

**2020 STATE OF THE CITY
CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, OHIO**

Good evening and welcome to our 2021 State of the City Address and Meet the Mayor event. This evening I will be presenting the city affairs and information pertaining to 2020, as well as highlighting some current events taking place in our community. I am pleased that we are finally able to do this in person, rather than through a video. Before we begin, I would like to introduce our Council President, City Council members, Chiefs, Department Heads, Lyndhurst Municipal Judge, as well as representatives from our district.

- Council President At Large – Lisa Stickan
- Council At-Large Member – Ed Hargate
- Council At-Large Member – Sean Milroy
- Ward 1 Council Member – Carol Ganser
- Ward 2 Council Member – Frank DiLalla
- Ward 3 Council Member – Anthony DeLisio
- Ward 4 Council Member – Ann D’Amico
- Regina Cahill, Clerk of Council
- Police Chief James Cook
- Lyndhurst Municipal Court Judge – Dominic Coletta
- Fire Chief William Turner
- Finance Director – Joe Filippo
- Law Director – Tim Paluf
- City Prosecutor – Michael Lograsso
- Building Commissioner – Dale Grabfelder
- City Engineer – Brian Mader
- Service Director – Brian Belfiore
- Recreation Director – David Ianiro
- Executive Assistant – Jolene Greve
- Community Center Coordinator – Sunni D’Angelo
- Receptionist and Highland Heights Seniors Coordinator – Mary Velotta
- Sunny Simon - Member of Cuyahoga County Council
- Dean Hayne - Regional External Affairs from First Energy Corp.
- Jeff Jowett – Senior Watershed Team Leader, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
- Charley Cicco – Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

As the Mayor of the City of Highland Heights, it is my responsibility to prepare an annual State of the City report for the residents and businesses of our community. I am honored to be your Mayor

and to call the City of Highland Heights my home. Our city is a close-knit community that is a wonderful place to live, raise a family, work, or even own a business.

Not only do we realize the unique and special qualities our city has to offer, but in 2020, Cleveland Magazine once again recognized our city as a Top 20 suburb in their annual "Rating the Suburbs" report. This rating is based on many factors including safety, the quality of school systems, walkability, and median home values, amongst other factors. In addition, the City of Highland Heights was rated as one of the Top 10 wealthiest suburbs according to Crain's Cleveland Business. We appreciate this recognition, as this type of positive PR greatly increases the desirability of our community when prospective home buyers and businesses are looking to relocate.

Recognition like this would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of all the city departments and staff, as well as each and every resident taking pride in making their community a great place to live, so that we can continue to be "The City with Pride and Promise".

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The City of Highland Heights remained financially strong in 2020 with a General Fund balance of just over \$7.75M. Due to the pandemic, our local city taxes were down approximately \$356K or 3%. The city received \$424,000 in CARES Act funding, with most of those funds allocated to the Fire Department for equipment. These funds were also used for touchless equipment, sanitizing supplies, and technology upgrades throughout our park and municipal complex.

Last year, one of the most important achievements in my administration was a forward-thinking solution to aid small businesses in Highland Heights. I, along with my Administration, City Council, and our Economic Development Committee, developed a Small Business Relief Economic Grant Program, aimed at providing some relief from the temporary loss of revenue and normal operating expenses due to COVID-19. Our intent was to assist our local small businesses to help pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, utilities, and any other bills that could not be paid due to the impact of the pandemic. This grant helped 33 small businesses in our community, with a grant ranging from \$250 - \$2500, totaling \$66,500. I was extremely proud of this initiative to help our small business owners during this challenging time.

Our tax base grew stronger due to the expansion of our commercial businesses. Progressive Insurance continues to expand within our city, with the purchase of an additional building on Alpha Drive. Completion of that renovation is expected in the summer of 2021. In addition, Norman Noble is also expanding with the purchase of a 3rd building on Avion Park Drive. Despite the current state of business during this pandemic, the city of Highland Heights remains an optimal location for new businesses.

