

Mayors Report

March 2020
Year 3 Month 3

The COVID 19 virus has ravaged our country devastating practically every major population in the world. In the United States the pandemic has forced a once active nation, to shelter in place while compelling those in self-quarantine to spend hours on-end considering what will be the new normal when the crisis subsides.

As I write the Mayor's report to the residents of the Village, the state of Ohio has recorded 4782 positive cases of Corona virus and 167 people have succumb to the illness. In spite of these dreary statistics, I remain encouraged because I am working with men and women who demonstrate daily, that they choose to use their gifts for the best interest of Woodmere and its residents.

Moreover, members of the administrative team have collaborated with, and joined forces with, individuals and organizations who want to help our first responders during this difficult time; our goal is to ensure our employees are safe. The resonating theme of our nation is that **"We will get through this together"**.

The following bullet points highlight the work of the Mayors' office since the March 13, 2020 council meeting.

- Collaborated with neighboring Mayors, Kathy Mulcahy Orange Village, Richard Bain, and Martin Horowitz Beachwood with respect to mutual aide during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Participated in numerous conference calls with Mayors and City Managers, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, Ohio Governor DeWine, Dr. Acton, County Executive Armond Budish, and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. The information gleaned is being used by the finance department to further the Village's response to COVID 19.
- The Administration was awarded a \$50,000 for a Supplement Community Block Grant from Cuyahoga County.
- Established an ad-hoc committee entitled "Friends of Woodmere Village". These professionals are soliciting PPE donations from foundations, corporations, and area dentists. To date, they have procured surgical mask for village first responders and administrative staff; the group is also providing technical strategy to jump-start the Village economy once Governor DeWine lifts the 'stay at home" executive order.
- The Administration is providing residents with mailed information about first responder protocol, and service department procedures, and village building closures during the pandemic.
- The Administration is engaging in frequent communications with Village businesses and property owners and encouraging residents and municipal neighbors to patronize Woodmere restaurants during the pandemic.
- Discussed in a social media forum initiatives and concepts to reinvigorate Village business with Molly Gerber, Executive Director of the Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce.
- Interviewed by reporter Karlynn Wells of Spectrum News Network about the importance of Census 2020 and why the Village of Woodmere is deemed as a hard to count population (HTC).
- Responded to resident concerns pertaining to weather-related power outages at the end of March and April 7, 2020.
- Provided a proclamation of condolences to the family of former Woodmere Village police officer Bennie R. Baker. **Officer Bennie Ross Baker, Badge #23 - End of watch - March 19, 2020.**

The administration continues to use all available outreach mechanism possible to serve the community and be responsive to the needs of Village residents.

In closing, we are reminded of the words of President John F. Kennedy: *"In a time of domestic crisis, men of goodwill and generosity should be able to unite regardless of party or politics."*



Benjamin I. Holbert, III
Mayor/Safety Director