



Report of the Mayor

Benjamin Holbert III

July 7, 2020

Year-three/Month 7

Report

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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.

The Ohio Department of Health reports a total of 55,150 cases of COVID-19 that includes 2,718 deaths. There are 11,939,442 cases worldwide and 545,580 deaths throughout the world.

- Tuesday, Governor DeWine ordered a mandate of wearing face coverings in all counties designated as “Red Level 3” Public Health Emergencies. Cuyahoga County is in the Red Level designation.
- Today, Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers discussed the mask mandate, CARES Act money, and the significance of the color-coding system on local governments. The County Executive introduced legislation yesterday but he referred the matter to “committee” for further discussion. Cleveland’s Mayor introduced legislation over the weekend but his order is NOT enforceable without Council approval.

A resident on Maplecrest informed the Service Department of evidence of coyotes in the Village.

The issue of abatement is of concern because Ohio wildlife has provided permission for Coyotes to be dispatched. However, the use of personal firearms for this purpose has been reviewed by the law department and deemed inappropriate. Safety forces have the authority to dispatch wild animals.

Highlights and projects of significance:

As of July 7, 2020, the Census 2020 response rate in Woodmere Village is only 49.6%. The response rate in Cuyahoga County is 66.5%. If the response rate in Woodmere does not increase significantly and the final recorded population is less than 500 residents — Woodmere’s undercount will have a significant impact on the Village’s financial wherewithal. For every person **NOT COUNTED** amounts to a loss of \$1800 annually in Federal Funding.

As stated in the Treasurer Consultant's report, following the Finance meeting of June 29, the Mayor made contact with Governor DeWine's office. Subsequently, we were notified that the Governor did — in fact — signed **H.B. 481** on June 19 despite the pandemic and then paving the way for the Village to receive \$215,000 for the 'Village of Woodmere Chagrin Valley Gateway Pedestrian Trail.

These dollars when added to the \$50,000 Supplemental Development Grant will fund the trail project. Incidentally the project is an important agenda item for County Executive Armond Budish and will connect Woodmere to our municipal neighbors.

Moreover, according to Tim Robinson, manager in the office of real estate for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, "I would not see any reason why the Village could not proceed with construction this fall. **Even if our (administrative) process is not complete by the time the Village is ready to begin the project**, it is permissible to start the Capital project prior to having an executed contract. We are able to reimburse for expenses prior to the contract being executed as well."

Engineer Ed Hren and Tom Cornhoff are moving forward with this vital project.

- June 11th the Mayor spoke at the Orange Schools BLM program organized by Woodmere Village student resident Kailen Giles-Watkins.
- June 12th, in cooperation with Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth (**SAFY**), the administration presented a graduation drive-by ceremony to a juvenile graduate of Orange High School living in Woodmere. The student is a minor client of SAFY. She was surprised by the outpouring of support.
- June 12th the Mayor participated in a crisis communications forum for Cuyahoga County Mayors on COVID 19 presented by Bruce Hennes Associates.
- June 13th, at the invitation of the Women Fighting for a Greater Cleveland and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the mayor participated in a rally and this 2020 Census awareness project. There were roughly 400 people in attendance and we were joined by numerous elected officials including State Senator Sandra Williams, State Representative Juanita Brent, State Senator Stephanie Howse, County Councilwoman Shontel Brown, Cleveland Councilman Blaine Griffin and Richmond Heights Councilwoman Kim Thomas.
- June 18, had a teleconference with Karen Wivell about enhancing relationships between Woodmere Village businesses and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). The agency representative says more than 50 Woodmere Village businesses qualify for System Award Management (SAM) through the Federal Government program.
- June 19th the Mayor attended and spoke at the Juneteenth Candlelight Vigil organized by Woodmere Village residents. The event was held at the Gazebo.
- June 19, the Mayor was one of several elected officials in Cuyahoga County invited to a special screening of "Just Mercy" on Juneteenth. The program was presented by community business leader LaRese Pernell and Associates.

- June 26, participated in the Mayors Roundtable on COVID 19 hosted by University Hospitals.
- July 1, the Mayor attended the National League of Cities Mayors virtual conference on entrepreneurship. The Zoom event was aimed at attracting small business startups to cities following COVID 19.
- July 2nd, I met with Moreland Hills Mayor Daniel Fritz to discuss collaborative efforts between our communities.
- Beachwood Mayor Martin Horowitz underwent heart surgery Monday for a bacterial complication. On behalf of the administration and citizens of the Village of Woodmere the Mayor extended well-wishes to Mr. Horowitz on a speedy recovery.
- The Cuyahoga County Development Department will present recommendations created by the Master Plan Steering Committee at July 14th Planning and Zoning Meeting at 7:30 PM. Woodmere residents and the general public were informed of this program through an article in the Chagrin Valley Times and through direct marketing.

This concludes a report in progress.



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Mayor/Safety Director