



Report of the Mayor

Benjamin Holbert III

June 10, 2020

Year-three/Month 6

Report

COVID-19 continues to have an impact on the people of our country and Woodmere Village. The safety and service departments continue to protect our citizenry and employees through appropriate security measures and sanitation procedures.

I, along with Chief Brewington, stay in frequent contact with the Village medical director and participate in briefings with Southpointe doctors about the spread of COVID 19 and safety precautions to keep staff and residents free from the dangers associated with the Corona virus.

The Ohio Department of Health reported 353 new cases of novel coronavirus June 6, which is lower than the 21-day average of 507. Ohio now has a total of 38,111 reported cases of COVID-19. However, a spike is projected in June and July due to mass protest in Ohio.

Due to the recent protest and civic unrest in downtown Cleveland the safety divisions received ongoing intelligence relative to subversive efforts of protesters. While Chief Mason devised plans the counteract lawlessness- I stayed in close contact with business owners and residents to minimize fears and anxiety.

The discussion with a Village Business owner gave birth to a conversation leading to a planned peaceful vigil by Woodmere residents.

We continue to receive legislative updates and financial information through Mayors and Managers. Financial information is funneled to Mr. Cornhoff and Mr. Foley. We were also participants in a briefing by Mayor Frank Jackson and Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams.

Highlights and projects of significance:

- Woodmere was a featured participant in a caravan recognizing 2020 graduates of Orange High School. Councilwoman Nakeshia Nickerson drove her vehicle and I also drove my car in the 90-car processional. Councilwoman Walker's grandson, Scott Minor is a 2020 graduate. Councilwoman Walker and her family lined the parade route to cheer on the graduates.

Councilmembers Walker and Nickerson participated in a ceremony at Village Hall recognizing 12 Village graduates. The Mayor recognized the students with words of encouragement, medallions, and a proclamation from Congresswoman Marcia Fudge. Woodmere has students who will attend Spelman College, Morehouse College, Ohio State University, Thiel College, and the United States Navy, several other institutions of higher learning.

- The Mayor received a termination letter from ONSOLVE. This is an emergency community notification program. Based on the recommendation of the Law Director this matter will be handled by the Administration.
- Staff continues to meet and strategize on procedures for Mayors Court for Tuesday, June 16 and Saturday, June 27.
- May 22 the Mayor participated and received certification from the State of Ohio for Sunshine Law and Open Meetings Requirement.
- June is World Elder Abuse Awareness Month. The County urges residents to wear purple every Friday to spread the message of keeping seniors and elders safe.
- Census 2020 in Woodmere Village as of June 10, 2020 is 49.4%. The response rate in Cuyahoga County is 62.2% If the response rate in Woodmere does not increase significantly, the recorded population of the Village will be less than 500 residents. The undercount will have a significant impact on Woodmere's financial wherewithal.
- Saturday, June 6th, the Mayor and Councilwoman Nickerson walked the Village encouraging residents to complete the Census questionnaire. Individuals who do not complete the form can expect a census taker to come to the address for an in-person interview. **The Census is Quick and Easy; It's Safe and Secure. The U.S. Census Bureau keeps answers confidential.**
- *The Development Department wants to move forward with the Master Plan. COVID 19 delayed the final presentation to Woodmere Village Council.*

At the suggestion of Utility Chairman Tennyson Adams, the administration is requesting that representatives of the County have time on the agenda at the July 2020 Council meeting to share findings and offer recommendations. The administration will recommend the 2020 Master Plan under first reading.

The Master Planning grant was for \$50,000; the last time the Village had a Master Plan update was 1999.

- Council voted to suspend payments to the Webmaster. The administration made the request to Utilities Chairman Tennyson Adams to restore this utility at the Utility Committee meeting. This request was made June 9, 2020. The Village website has been dormant since May and there have been no updates to the site.

The website is a public source used by the administration and Clerk of Council and required for **public notice** – the **official minutes of council** -- as well as **planning and zoning proceedings**. The Village website also provides the public with information relative to the building commission and safety and service divisions.

This concludes the report in progress.



Benjamin I. Holbert, III
Mayor/Safety Director