TO: Council Members  
City Directors

FROM: Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti

DATE: November 8, 2019

RE: Administrative Update

INDY HONORS OUR VETERANS:

A big thank you to Director Marilyn Senick and members of her Community Services team for organizing a very special lunch on Thursday, November 7th in honor of our Veterans to celebrate Veterans Day this year. Close to 200 people attended the patriotic lunch including 60 Independence Veterans. All branches of the military were represented, and remarkably, someone from each of the wars our country has been involved in was in attendance.

Our esteemed speaker for the event was Retired US Army Lt. General Robert Wagner and Vice Mayor Dave Grendel was present to express my sentiments and acknowledge the precious contributions our veteran brave men and women contributed to our country.

A commemorative pin was presented by General Wagner and Vice Mayor Grendel to each of our veterans who were in attendance as a small token of the City’s gratitude for their service. In addition, 37 Hometown Hero Banners that are being retired this year were presented to the Hometown Hero and/or a representative of that Veteran who were present. Thank you to Bob and Gayle Rudary for their assistance in presenting the banners to their sponsor.

My sincere gratitude to all the brave men and women who have given of themselves to serve our great country. We would not be the country we are today without your sacrifice and service! It is with great pride and a sincere heart I wish each and every one of you a very Happy Veterans Day!

On a final note, I would like to extend my gratitude to Retired US Army Lt. General Robert Wagner for his unwavering dedication to our country and to our community which he has demonstrated on more occasions then I can count ever since I have known Bob. Also, to Vice
Mayor Grendel for the generosity of his time and support whenever he is called upon. And last but certainly not least to Jason and Crystal Jardine, owners of Vodrazka Funeral Home for their extreme generosity in sponsoring the lunch for yesterday’s event. It could not have been more appreciated!
INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:

As part of the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Program, the City of Independence hosted high ranking dignitaries from the Democratic Republic of Congo at the Civic Center this past Thursday. A number of local Mayors from the Cuyahoga County Mayor and City Manager’s Association were in attendance including Mayor Ed Kraus of Solon, Mayor Susan Renda of Moreland Hills, Mayor Mike Gammella of Brookpark, Mayor Richard Bain of Pepper Pike, and Mayor Castelli of Middleburg Heights. Topics of discussion included transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption in government. The City of Independence is
honored to have had the opportunity to host this meeting which engaged these international leaders in an extremely interesting discussion with some of our local government officials.

HONOR A VETERAN WREATH PROGRAM:

We are happy to let you know that our new Veteran Wreath Program has been well-received and orders are flooding in to purchase a Holiday Wreath for a loved one, friend, neighbor or a specific veteran you would like to honor this Holiday Season. This year we only have 150 wreaths to go around so don’t hesitate if you are interested in purchasing one of these wreaths.

A brief ceremony to dedicate the wreaths is being planned for National Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, December 14th at 1:00 pm at Maple Shade Cemetery.

If you are interested, please check out the order form provided in the November edition of the Independence Post. The wreaths will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis and the deadline to order will be Wednesday, December 4th. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call my office at 216.524.4131.
INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY THEATER PRESENTS “HELLO DOLLY”:

Independence Community Theater is presenting the musical theater classic “Hello Dolly!” during the month of November. Directed by Richard Todd, Musical Direction by Gregory Paparizos and Choreography by Debbie Conway and Emily Sindyla.

In 1880’s New York, a rich and cantankerous widower by the name of Horace Vandergelder is on the lookout for a wife. To help him on his quest, he engages the services of professional matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi, but little does he know that Dolly has his perfect match in mind from their very first meeting - herself. Now all she has to do is make Horace realize it as well.

The play runs November 8, 9; 15, 16 at 8 pm and Sunday, November 10 at 2 pm

Tickets are $12 at door. Reserve by calling 216-447-0443
The theater is located at 6652 Brecksville Road in Independence. This show kicks off the 2019-20 season.

BEST WISHES FOR AN ENJOYABLE PERFORMANCE! BREAK A LEG!!!!!!

~ Anthony
YULETIDE HOLIDAY DRIVE:

It is that time of year again when we send letters to members of our business community to humbly ask them to participate in our Yuletide Hunger Program. Businesses that are interested in contributing to this Holiday Drive may contribute using one of the following options:

- **Donating non-perishable food items** that can be dropped off at the Civic Center.
- **Cash donations/Gift Card donations** can be mailed to the Yuletide Hunger Program, 6800 Brecksville Road, Independence 44131. Target or Walmart are always appreciated as they cover food, clothing and toys.
- **Adopt a Family** – By providing a gift card(s) to a needy family to make sure there are presents under their Christmas Tree. Call Marilyn T. Senick, MSW, at 216.524.7373 no later than Wednesday, November 14th, to be assigned a family.
- **Volunteer to be a Bell Ringer for the Salvation Army** at the Giant Eagle in Broadview Heights. Call Marilyn T. Senick 216.524.7373 for dates and times.

However, please know that residents are also invited to contribute to this program that will help local families who may have fallen on hard times for one reason or another. Any and all donations, no matter how small, will touch the heart of someone in need and let them know someone cares about them this Holiday Season.

The deadline for all donations is **Friday, November 29th**.

BMV REINSTATEMENT FEE AMNESTY INITIATIVE:

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles has extended its reinstatement fee reduction and waiver program for offenders whose driver’s licenses have been suspended for specific violations. Eligible offenders can apply for a fee reduction, or anyone enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can apply to have their fees waived entirely. The program aims to give drivers who cannot afford to pay their reinstatement fees, sometimes totaling several thousand dollars, an opportunity to become valid and drive legally on Ohio roads. This year, the BMV has waived over $61 million in reinstatement fees for over 80,000 drivers.

