



Report of the Mayor

Benjamin Holbert III, Mayor

Economic Development:

The administration continues its important work with Village Developers. We are working on several projects that are in line with the three platforms that the administration articulated at the onset of our term.

- **Economic Development in the Village**
- **Beautification of the Village**
- **Promotion of the Village**

The administration is collaborating with the mayors of Pepper Pike, Orange Village and Beachwood on a project aimed at benefiting Woodmere Village and the entire the region. Congresswoman Fudge of county officials have been given an overview of the projects and are supportive of the Woodmere Village-led initiative.

The administration is working with the County on a store front renovation grant to assist our businesses reface dated facades.

The County and the Master Planning Steering Committee continues to do significant work on behalf of the Village. Public Hearings are forth coming at the Orange Recreation Center.

b) Marketing/Communications update

We have sent letters of congratulations to the new executive director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library and the new General Manager of the Regional Transit Authority welcoming them to provide service to Village of Woodmere, the region, and our collective community.

The Mayor has received about a dozen or so mailed letters of well-wishes for selection to Leadership Cleveland Class of 2020. Social media has recorded 150 responses and nearly 5000 views to post announcing the 67 community leaders selected in the competitive process.

c) Summer Festival

There are 27 days before the village festival. We have two sponsors. We appreciate their support.

Unfortunately, several major brands that operate in the village have declined to support the festival.

In some cases, they said they did not have ample time to submit the sponsorship package to the corporate office for approval -- while others have simply decline to participate.

Vicki Dansby has secured a slot on Fox eight news in the morning couple of days prior to the event where the administration will be able to promote the Village and the festival.

Page | 2

d) Other Village Project updates

Service Director Frank Paparone. Will be talking to the finance committee about the issue of adjusted compensation for service department personnel. By most standards these employees are not compensated on-par to other communities

Mr. Paparone could be at-risk of losing these employees to other opportunities --- should a more competitive wage be offered by another employer. We recognize Ohio is an at-will employment state – we would also ask Council to look again at the wage scale to ensure that committed employees with institutional knowledge are able to enjoy a reasonable and competitive wage in the Village of Woodmere.

For several months and the Mayor and the Village Human Resource Specialist I've been working to find a Chief Building Commissioner. It has been a matter of compensation and a diminished number of professionals who hold the necessary certification.

I spoke with the South Russell Mayor and we believe a joint service agreement may be the way to go for smaller municipalities. Details of the challenge and correspondence from Mayor Koons is attached.

- We re-state again that the Village needs to secure a Grant writer. There are numerous opportunities for the Village to secure funds for various initiative and without a qualified individual or firm to represent our interest we are missing out on thousands of dollars. Today we Have (Start here **Alexandra Ehrett McCulley & Company 216-282-5794**)

The Mayor and Human Resource Specialist have vetted several individuals and firms that provide grant writing services.

The administration sent an email and a letter to members of the finance committee to determine if representatives of a firm could come and address the finance committee about the value of securing grants — however we did not receive a response from the committee.

During the recent heat wave village hall served as a cooling station. In ministration purchased refreshments and snacks for residents who needed the accommodations.

The mayor, Police Department, and others village employees traveled throughout the village on days where the heat index exceeded 100 degrees

When we encountered people standing at the bus stop, working in their yards, sitting on their porch, or walking the dog, we offered them a cold bottle of water and a snack. Heat exhaustion is dangerous and we did this as a service to our residents.

Our village may be small but there are things that we can do other municipalities cannot do or will.

This concludes the report of the Mayor.