TO: Council Members
   City Directors
FROM: Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti
DATE: March 22 2019
RE: Administrative Update

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING:

A Community Services Committee Meeting was held this past Tuesday, March 19th at 4:30 pm, in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall. Chairwoman of the Committee, Councilperson Kathleen Kapusta put together a very informative agenda to keep on top of the various programs the Committee oversees.

In the Clerk of Courts absence, Chairwoman Kapusta provided committee members with an update which Angie put together of the various Drug Initiatives currently being implemented in the school district along with a snapshot of two upcoming presentations – a presentation on Vaping and Angst, the Movie.

Community Services Director Marilyn Senick and Recreation Director Tom Walchanowicz were also present to provide a 2018 End of the Year Review specific to their departments, as well as discussing some changes to the Community Services Capital Budget and issues relating to Ordinance 2012-40.

Thank you Kathleen for a great meeting!

U.S. MARSHAL’S TASK FORCE:

On Thursday, March 14th, Independence hosted the annual command staff briefing for the U.S. Marshal’s Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force Cleveland Division at the Independence Civic Center. Chiefs and Commanders from the
participating agencies were briefed on the Task Force’s 2018 accomplishments. 554 wanted felons were arrested by the Task Force in 2018 including 63 homicide suspects, 57 robbery suspects and 57 sex offenders. Independence Officer Jim Martin was recognized for his outstanding work as a member of the Task Force. Congratulations to Officer Martin for his great work! We are proud to have you on our team!

CHAMBER POWER OF MORE:

On Thursday evening after work the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber once again joined forces with the regional chamber, Power of More, at the Independence Holiday Inn. The Power of More is an affiliation of 9-local Chambers of Commerce that work together to provide additional value to its members. Thursday’s event actually had representatives from over 20 Chambers that came together for this networking event.

I was glad to stop in to show my support, extend the City’s welcome to the many attendees who came from across the region and enjoy a portion of the engaging atmosphere.

ROADWORK ON BRECKSVILLE ROAD:

Please be advised that a contractor for MCI began work on Brecksville Road this week to install a fiber optic utility. The work is being performed just north of the Selig Drive intersection. Daytime lane restrictions began this morning at 9:30 am for pavement saw-cutting across all seven lanes of pavement.

Overnight work will begin this evening beginning at 7:00 pm and will continue through the weekend Saturday and Sunday to excavate a trench across the entire seven lanes of pavement, to install the conduit. One lane of traffic will be maintained in each northbound and southbound directions at all times throughout the entire weekend utilizing steel plates. Delays can be expected and motorists should travel with caution over the bumps at the steel plate locations.

All lanes of traffic should be fully-restored and open sometime early evening on Sunday, March 24th, so as not to impact the Monday morning rush hour.

As always, thank you for your patience as this important infrastructure work is completed and please drive with caution in this area!
ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION NAMES INDEPENDENCE TREE CITY USA:

I am happy to share that the City Of Independence has once again been honored with the distinction of being named a Tree City for 2018. This recognition was earned by meeting the Tree City USA program’s four requirements: maintaining a tree board or department, having a tree-care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least $2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Congratulations to Service Director Leon Karas, Foreman Tim Tomko and our Service Department Team for continuing their efforts in meeting the requirements year after year achieving the Tree City USA honor for the last 18 years and counting!

INDEPENDENCE PRIMARY SCHOOLS HOLDS ANNUAL ART SHOW:

Independence Primary School held their annual art show on March 14. The theme of the show this year was “Arty Party” to celebrate the work the students put in during their time in the art room. The hallways of the primary school were lined with the artwork of students in kindergarten through fourth grade. The fourth graders created a mural in dedication of the Independence police and fire rescue responders, which was on display in the gym. The “Arty Party” included a DJ set up in the gym for dancing and a Kona Ice truck, which was selling shaved ice. The profits from the truck were going towards the leukemia and lymphoma society. The book fair was also open for business.
Members of the City of Independence Safety Forces pose with fourth grade students that created the above mural.

INDEPENDENCE LOCAL SCHOOLS' PENOHIO TEAM WINS FIRST PLACE AT VARSITY COMPETITION:

On March 16, Independence Local Schools' PenOhio Varsity Writing team won first place at the Varsity Writing Tournament at Wooster High School. Team members are Captain Colette Liepert, Co-Captain, Rachel de Haan, Jamie Musni, Kendall Travarca, and Elizabeth Bizon. Their coach is Jill Wagner.