The Mayor’s Court has taken this opportunity to attempt to resolve old cases by reminding offenders they can clear up their case by paying the waiver amount or, for mandatory court appearances, call to set up a court date.
The initial program ended on July 31, 2019, however, it was so successful, the BMV resumed accepting applications effective yesterday, October 17, 2019. The program will run through December 31, 2019. For details on how to apply for a reduction or waiver of fees, visit https://www.bmv.ohio.gov/susp-fees-amnesty.aspx. Applications can also be completed in person at a deputy registrar license agency https://www.bmv.ohio.gov/locations.aspx.

Applications must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2019, to be eligible for the reinstatement fee amnesty initiative.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- Support the Independence Firefighters Local 2375 and the Independence Firefighters Association for this year’s “Stuff the Ambulance!” Saturday, November 9th from Noon to 4:00 pm. Help stuff the ambulance with dry/canned foods for families in need at the Independence Discount Drug Mart (parking lot).
- Please join me for Mayor’s Listening Night this Monday, November 11th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in my office at City Hall should you have a question or concern you would like to address with me one on one.
- The November Planning Commission that was scheduled for last Tuesday, November 5th will be held this coming Monday, November 11th at 5:30 pm beginning in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall.
- The November Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall. Council Caucus will begin prior to the regular meeting at 5:00 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall.
- The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their State of the Region Address on Wednesday, November 13th at 11:30 to 1:00 pm at the Holiday Inn Rockside.
- A Utilities Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, November 18th in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall at 4:00 pm.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

The Building Department Reported- (Week ending November 1)

- 2 sets of plans were sent to the examiners.
- 5 commercial permits were issued.
- 22 commercial inspections were performed.
- 8 residential permits were issued.
- 39 residential inspections were performed.
• An Occupancy Permit was issued for 6888 Bradford Circle, Pulte Homes for a 3,547 sq. ft. single family dwelling.
• 3 new contractors registered for 2019.
• 5 signs removed from the right-of-way.
• 0 Residential Rental Registrations for 2019/118 Registrations to date.
• Building Official attended and was a speaker at a Home Builders’ Meeting.

The Engineering Department Reported- (Week ending November 1)

• Engineering notified NEORSD Watershed Team Leader of a failure of a culverted steam pipe beneath Liberty Way. A plan of action as formed to move forward with repairing the pipe failure on an emergency basis.
• Two (2) Right of Way Permits were issued.
  o One (1) to WOW for installation of cable.
  o One (1) to Dominion for a gas connection
• A Driveway Permit was issued to 7820 Hillside Road.
• Site Plans were approved for a new dwelling at Sublot 94 on Bradford Circle.
• A parking lot renovation plan for the office building at 6400 Rockside Road was received.
• Dominion/HM Miller Gas Main Replacement Project on Brecksville Road (from Rockside Road to Longano Drive) is substantially complete.
  o Roadway pavement was restored.
  o All lanes to traffic should be reopened this week.

The Fire Department Reported: (Week ending November 1)

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• Mutual Aid:
  o Engine Responses 0 7
  o Squad Responses 0 22

The Clerk of Courts Reported- (October 2018 stats vs. October 2019 stats)

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Independence had the honor of hosting the 2019 regional Amber Alert Conference at our Civic Center on October 30. Gina DeJesus was one of the featured speakers, and this amazing woman has overcome horrible tragedy to dedicate her life to giving a voice to our most vulnerable victims. The Cleveland FBI also provided a presentation on their Child Abduction Response Team (CART). A big thank you to my good friend Newburgh Heights Police Chief John Majoy for his great leadership in putting this conference together. 350 cops, dispatchers and other public safety personnel attended. None of this would have been possible without the support and sponsorship of the Hue Jackson Foundation, Thank You!

The Recreation Department Reported- (Week ending November 1)

Saturday, October 26:

- 10 tables reserved at the Kiwanis Pavilion.
- The ICAN! Halloween Dance took place at the Civic Center with over 45 people at the event. Fun was had by all!
Sunday, October 27:

- Fall Fun Nights attracted over 70 residents for a night of hayrides, concessions and other activities for children.

Monday, October 28:

- Staff performed a safety inspection of all playground equipment and surrounding areas.

Tuesday, October 29:

- Recreation began working on re-cutting and leveling the areas of the ball diamonds where the infield meets the outfield grass line to help keep our fields in top shape.

Wednesday, October 30:

- Set up and tore down for the Amber Alert presentation organized by the Police Department which had over 300 law enforcement professionals.

Thursday, October 31:

- A Retirement Party was held for one of our employees (Joe Skiba) who has worked for the City for almost 30 years. Joe worked for the Service Department in the 80’s and then began working at the Civic Center when it first opened in 1992. Congratulations Joe! Enjoy your retirement!

Friday, November 1:

- Staff cleaned the park campus of all the debris from the heavy winds the night before.
- Halloween decorations were taken down, cleaned and put away in the proper storage locations.
- Fieldhouse was set up for the coming weekend’s volleyball rentals.

The Department handled 42 calls for assistance and closed 30 Helpdesk tickets including 2 hours of night and weekend events.
The Technical Services Department Reported-

- They have been busy with the change in the weather calibrating the boilers and shutting AC units down.
- The City Hall Courtyard was pressure-washed and sealed including the serpentine walls.
- A new metal roof was installed on the comfort station near the Kiwanis Pavilion.
- All comfort stations were winterized and the sprinkler systems evacuated. The outdoor drinking fountains were also removed.
- The outdoor pool has been winterized.

*Have a safe and enjoyable weekend!*