We were pleased to welcome Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital to the City of Highland Heights. Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital, which has their main location in Copley, near Akron, will be

completely renovating and moving into the former Lancer Insurance building on Alpha Drive. They are due to open in late Summer /early Fall of this year. The City of Highland Heights entered into a CRA agreement with Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital, which will be bringing in over 65 employees by 2025.

I am also excited to announce that Lake Business Products moved their headquarters to Highland Heights early in January 2021. The city entered into a grant agreement with Lake Business Products, which will be located on Miner Road in the former Alloy Bellows building. Lake Business Products will be bringing 70+ employees to our community, and we welcome them to our great city.

The City of Highland Heights welcomed several new retail businesses to our community this year. Poke` Fresh restaurant opened in the former Qdoba's location on Wilson Mills Rd., next to Panera. Beyond Juicery & Eatery and Fitness Together opened next to Chipotle (on Wilson Mills Rd), and La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant opened in the former Pizza Fire location, in the Shoppes at Alpha, this past Spring. The outbuilding on Wilson Mills Road was also completed in 2020 and is home to Dunkin' and Panini's Bar and Grille. In what has been a challenging year for our local restaurants in a COVID kind of year, variances were given, where possible, to our local eateries to enable them to provide outdoor dining.

As COVID halted some of our events in 2020, Highland Heights remained committed to its residents, and safely opened summer recreation programs and our swimming pool. We also held our annual outdoor "Music at the Gazebo" events, giving residents 3 different opportunities to relax and enjoy great music. Despite not being able to host traditional indoor events, we got creative and drove our Easter Bunny and Santa Claus around town in our ladder truck, as well as a special trip through town to commemorate Memorial Day in lieu of our traditional service. Additionally, we held a Halloween Candy Maze in the city park and welcomed residents in a drive-through event to see Santa Claus and his live reindeer. We also participated in an abundance of birthday parades lead by our police and fire department vehicles, and a welcome home parade with the Mayfield Wildcat Marching Band. Our residents were overwhelmingly grateful for the opportunity to experience some sense of normalcy.

One of the memorable events I had the privilege of taking part in last year was the Highland Heights Garden Club Gold Star Memorial Dedication. The Gold Star Marker is issued through the National Garden Clubs and honors the men and women who lost their lives serving our country in the Armed Forces. The Gold Star Marker is located along the east walkway to the gazebo.

As a part of learning how to migrate through Covid safely, I participated in bi-weekly calls with the surrounding community mayors as well as the President of Hillcrest Hospital, Dr. Richard Parker. The intent of these calls was to provide updates on hospitalizations and capacities of the Cleveland area hospitals. It also gave each Mayor the opportunity to discuss different

methods of how to keep our employees safe, while continuing to provide superior services for all our communities. I am extremely grateful for Dr. Parker's knowledge and commitment to the community. To date, we still engage in a monthly call.

While the subject remains sensitive, in 2020 we engaged in discussions with the community regarding our deer population. We presented a Town Hall meeting and a city-wide survey regarding the direction of how our residents wanted to see our wildlife situation managed. Roughly, 80% of our residents showed support in moving forward with a Deer Management Program. With that being said, we safely and successfully culled 100 deer.

Although our Senior Programs were put on hold for the majority of last year, myself, along with the Highland Heights Seniors Commission, offered two different holiday takeout meals for our Seniors to enjoy. The response was overwhelming, as our Seniors were most appreciative for a delicious meal at a reasonable cost.

Building Department

The Building Department, under the direction of Building Commissioner Dale Grabfelder, has a full-time Building Inspector, and a full-time Administrative Assistant. The Building Department personnel are fully certified by the State of Ohio Board of Building Standards to enforce the Ohio Building Code and Residential Code of Ohio for the safety of all residents and businesses. The department handles the issuance of all permits for both residential and commercial construction.

