MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members and Department Directors

From: Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti

Date: November 10, 2017

Re: Administrative Update

CONGRATULATIONS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COUNCIL ELECT:

Congratulations to the six Council Members who were re-elected to serve another two years on our City Council and to Council-Elect Dale Veverka for his success in the election this past Tuesday!

It is evident that the dedication and commitment you have demonstrated to the City of Independence was appreciated by the residents. I look forward to working with every one of you over the next two years as we continue our efforts and make decisions to benefit our residents and the businesses that help us keep Independence as one of the most desirable locations in all of Northeast Ohio!

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC IS SWORN IN:

Part-time Firefighter/Paramedic Austin J. Dapis was sworn into a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic position on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 3:30 pm surrounded by the support of many family members, as well as the many new “family members” who adopted him into their professional brotherhood – the Independence Fire Department.

Congratulations again to Firefighter/Paramedic Dapis! You are a great addition to the many outstanding team members already on staff at the Independence Fire Department!
VETERANS DAY PROGRAM:

A big thank you to Director Marilyn Senick and members of her team for organizing a very special lunch on Wednesday, November 8th, in honor of our Veterans to celebrate Veterans Day this year. Over 100 people attended the lunch and listened to Retired US Army Lt. General Robert Wagner acknowledge the precious contributions these veteran brave men and women contributed to our country. Retired US Navy Captain Carl Asseff also provided some inspirational closing remarks regarding the importance of standing watch. Thank you to both Bob and Carl for being a part of this program.

A green light was also provided to those in attendance by General Wagner and his wife, PJ, in recognition of the program, “Greenlights On For Our Veterans” to show support and appreciation for our veterans and their service to our great country.

I would also like to thank Sean Dolansky for putting together a power point slide show extending our gratitude to each of our hometown heroes for their service. So much went into this program start to finish, and I am extremely grateful to all who contributed.
PLANNING COMMISSION/COUNCIL WORKSHOP:

On Wednesday, November 8th, City Council held a workshop to discuss a piece of legislation that would provide guidance for residential and commercial development proposed near steep sloping areas. Members of both Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals were in attendance as well. I would like to thank the members of the Utilities’ Committee for their fine work on this legislation and for bringing this important issue to the front of Council’s agenda. I look forward to continuing to work with Council, Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals to refine the proposed legislation.

In addition, the Planning Commission approved a request with a revision to consolidate three existing parcels into one parcel for the purpose of constructing a new home on Hillside Road.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A Public Hearing was also held on Tuesday, November 8th regarding a request for a change of use from U-6 to include U-3, to permit career development training and education at 5755 Granger Road. As a result, this request will be added to the regular Planning Commission Agenda at the December 5th meeting.

POTENTIAL RANDOM DRUG TESTING FOR STUDENTS:

On Thursday, November 9th, the Independence Board of Education held a public work session at Independence Middle School to discuss the issue of random student drug testing. The Board is seeking input from community members about the potential implementation of a random student drug testing program.

The special meeting consisted of presentations made by Joseph Pinjugh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Angie Zidanic, Clerk of Court and coordinator of 25 & Álive, Principal Bill McGuinness, and Jeff Stanton, Principal of North Olmsted High School, who has already implemented a student drug testing program very successfully.

Superintendent Hegedish has done much fact-finding on student drug testing policy options, including researching the experiences of other school districts in Northeast Ohio that have already implemented student drug testing policies. He also provided statistics from the recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey to support the need for discussion about this important topic.

No official action or potential board policy was enacted or voted upon at this work session meeting. The District is simply seeking public participation in this discussion and will hold additional workshops in the future for anyone who wishes to share their feelings or is interested in learning more.

Anyone having questions or comments should feel free to email Superintendent Hegedish at BHegedish@independence.k12.oh.us or contact him at the Board Office at 216-642-5850.
UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- The November Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 pm, while the Caucus is scheduled to begin at 5:00 pm.
- The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce is holding their annual State of the Region on Wednesday, November 15th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Holiday Inn, Rockside. Members - $25; non-members - $30. Register online at www.cuyahogavalleychamber.com or for more information, call 216.573.2707.
- A Town Hall Meeting to educate parents on how to keep their children from getting in harm's way with drugs and alcohol will take place on Wednesday, November 15th at 7:00 pm at the Independence Middle School auditorium. Speaker Rob Brandt who lost his son to an overdose in 2011 will be speaking to raise awareness about the devastating impact of addiction and to educate parents on the risk factors surrounding addiction. If you have children of ANY age, you will not want to miss this special Town Hall Meeting next week.