These fine writers wrote three narratives in 120 minutes, earning 1,639 quality points out of 1,800. Colette Liepert led the team earning 286/300 points. Jamie Musni took a close second place with 285/300 quality points.

Photo at Right: Colette Liepert, Rachel De Haan, Jamie Musni, Emily Kaplan, Kendall Travarca, Elizabeth Bizon

COMMUNITY SURVEY FROM THE INDEPENDENCE LOCAL SCHOOLS:

In the coming weeks, you may receive a phone survey regarding the future of the Independence Local School district. This survey is being conducted by the Center For Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR). The goal of the survey is to gauge community support in the potential of renovating or replacing both Independence Primary and Middle Schools. Recently, the school district has received back state audits about the condition of both buildings, work needed
to maintain and possibly improve them, and held visioning meetings with community members to discuss both buildings, as well as what 21st century teaching looks like. The district will take the results of these surveys to help inform future planning. Thank you for helping us shape the future of our school district!

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY:

The City of Independence is hosting a “Community Shred Day” for any resident or City employee that may have paper/documents that they would like shredded. Residents or employees may bring their papers in bags or boxes (limit- 8 boxes/bags per household). Staples and/or small paper clips do not need to be removed. Documents are shredded “on site” and all shredding is recycled. The Absolute Shred truck will be set up in City Hall’s parking lot on Saturday, April 13th from 9am to Noon, or until the limit of 12,000 pounds is met. All City Departments may take advantage of this opportunity as well.

If there are any questions, please contact the Finance Department at 216.524.4131.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT “FRESH START PROGRAM”:

The Garfield Heights Municipal Court is helping people clear their outstanding court cases and get their driver’s licenses reinstated. The Court is initiating the Fresh Start Program. This is for people who have not paid their fines and court costs. As a result, the Court has suspended their driver’s license and issued a warrant for their arrest.

The Court is willing to give them a Fresh Start. It starts with the person paying $200 to the Clerk of Court. The person will get a release for their driver’s license and a date to come back to set up a payment plan for any balance due. “If the offender has multiple cases, the release will be issued on all cases with the payment of $200 being applied to the oldest case first,” Garfield Heights Municipal Court Judge Deborah Nicastro said.

The Fresh Start Program does not apply to offenders who failed to appear for a court date and they were never sentenced. “In these cases, the offender must post bond and get a new court date,” Judge Nicastro added.

But, as long as the person sticks to the payment plan, they will be considered in compliance and their driver’s license will remain valid. This is all done without any additional court proceedings or having to go before the judge again.
The Fresh Start Program also enables the offender to apply to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles for its Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Program. More information on that program can be found at www.bmv.ohio.gov/susp-fees-amnesty.aspx.

The Fresh Start Program runs until July 31st. It pertains to both outstanding criminal and traffic cases in the eight communities served by the Garfield Heights Municipal Court: Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Brecksville, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Newburgh Heights, Valley View and Walton Hills.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- A Council Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26th at 4:30 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall to discuss the City’s Rental Regulations.

- The April Planning Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd at 5:30 in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall.

- I will hold my monthly Mayor’s Listening Night on Monday, April 8th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in my office

- The Regular April Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th beginning with Caucus at 5:30 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Following are some highlights of recent activity, updates, events and/or statistics from various departments:

The Building Department Reported-

- 2 set of plans were sent to the Plans Examiner
- 4 Commercial Permits were issued
- 2 Commercial Inspections were performed
- 4 Residential Permits were issued
- 7 Residential Inspections were performed
- 5 Residential Inspections were performed by Brecksville (building/electric/plumbing)

The Engineering Department Reported- (Week ending March 15)

- Two Permits were issued:
  - 6426 Poplar Drive to repair a sanitary/storm.
  - Rockside Road for Mastec to install fiber optic cable.
Sanitary and Storm Lateral Inspections were performed and found to be compliant at
  - 7201 Hawthorn, Sublot 153
  - 7177 Hawthorn, Sublot 144

City Engineer attended the NEORSD’s Cuyahoga River North Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting at the Watershed Stewardship Center.
  - The Sewer District provided an update on Stormwater activities.
    - The Stormwater Master Plan for the watershed is being developed with the following parameters:
      - Study Area, Master Planning Status, Schedule, Upcoming Milestones, and early Action Items.
      - NEORSD’s Stormwater Inspection and Maintenance and Stormwater Construction Plan were also reviewed.

