

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 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
Re: **Constituent Update - August Report**
Date: 09/08/2020

General Update:

Constituent Hours were held on August 3 (Friendship Park) and August 17 (Virtual).

I am participating in the Courage to Run 20 miles in 20 days program, which launched on August 25. We have a virtual team of about 15 participants who are running to raise awareness of the importance of having women serve in elected office. The 20 miles culminates in a 5k on September 13. I have enjoyed running with other Gahanna residents during the beautiful weather we have had recently.

You may sign up for my email updates here: <https://forms.gle/PMTu8eH5Fy4bN4Si8>

Constituent Issues/Concerns:

#1: Car Break-Ins

Concerns regarding another uptick in car break-ins, particularly around western and southern Gahanna.

Action:

Reviewed communications from Mayor's Office and Police Department; emailed for follow up with Chief Spence. Received emails

Response:

Support public awareness and education campaign to encourage people to lock their cars and not leave valuables in vehicles. Encourage and support bicycle patrols and continued neighborhood patrols.

A reminder to all: firearms should never be left unsecured in any location, including an unlocked car. Stolen firearms present a significant danger to children.

#2: Gahanna-Specific COVID-19 Rate

Received email from a constituent regarding whether we had data for COVID-19 rate in Gahanna.

Action:

Reviewed concern and responded to Constituent.

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Response:

Franklin County Public Health is tracking by zip code.

https://public.tableau.com/views/COVID-19OutbreakSummary_15918845768300/COVID19Summary3?%3Adisplay_count=y&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AshowVizHome=no

As of August 6, the statistics were as follows:

ZIP code:	43230
	Number of cases: 513 - 779

Rate (Cases per 100,000 pop):	1072 - 1459
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Please see: <https://covid-19.myfcph.org/> for more information from Franklin County Public Health on COVID19 in our area.

#3: Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area - Creekside/Old Gahanna

Received emails from constituents regarding the proposed DORA at Creekside.

Action:

Reviewed and responded to emails.

Response:

Though most constituents who communicated regarding this issue were supportive of the DORA, those who were opposed or hesitant expressed concerns about noise, family-friendliness, and safety at Creekside. Given these concerns, I reviewed the statutes and communicated with City Administration and City Attorney regarding modifiability should we see concerns. We had also received input from Chief Spence earlier in the year, who affirmed the department's review of the proposed DORA.

Will monitor arrests, police reports, or liquor permit violations over the next year and reassess if concerns arise.

#4: Resident Concern - condition of roads - Hannah Park Drive

Was copied by a resident on an email to Director of Public Service regarding concerns over condition of Hanna Park Drive.

Action:

Reviewed concern and response from Director of Public Service & Engineering.

Response:

Replied to constituent and offered to further discuss if desired.

#5 Resident Concern - Receipt of Anonymous Letter

Action:

Reviewed email; reviewed response from Chief. Responded to resident.

Response:

Pending; requested status update.

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#6: GAAC OAC ArtSTART Grant

Received a letter from Board President Kevin Dengel of the Gahanna Area Arts Council notifying the City of the receipt of the 2021 ArtSTART Grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

Action:

Congratulated Mr. Dengel and the entire Board on the receipt of this grant.

Response:

No further action required.

#7: Council Discussion regarding Minutes

Received correspondence from constituents regarding the issue of the July 20, 2020 minutes.

Action:

Reviewed emails and opinions expressed by constituents. Drafted statement to assist with explaining concerns and position.

Response:

No further response necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

Merisa K. Bowers

Gahanna City Councilmember, At Large

09/08/20