In 2020, the department issued 804 residential permits (8 for new home construction) and 153 commercial permits. These permits generated total receipts of \$249,550 with an estimated construction value of \$10.4M.

In 2020, a Residential Rental Program was implemented. From the information obtained through the county, we had a total of 87 rental properties within the city. Of the 87 rental properties, we were able to register 42. Of the 42 registered rental properties, 64 inspections/re-inspections were performed. Our goal for 2021 is to make sure all rental properties are registered with the city.

The Building Department is responsible for enforcing all zoning laws, property maintenance codes, storm water management plans, including roadside ditch and rear yard swale maintenance, and the issuance of right of way permits. Last year, the department issued 204 violation notices, primarily identifying violations, and enforcing of our zoning code and residential and business maintenance codes. As in year's past, high grass and commercial vehicles parked in residential driveways were the most common violations.

Fire Department

The Fire Department, under the direction of Chief William Turner continues to provide superior services to the residents of our community. Chief Turner has served our community for over 32 years, the last 13 years as Chief. In addition, Chief Turner is also the Emergency Coordinator for the City. As emergency coordinator, Chief Turner is responsible for planning, developing, and implementing city-wide policies and programs related to emergency management in order to meet County, State and Federal mandates.

The Fire Department has a Public Protection Classification rating of 2, with a rating of 1 being the highest, as issued by ISO. Less than 75 departments in the state are rated a 1 or 2. In addition, the department has received the "Mission Lifeline" Gold standard award from the American Heart Association for pre-hospital cardiac and stroke care provided to our residents.

Our fire fighters are cross-trained and provide both fire suppression and advanced emergency medical care. Our paramedics operate under the medical control of University Hospitals, but they will transport residents to any local hospital, under normal circumstances. The department also provides fire prevention, public education, hazardous materials response and mitigation, technical rescue and preparedness and response to both man made and natural disasters.

In addition to providing fire suppression and emergency medical services, the department is also a member of the Heights-Hillcrest Technical Rescue Team. The team comprised of approximately 75 Firefighter/Paramedics from the cities of Beachwood, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Gates Mills, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Pepper Pike, Richmond Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, University Heights, and Willoughby Hills that are trained in specialty rescue. The team specializes in Swift Water Rescue, Building Collapse, Confined Space, Ice, Dive, Trench, Rope and Tower Rescue.

The Fire Department continually receives praise from residents and hospital staff for their outstanding pre-hospital care. As part of a community outreach effort, Highland Heights Fire Department provides no cost CPR/AED, First Aid, Stop the Bleed and Fire Extinguishing training to both residents and businesses within the city. The department continues to work with and support the efforts of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The Fire Department also sponsors Boy Scout Troop 461 and provides on-site aluminum can recycling for the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC).

The current compliment of the department is twenty (20) fulltime members and approximately six (6) part time members. This includes one chief, one assistant chief, four lieutenants and fourteen firefighters. The department operates on a 24 hour on, 48 hours off basis with a minimum of four firefighters per shift.

Police Department

The Police Department is headed by Chief James Cook who is responsible for the overall effective and efficient management of the Department. He is assisted by the Lieutenant, Administrative Assistant, and Communications Specialist.

The Department consists of 45 employees, 26 are sworn police officers and an additional 19 civilian and part-time employees. The Department's organizational structure consists of an Administrative Assistant to the Chief, Detective Bureau, Patrol Unit, Jail Facility, Communications Specialist, Records Unit, Communications Center and School Crossing Guards. Emergency services are provided by the Police and Fire Departments through a 24-hour dispatching center located in our Communications Center.

Our department is Nationally Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Known as the "gold standard", less than 4% of the country's police departments have earned this award. To remain compliant, an annual remote and site-based assessment is conducted by CALEA to review standards that show proof and documentation of compliance, reviewing our policies, personnel, the procedures, and activities of our officers while on duty in the community, and other critical measures of compliance with the applicable standards, and living the spirit of those standards in order to continue its CALEA Law Enforcement Accreditation status.