Resident notices were distributed regarding work on Brecksville Road for the Rockside Woods Boulevard North intersection with Brecksville Road project.

Final Bid Plans were prepared for the Brookside/Bramley Improvements Project.

Engineering met with the design engineers from CDM to review design plans and details for the Brettin Drive Improvements Project.

Engineering met with design engineers from Donald Bohning & Associates to review progress plans for the Upper Brookside Road Sidewalk and Storm Sewer Improvements.

Coordination efforts continue regarding the design plans for the Lafayette Subdivision Improvements.

A partial site walk-through was conducted with Pulte and their contractor to inspect the work and discuss the punchlist items for the Chestnut Woods, Section 3, Phase 5 Subdivision.

The Police Department Reported- (Week ending March 15)

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<th>Misdemeanor Arrests</th>
<th>Felony Arrests</th>
<th>Traffic Citations</th>
<th>OVI Arrests</th>
<th>Accident Reports</th>
<th>Calls for Service</th>
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The Fire Department Reported: (Week ending March 15)

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<tr>
<td>Squad Responses</td>
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The Recreation Department Reported- (Week ending March 15)

- **Saturday March 9:**
  - The Girls 5th and 6th grade All-Stars event took place in the Civic Center gym.
  - A Tucker Neale Basketball rental took place at the Fieldhouse Saturday from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm using all four courts.

- **Sunday, March 10:**
  - The finals of the Tucker Neale Twin Cities Classic Basketball Tournament took place at the Fieldhouse from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm using all four courts. Total revenue was $4120.

- **Monday, March 11:**
  - Recreation took possession of the new Precor EFX 835 Elliptical cardio workout machine to replace a 7 year old machine. The new machine offers more adjustability and increases workout options.
  - A meeting was held with area Athletic Directors to discuss and explain baseball league information to another City who would like to join our summer fast pitch league.
  - Farnham Equipment Company was on site at the Fieldhouse to perform routine basketball backboard and rigging safety inspections and preventative maintenance.

- **Tuesday, March 12:**
  - Recreation staff prepping the City’s ball diamonds for High School use.
  - Farnham Equipment Company was at the Civic Center to perform basketball backboard and rigging safety inspections and preventative maintenance.
  - Indy Fit program in collaboration with the Cleveland Clinic began this day at the Fieldhouse.

- **Wednesday, March 13:**
  - Some Recreation staff attended the O.P. Aquatics Workshop and seminar at the Strongsville Community Center to view, discuss and sample products from various pool vendors.
  - I.H.S. Girls’ softball teams practiced on diamonds 1 and 2.
  - Staff began safety inspections on the City’s ball field bases and then cleaned and repainted them as needed.

- **Thursday, March 14:**
  - 4 new LeMond Rev Master Cycling Bikes were added to our facility. The bikes are primarily used for cycling classes but can be used at any time by Civic Center patrons.
  - Staff prepared the High School Baseball Diamond for a scrimmage game.
Administrative Update
March 22, 2019

- **Friday, March 15:**
  - Table and Chair rentals for the weekend: 12 Tables and 54 Chairs going to 3 resident homes. Staff also delivered 15 Tables the Middle School for the weekend clothing re-sale.

The Community Services Department Reported- (Week ending March 15)

- **Afterschool/Campus Connection:**
  - 7 students enrolled in Campus Connection.
  - 81 students enrolled in Afterschool Program.
- **Youth Programs:**
  - Staff is cleaning house, organizing supplies and making plans for the upcoming season.
- **Adult Programs:**
  - 19 people attended a trip to the Cleveland Public Library on March 12th.
- **Community Resource Coordinator** assisted residents with various issues in addition to teaching 16 seniors Better Balance 4 Life and helping to run the bi-monthly Low Vision group.
- Various diagrams, posters, promo banners and Hometown Hero Banners were created.
- 623 remain on the Snowplow list.
- The department is in the process of preparing the May/June Spotlight.

The Information Technology Department Reported- (Week ending March 15)

- The IT Department closed 14 helpdesk tickets this week and handled 68 calls including 1 after hour’s event.
- In addition to helpdesk tickets, weekly project highlights include:
  - Completed switch over to Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center.
  - Resolved time sync issue with NAS devices.
  - Created 4 new user accounts.
  - Updated all NAS device firmware.
  - Ran software update for Finance Department.
  - Updated phone routes for the new dispatch center.
  - Updated wireless access point firmware.
  - Disabled all dispatch employee user accounts.