LIBERTY PLAYGROUND MEETING:

The Recreation Department held two public discussions this week regarding future improvements of Liberty Playground. Attendees were informed of various options of playground type, playground surfacing, potential attractions and features. A list of area playgrounds which has had new installations in the past five years was given to those in attendance, along with a plan to visit each of the sites to obtain feedback.

The residents who attended one or both of the meetings exhibited much enthusiasm for the project and provided valuable feedback of features they and/or their children would like to see. I will keep you apprised of any proposals or future meetings regarding this project as we hope to have a plan in place by mid-January of 2018.

CONGRATULATIONS I.H.S. GIRLS’ VOLLEYBALL TEAM:

The Independence High School Girls’ Volleyball team has advanced to the State Finals! To celebrate the team’s accomplishment, all schools were closed today as the team was scheduled to play at noon today at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. I attended a send-off ceremony yesterday at the high school to wish the girl’s Good Luck as they left the school bound for Dayton. An impressive show of support in tow followed as six school buses packed with enthusiastic students, teachers and parents also bound for Dayton were ready to cheer this outstanding team on to a State Championship victory.
A big thank you to Rita Glover and Mary Walsh who quickly organized a special program for the young children of many parents who work who would have otherwise been in school today.

Congratulations to the I.H.S. Girls' Volleyball Team, the City of Independence is proud of your accomplishments! Go Lady Devils!

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Following are some highlights of recent activity, updates, events and/or statistics from various departments for the week ending November 3, 2017:

The Building Department Reported:

- 1 Set of plans was sent to the Plans Examiner
- 7 Commercial Permits were issued
- 1 Commercial Inspection was performed
- 18 Residential Permits were issued
- 28 Residential Inspections were performed
- 2 Residential Inspections were performed for Brecksville (Building, electric)
- 1 contractor was registered for 2017, 608 registrations year-to-date
- 2 signs were removed from the Right-of-Way
- Results of the Architectural Board of Review Meeting November 2, 2017:
  - A proposed change of front entry and addition of porch were Approved for 5199 West Ash Road.
  - Proposed upgrades to exterior of building and signage were Approved for 5619 Brecksville Road (Spins Bowl/Verso Craft Kitchen).
  - A proposed installation of brick paver turn around in front of the house at 5708 Chestnut Road was Approved.
  - A proposed change of existing ground sign face was Approved for 6300 Rockside Road (WDW Realty, LLC).
  - A proposed removal of addition and replacement with four-season room and deck were Approved for 6207 Timberlane Drive.
  - A proposed new in-ground pool was Approved for 6000 Mackenzie Drive.
  - Two new single family dwellings were also Approved for Hawthorn Trace, Pulte Homes.
- Exterior Property Maintenance:
  - 248 Homes inspected
  - 4 Homes with violations
  - Streets inspected:
    - Greenwood Street
    - Hemlock Road
    - Hemoga Street
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- Cherry Street  
- Elmarge Drive  
- Filip Blvd.  
- Dora Blvd.  
- Delmur Drive  
- Hunting Lane  
- Rosewood Circle

- The Building Official attended the following:
  - Planning and Zoning Workshop
  - 2017 Ohio Building Code book distribution and update in Reynoldsburg
  - 2020 Census LUCA training

The Engineering Department Reported-

- The Engineering Department was informed of a potential road closure as a result of the planned replacement of the railroad crossing of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad located on Hillside Road.
  - A SwiftReach notice went out to the residents and businesses on Hillside Road, east of 21, as well as all the residents on Hemoga, Greenwood, Cherry, Hemlock and Twin Creeks. A News Release was also prepared and sent out to the appropriate media contacts.
- A Grade and Landscape Permit was issued to a new dwelling at 7154 Hawthorn Trace.
- A Right-of-Way Permit was issued for a new gas connection at 7700 Riverview Road.
- Work continues to progress on Oakwood Drive.
  - Fabrizi began driveway replacements starting on the west side of the street, working from Chestnut Road heading south.
- Engineering is working with R.E. Warner on the final ODOT comments relative to the Hemlock Trail project with the goal of having District 12 approve the plans so they can then be sent to Columbus for approval to advertise to go out to bid.
- Pavement Technologies, a subcontractor for Chagrin Valley Paving, applied Penetrating Surface Sealer material on the following recently paved areas:
  - City Hall Parking Lot
  - City Hall Annex Parking Lot
  - Selig Drive
  - Delmur Drive
- The City Engineer attended a Municipal Engineers Association of Northeast Ohio at which asphalt pavement preservation techniques and treatments were discussed.
  - Void-Reducing Asphalt Membrane (VRAM) was presented for longitudinal joint treatment to prevent and retard premature joint deterioration.
- Catts Construction will be performing concrete joint and slab repairs and catch basin repairs the week beginning November 13th at the following streets:
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- Ivandale Road
- North Renwood Road
- Great Oaks Parkway
- Butternut Ridge
- Magnolia Overlook
- Cypress Point
- Arbor Ct.
- Bartlett Cove