The Department is annually assessed by a team of law enforcement executives who inspect facilities, policies, and procedures. Currently the Department completed in July (2021) its four-year major assessment. It consisted of a detailed review again of all facility security, policies, procedures and interviews with officers and community members concerning the delivery of services to the community. The assessment focused on Use of Force, Communications, Internal Affairs, Evidence and Property and Community Involvement Programs. The department was found in compliance and received recommendation for National Accreditation. The Accreditation award by the Commission for Law Enforcement will continue for a four-year period to 2025 with annual web-based reviews.

Throughout 2020, with the uncertainty of the health effects of Covid-19, all employees of the Police Department continued to provide excellent service, following guidelines for their safety. All 2020 Department goals and objectives were met with success. The department promoted their Special Needs, Residential Security Surveys, Care Call and Community Policing Initiative programs. Officers are aware and vigilant checking homes for unlocked vehicles, open garage doors or valuables left outside. Officer Gurdy Dhillon, the School Resource Officer (SRO), returned to his assignment at Millridge Elementary in August after the school closed in the Spring. He was in the school facility every school day and served as a positive role model for the students as well as assisting with any problems that occur within the school, on the school grounds, and is available to those students who are in virtual learning.

Officers were able to complete mandatory training through our in-house and online resources in Ethics, the Jail Facility, Certifications, shooting range of Use of Force. Our Jail Facility again received State Certification as a twelve-day facility as excellent with no violations. In 2020, there were 110 inmates incarcerated in the Facility for a total of 4,218 hours during the year. This is a significant decrease in the total number of hours that we had prisoners in our Jail Facility and a direct result of Lyndhurst Municipal Court's closure.

The City continued its inclusion in a Deer Management Plan with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and a permit was issued to harvest white-tailed deer to safely and humanely manage a biologically and socially acceptable deer population.

In 2020, the Police Department had approximately 13,574 requests for service. These requests break down as follows:

Assistance to Criminal Events	529
Assistance to Citizen Conflict	285
Assistance to Traffic Safety	3,222
Assistance to Emergencies	3,492
Assistance to General Duties	5,724
Assistance to Jail Activities	322

Our city recognized several retirements in 2020. Sergeant Francis Kingzett retired after 30 years of service with the Department. Our City Prosecutor Dan Taylor also retired after serving in this role for 23 years in addition to two years as Ward 1 Councilman. Another major milestone took place in 2020 as our Chief of Police James Cook celebrated 50 years as an employee of Highland Heights. In addition, he celebrated another major milestone, having served as Chief of Police for 30 years. Chief Cook was presented with resolutions and Proclamations from other various government officials, along with a personal note from Governor DeWine.

Service Department

The Highland Heights Department of Public Service serves a growing community of more than 8,400 residents, with more than 3,400 homes, and over 200 businesses. The department is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the publicly owned infrastructure and public land, including more than 90 lane miles of roadway, 52 miles of storm sewer drainage and 112 acres of public property. The department interacts with the City's safety forces and other departments as well as county, state, and federal agencies to coordinate a wide range of services in the community.

In 2020, the Highland Heights Service Department underwent an administrative restructuring after the retirement of 20-year tenured Service Director, Thom Evans. The new administration began in April 2020 with the appointment of a new Service Director, new Assistant Service Director, and the creation of the general foreman's position.

The Department is comprised of a staff of nine full-time servicemen, part-time and seasonal employees, an administrative assistant, General Foreman, Assistant Director, and the Director of Public Service. Department personnel are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year, to respond to the emergency needs of the community. Under the leadership of Service Director Brian Belfiore, the Service Department is taking on a more active role of providing in-house services such as road repairs, park maintenance, fleet vehicle and equipment maintenance, sidewalk repair and replacement, year-round brush collection and tree trimming within the city's right of way. The Service Department continues to maintain a strong focus on providing exceptional services to our residents and businesses, while utilizing the most cost-effective measures.

