep gratitude to the key partners who helped bring this event to life:

- Freedom Sponsors Elevated Wealth and Franklin County Board of Commissioners as well as a host of other sponsors and community member
- Visit Gahanna, with special thanks to Lori Kappes, Jarod White, and Theresa Emch
- Gahanna Parks & Recreation and the Gahanna Division of Police for their hands-on support in creating a safe, welcoming experience

A very special Thank You to the Juneteenth Committee, a dedicated group of volunteer residents who've been working alongside me since October. What began as an idea grew into something meaningful and community-driven, thanks to their creativity, heart, and commitment.

To the 160+ community members who joined us, you made this day unforgettable. You are the reason this matters!

We're already dreaming about what next year can be. Gahanna Juneteenth is now a part of our city's story and we're just getting started!



Hope City Records  
Artist - Harmony



Thiossane West  
African Dance Institute



Gahanna Lincoln High  
School Lionettes

## Connect With Me

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This summer, I am slowing the pace to rest, recharge and spend meaningful time with my family. As a result, my constituent hours will return in September. In the meantime, I'd love to connect with you at a community event or one-on-one. Feel free to reach out via email or phone to find a time that works. I hope you also find time this summer to rest, recharge, and reconnect with what matters most to you.

## Getting to Work

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### Highlights of Actions, Projects, and Initiatives

- Recognized May as ALS Awareness Month in Gahanna to uplift those affected by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease
- Renewed the School Resource Officer (SRO) contract with Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools for the 2025–2026 school year
- Approved the 2025 Sidewalk Maintenance Lookback Program
- Adopted new electric vehicle charging station fees as part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability in the community

- Celebrated 25 years of CHLOE, Inc. and honored founder Connie Nafziger's powerful impact on young mothers and families in our community
- Met with Gahanna's new Economic Development Director to support his onboarding and share my vision and priorities for the city's economic growth
- Drafted and sent a letter to state legislatures advocating for fully and fairly funding Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan
- Recognized June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in Gahanna
- Commemorated Gahanna's inaugural Juneteenth celebration and was honored to receive a commendation from State Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio in recognition of the occasion
- Attended a Town Hall hosted by 10TV to hear directly from residents about issues impacting their lives
- Hosted a family-friendly Constituent Hour, Popsicles in the Park, where residents of all ages shared ideas on what they'd like to see in our community

### Resident communication topics included:

- Requests for more pickleball Courts in Gahanna
- Feedback on the proposed pre-annexation agreement near Johnstown and Morse Rd
- Concerns about repeated poor-quality repairs to driveway aprons following roadwork
- Questions about US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) vehicles observed in local neighborhoods



Council members Bowers, Jones, Padova, & Weaver join Sr. Director Vollmer to present a joint proclamation & resolution to Lori Kappes of Visit Gahanna

## About Town

### Recap of community events and activities

**5/1:** Connected with organizations focused on mental health and explored available resources at the **Gahanna Mind & Wellness Fair**

**5/3:** Celebrated Gahanna's standing as the Herb Capital while shopping local vendors at **Herb Day**

**6/14–6/15:** Enjoyed live music, local art, and vibrant community spirit at one of Gahanna's signature events, the **Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival**

**6/18:** Attended **In This Together**, a community conversation on youth mental health for parents and caregivers

**6/21:** Attended the **Wynkni Alston Foundation Mental Health Summit**, supported in part by the city's Community Grant Program

**6/21:** Served as a panelist at **LEAD Ohio's Bootcamp**, discussing local government hot topics with aspiring candidates and campaign staff

**6/26:** Celebrated love, visibility, and inclusion at **Gahanna Pride**



Council members Jones, Bower, & Weaver at Gahanna Pride

## In the Know

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### 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.
- **Receive agendas** for council and board/commission meetings via email.
- **Watch online.** All council and board/commission meetings are streamed live via the city's Youtube page.

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

