



**Report of the Mayor**  
**Benjamin Holbert, III**  
*May 12, 2021*  
*Year-four/Month 5*

- Monday, May 10, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act. This program will deliver **\$350 billion for local governments** to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring back jobs. The Village of Woodmere has the need – but lacks the bench strength to adequately apply, or compete in this competitive distribution process. The administration strongly recommends a grant writer become engaged to advocate on behalf of the Village.
- The Mayor engaged McCaulley & Company for a one-month contract beginning April 1, 2021. The company is a strategic consulting and professional services firm working on government relations, business development, public relations, and resource development services. Federal earmarks have returned for Congressional approval and the village administration is leading a region effort as requested by the county where funding is necessary for a feasibility study. The administration has also been in conversation with Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs to assist in the project.
- April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor participated in a conference call with Dr. Margaret McKenzie, Medical Director of South Pointe Hospital. The Mayors and Managers discussed ongoing efforts to address COVID 19 and the vaccination of constituents in the Southeast side of Cuyahoga County. Nearly 9M doses have been administered state wide with 36.5% of the Ohio population being fully vaccinated. It is possible for people who have been fully vaccinated to still contract COVID 19. Medical professional strongly advises continuous use of mask and handwashing precautions.
- Administrative team participated in a county-led program addressing first responder stress in the workplace and in one's personal life. The theme, "**In this family, no one fights alone.**" This was an insight seminar on the anxiety that is real for the men and women who protect and serve.
- The administrative team in collaboration with the members of Village Council plan to recognize 2021 high school graduates of the Village of Woodmere in a public ceremony. Date and time to be determined.
- Motorist exiting northbound on I-271 and Chagrin will now see signage directing them to Village Square and Eton Mall. Following a conversation with CCO of Stark Enterprises, the Mayor conferred with the Service Director and the marker was placed in front of the Dollar Bank building 26949 Chagrin Boulevard. In the month of May and June expect to see more beautification projects spouting up around the Village.
- May 6, the Mayor presented a virtual town hall meeting on community where Village residents could discuss the Pinecrest Development in Orange Village. We were pleased to have the Mayor of Orange Village, Kathy Mulcahy and Building Commission Robert McLaughlin and Law Director Stephen Byron answer resident questions about the project. A representative of the Ohio Department of National Resources discussed the issue of dangerous wildlife, specifically, coyotes.

This concludes the Mayor's report in progress.