In addition to programmed activities such as road patching, crack sealing, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, property maintenance, leaf collection, snow plowing, etc., the Department responded to hundreds of miscellaneous requests for service in 2020. Additionally, the Service Department provides residential collection programs at various times throughout the year for brush, computers, household hazardous waste, and shredding.

The City's curbside solid waste and recycling program is contracted through Kimble Recycling and Disposal Inc. Kimble has provided service to our city since 2004. In June 2021, the City exercised our second option year to extend our contract with Kimble which will expire in June 2022.

Since curbside recycling began a number of years ago, many changes have occurred in the recycling industry. Communities and recycling contractors around the country are facing higher costs and less demand for recycled materials. In our current contract, we do not pay a disposal fee for recycling materials; however, moving forward there is a trend of recycling contractors beginning to charge a processing fee as a way of recovering costs in a declining market.

In 2020, the department's operating budget exceeded \$2.5M and we assisted with the planning and management of \$2.1M in capital infrastructure improvements. Projects of significance over the past year included:

- Asphalt resurfacing of Roy, Renee, Esther, and Strumbly Drive. This also includes the waterline replacement on Strumbly Drive.
- Full depth concrete road repairs in Highland Woods East, and on Alpha Drive. In addition, the city's sidewalk replacement program took place in the neighborhood bound by Wilson Mills to the south and Bishop Road to the east.
- Crack sealing was performed on Wilson Mills Road from Lander east to the corporation line, and the city streets south of Wilson Mills Road, Maypine Farms Subdivision, and the Aberdeen West Subdivision.

The 2020 Road Program included four separately bid projects:

- The Asphalt Program
- Concrete Program (including sidewalks)
- Crack Sealing
- Street Striping Program

The Asphalt Program included paving repairs and asphalt resurfacing on Strumbly Drive, Roy, Renee, and Esther. The project included waterline replacement on Strumbly Drive which the city was reimbursed \$450,644.45 through CWD's Waterline Replacement Program. The project was completed by Mr. Excavator of Kirtland, Ohio at a cost of \$1,073,343.00.

The Concrete Program included full depth concrete repairs, catch basin repairs, sidewalk repairs, and other miscellaneous work in the following locations: Highland Woods East, Alpha Drive from Highland Road to Wilson Mills, and other miscellaneous locations.

Sidewalk repairs were performed on the following streets: Cheriton Drive, Kilbridge Drive, Radford Drive, Clinton Lane, Franklin Boulevard, Wilson Mills Road, Dewitt Drive, Bishop Road, Canterbury Lane, Glen Eden Subdivision, and the Aberdeen West Subdivision. The sidewalk repair costs were paid by the City without assessing property owners. The projects were completed by TC Construction of Willoughby Hills, Ohio at a total cost of \$268,371.15.

In 2020, crack sealing was performed on City streets south of Wilson Mills Road, Maypine Farms Subdivision, Wilson Mills Road and Aberdeen Subdivision. The project was completed by Aero-Mark of Streetsboro, Ohio at a total cost of \$154,611.00

The 2020 Street Striping Program was contracted to Pat Flowers Incorporated of Highland Heights, Ohio at a cost of \$38,023.23. The program included some striping work in the city park.

The department's in-house road repair program included miscellaneous road repairs, curb repairs, and catch basin repairs. Hot mix asphalt is used for patching and sealing of road surfaces in the summer and cold mix asphalt during cold weather months. Additionally, beginning in 2020, the Service Department began taking on full depth concrete road repairs. In all, the Service Department poured approximately 65 cubic yards of concrete in 2020. These areas included the following:

Sidewalk Block Replacement – Greenway Court, Blair, Gloucester Drive, Colony, Barkston/Rose, Sturbridge, Diana Court, and Davidson.

