

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: Director of Parks and Recreation Stephania Bernard-Ferrell;
Chief of Police Jeffrey Spence;
Communications Manager Carrin Wester;
Council Clerk April Beggerow
From: Councilmember Merisa Bowers
Re: **Constituent Update - March Report**
Date: 04/06/2020

General Update:

Coffee with Council was held on Saturday, March 7 at Tim Horton's on Agler Road with Mayor Jadwin and 6 of 7 council members in attendance. There was strong community attendance, and robust discussion.

In-person Constituent Hours were suspended in March due to the social distancing requirements that were rolled out mid-month. "Virtual" Constituent Hours on March 16 and 23 were scheduled through Facebook.

Prior to awareness of scope of pandemic, Playdates at the Park were scheduled for April and May. These events have been cancelled, though I hope to schedule these community hours later in the year.

I attended Westerville Councilmember Valerie Cumming's Coffee Talk on Tuesday, March 10 to learn about Westerville's municipal composting program.

Constituent Issues/Concerns:

#1 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Resident interested in offering choreographed dance outside, not in a park.

Action:

Issue-spotted with resident, referred him to Chief Spence for further discussion and to make GDP aware.

Response:

Suggested some proactive things the resident could do to help prevent neighbor complaints.

#2 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Received a few resident inquiries about extension of municipal income tax return deadline.

Action:

Texted Finance Chair Michael Schnetzer; texted Mayor

Response:

Mayor responded that Ohio Tax Commissioner issued an order extending local income tax returns, which RITA adopted and published on its website. The City updated this information on

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its website too. I shared this information directly to constituents who inquired and posted on social media.

#3 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Affordable Housing

Received a message from a constituent referencing an article about Metropolitan Holdings project in Olde Towne East neighborhood of Columbus

Action:

Forwarded article to Councilmembers.

Response:

Constituent voiced her support of including requirement for affordable housing. No response requested.

#4 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Executive Orders/Code Change

Received feedback from constituents about proposed code change and Declaration of Emergency Powers

Action:

Emailed to Mayor and City Attorney with questions in advance of meeting; addressed points of concerns and obtained information from neighboring municipalities.

Response:

Provided a Statement on the proposed ordinance and matters before council; emailed statement to constituents and posted on social media. Discussed and amicably negotiated changes to proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

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Gahanna City Councilmember, At Large

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