The work is expected to take a couple of weeks, weather permitting. Two-way traffic will be maintained while the work is being completed.

The Fire Department Reported:

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<tr>
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<th>Week</th>
<th>YTD</th>
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<tr>
<td>EMS Incidents</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Incidents</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mutual Aid:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engine Responses</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Squad Responses</td>
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The Police Department Reported:

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<tr>
<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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>432</td>
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The Clerk of Courts reported the following statistics for October 2016 versus October 2017:

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<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tickets Written</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traffic Cases</td>
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<td>212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Cases</td>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVI Cases</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felony Cases</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parking Cases</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine &amp; Costs Collected</td>
<td>$40,001.00</td>
<td>$38,120.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Check to City</td>
<td>$30,575.00</td>
<td>$28,822.00</td>
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The Community Services Department Reported:

- After School – Field House Current Enrollment 87
November 10th School Holiday Program: “Go Blue Devil Day”
  • 29 children attended the program created to assist parents due to schools being closed.

November 22nd School Holiday: Castle Noel

Winter Camp: four out of eight camp days are already maxed out at 40 students.

• Campus Connection
  o 17 Children participating
  o Children working on Holiday Fest decorations

• Time for Us Program (2-5 year olds)
  o The program’s theme was migration and hibernation. Children came to the program dressed in their pajamas and brought their teddy bears. When they arrived they had a bear maze to complete on the table and then made a bear cave for their bears. They recessed into the bear cave (pop-up tent with lights) and read a story.

• Funtastic Friday – Troll Movie
  o Participants enjoyed the Troll Movie in the Willow Room. During the movie they ate popcorn and made Troll Hair Headbands. They also played a Troll Dice Game and had coloring pages and dot-to-dot activities.

• Community Resources:
  o Better Balance 4 Life – last class – 11 residents attended
  o Assisted residents with utility providers and Medicare Part D prescription plans.

• To date, 513 Residents are registered for Snow Removal.

The Recreation Department Reported-

• Cee Lusk and April Lemke attended a 9-hour training session to renew Lifeguard Trainers on Saturday, 28th.

• Fall League Basketball took place at the Field House on Sunday, October 29th. Concession Stand sales totaled $497.

• The last rental of the Kiwanis Pavilion took place on Sunday, October 29th.

• Met with a vendor to obtain pricing on an automatic door opener for the main door at the Kiwanis Pavilion.

• Met with a representative from a vendor to see a demo of a new machine for the purpose of sanitizing the restrooms.

• Reviewed the landscape plan and layout that was drawn up by the City Planner for the Civic Center.
  o The hope is to begin removing the old bushes and plantings early next week, weather permitting.
• Table and chair deliveries for the upcoming weekend totaled 12 tables and 73 chairs to three different residences.

• Independence had 2-teams take first place in our Suburban Recreational Soccer League. 
  
  **Congratulations** to:
  
  o Boy’s U-9 team coached by Kevin Snyder
  o Girl’s U-9 team coached by Luke Patacca

• The I.H.S. School Swim Team started its full season with 35 swimmers.

• Tech Services installed 6-new Zurn shower faucets in the men’s locker room which shut off automatically after they are activated.

• A new group of swim lessons started this week with Wednesday and Saturday combined. Approximately 65 children were registered.

• Recreation financial activity totals from rentals, concession stands and lessons for the month of October 2016 versus October 2017:
  
  o 2016 - $22,149.90
  o 2017 - $22,596.50

Technical Services Department Reported-

• The Field House Lighting Project is complete. The foot candles on the courts are tripled at maximum level and are able to dim the level to 10% for maximum efficiency.

• All campus boilers have been serviced and room temperatures continue to be monitored.