Curb Replacement – Ridgebury, Legacy, Burwick, and Gloucester.

Utility Openings – Cranbrook, Ransome, and Rutland

Asphalt Repairs – full depth asphalt repairs were completed at the intersections of Gloucester and Williamsburg, Gloucester and Blakely, and Sturbridge and Williamsburg.

In addition to the crack sealing performed by Aero-Mark through the 2020 Road Program, the Service Department was able to perform in-house crack sealing on Miner Road, Woodside, City Hall, and the City Park parking lots. The department hopes to expand this service in 2021 as funding and manpower permits.

The Service Department maintains an on-call staff available around the clock to handle snow plowing, deicing, and any other emergencies which may arise. During non-business hours, the Service Department relies upon the Police Department to advise when there is a need for service. The staff of ten full-time and two to four part-time drivers maintain approximately 92 lane miles of roadway and 22 lane miles of sidewalk throughout the city.

Community Park

Along with the Park and Recreation Committee, Recreation Director David Ianiro is responsible for planning and coordinating all the recreation events within the city. With the help of program managers, directors, commissioners, seasonal employees and volunteer coaches, the Recreation Department offers a wide range of quality recreational programs and entertainment for all to enjoy.

To coincide with the regular summertime park activities of baseball, softball, tennis, pickleball, swimming and Day Camp, the Recreation Department also offers special events each year such as Family Fun Nights at the Pool, the Neighborhood Bicycle Ride, and Family Movie Night at the Park.

The Community Pool, located within the park, is open to Highland Heights and Mayfield School District residents and their guests. The zero-entry pool is approximately 10,000 square feet. Residents receive our annual Summer Sizzler newsletter each Spring, which provides pertinent information on pool passes, swimming lessons, tennis lessons, Day Camp, and other summer activities. Residents may register in person at City Hall or by using the online registration link on our website at www.highlandhts.com. We are fortunate that our city offers such a wide range of quality programs and activities for children and adults of all ages to enjoy.

The Community Park is home to the annual Highland Heights Community Day. In 2020, Highland Heights celebrated its 100th Birthday. Our intent was to celebrate this major milestone at our annual Community Day. This one-day event is sponsored by the City of Highland Heights and includes food, fun and entertainment for all. The event concludes with a fantastic fireworks display to cap off the day of activities. Although this event was canceled last year, exciting plans to celebrate our 100th birthday are well under way and will take place on Saturday, September 11, 2021 with the return of our annual parade. Residents who are First Responders, Nurses, and Doctors will be honored as the Grand Marshalls.

In 2020, our final capital project was the renovation of the city's largest baseball field in the city park. Diamond #1, which is home to our Pony baseball field, needed upgrades for many years. This project included an updated drainage system, new fencing, new cement pads, new walkways, and a newly upgraded infield and enhanced landscaping surrounding the ball field.

City Hall/Municipal Complex

The City of Highland Heights was awarded a NOPEC Energy Savings Grant, in the amount of \$33,310.00. Funds received are to be used for energy related projects. In 2020, LED upgrades to the Service Department and 37 light poles within the City Park took place. Since all of the funds received in 2020 could not be utilized, they were carried over into 2021. This year, there will be window replacements at the Police and Fire Departments. In addition, several remaining light poles in the had LED lights installed.

In 2020, the Highland Heights Community Center remained closed for much of the year. City Council, along with most Commission meetings were held at the Community Center to be able to properly social distance yet conduct our necessary meetings safely. I am proud to say the City of Highland Heights only met fully remote for one meeting during 2020. The Community Center is available for rental by residents and businesses of Highland Heights. Community Center Coordinator Sunni D'Angelo is responsible for booking all events and activities at the Center. Information about the amenities and rental costs of the Community Center are available on our website at www.highlandhts.com.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold the annual Memorial Day Observance ceremony at the Veterans Peace Memorial in 2020, which would have been the 25th anniversary of the monument at this event. This solemn ceremony is a time where we respectfully honor veterans, current military personnel, and their families for their service to our country. In lieu of our normal program, a video timeline of the past 25 years of observances and the construction of the Veteran's Peace Memorial was shared with our residents. In addition, I, along with our Fire Department personnel, rode around through our town to recognize our veterans on Memorial Day.

The Highland Heights Community Garden, located on the municipal grounds, continues to provide residents of the city an enclosed area to grow their vegetables. The Highland Heights Garden Club is responsible for coordinating the rental of the garden plots, which includes two raised accessible plots.

City Council

As the former Council President, and Representative at Large, I can truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of each and every Council Representative currently in office. As Mayor, I look forward to continuing the good work with Council, and toward our common goal of serving the needs of the residents and businesses in this community in the best possible way.

Below is a list of our City Council members and the committees on which they serve:

Carol Ganser, Ward 1	216-870-3764	cganser@highlandhts.com
Frank DiLalla, Ward 2	216-849-4476	fdilalla@highlandhts.com
Anthony DeLisio, Ward 3	440-241-0747	adelisio@highlandhts.com
Ann D'Amico, Ward 4	440-461-4224	adamico@highlandhts.com
Edwin V. Hargate, At Large	440-473-5476	ehargate@highlandhts.com
Sean Milroy, At Large	216-212-4936	smilroy@highlandhts.com
President Lisa Stickan, At Large	440-759-1106	lstickan@highlandhts.com
Regina Cahill, Clerk of Council	440-461-2440	rcahill@highlandhts.com

Legislative and Finance: Lisa Stickan, Chairman

Ann D'Amico

Frank DiLalla

Safety and Service: Carol Ganser, Chairperson

Anthony DeLisio

Ed Hargate

Drainage: Sean Milroy, Chairperson

Ann D'Amico

Carol Ganser

Conclusion

In addition to serving as Mayor, I also serve as the Safety Director for the City. Many cities, similar in size, have mayors that also serve in this dual capacity role. Within the community, I currently serve as Vice President of the Suburban Police Anticrime Network (SPAN), Eastern Suburban Regional Council of Government. SPAN is a unit comprised of members from the following Hillcrest Police Departments: Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, and Richmond Heights. SPAN members are highly trained and skilled in special weapons and tactics, bomb squad procedures, hostage negotiation, accident investigation, and drug enforcement.

Within our school community, it is my pleasure to serve as a member of the Excel TECC Advisory Council, as well as the Advisory Council on Instructional Innovation. And finally, I also serve on the Council of Government for the Community Partnership on Aging (CPA). CPA is an organization that was established in 1978 (formerly the Tri-City Consortium on Aging) and was organized to meet the needs of senior adults, their caregivers, and families.

Despite remaining in a holding pattern from 2020 until restrictions were lifted, I and City Council are excited to share that we have been proactively looking at ways to enhance our community and park. One of these potential enhancements includes a walking trail from Bishop Road to our community park, as previously mentioned in the most recent section of our community newsletter, as well as Cleveland.com. I have begun working with the West Creek Conservancy, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, and OHM Advisors. Together, we are looking for the best ways to enhance connectivity in our community. A Town Hall meeting has been planned for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 to receive input from our residents, as it pertains to this project.

I and City Council are both excited to share that we have moved forward with many new projects in 2021. Just a few examples are:

- City Council Chamber Renovation Project
- Brainard Road and Wilson Mills Road Intersection Rehabilitation
- A new marquee sign at the park on Wilson Mills Road and upgrades to the City Park entrance
- Enhancements to all 6 ball diamonds

As your Mayor, I am remain invested in the continued success of our city, and I give you my word that we will continue to remain financially strong by remaining fiscally responsible in planning and will always provide the very best services to the residents and businesses of our community.

Sincerely Yours,

Chuck Brunello, Jr.