



Report of the Mayor
Benjamin Holbert, III
March 9, 2022
Year-five/Month 3

⇒ The mayor was appointed to the Senior Transportation Board (STC) Board of Directors. STC provides comprehensive, coordinated, efficient, and affordable transportation to seniors and adults with disabilities throughout Cuyahoga County.

⇒ Attended the Annual Meeting of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. The commissioner reported that 25 million pieces of personal protection equipment (PPE) were distributed during the height of the pandemic, non-Hispanic and black people were disproportionately affected by COVID 19, the board of health call center logged 52 thousand calls. Terry Allan will retire after 32 years as Health Commissioner and will be succeeded by Dr. Roderick Harris in mid-April. The mask mandated has been lifted in most county buildings.

⇒ Provided a proclamation of remembrance to long-time Woodmere resident Columbus Deloach. Mr. Deloach transitioned on February 16, 2022.

⇒ The mayor supported Avondale resident and Orange High School senior Sharrae Henderson during her Valentines weekend “Pop-Up Shop” at Eton Mall. Ms. Henderson sold chocolate covered fruits and other confectionery items. Ms. Henderson reports that she sold out of product most days that she was in operation. Congratulations to Sharrae!

⇒ The mayor stopped by to wish Joe DeGaetano, (86) the owner of DeGaetano’s Pizza shop at Village Square happy retirement. Mr. DeGaetano purchased the restaurant in 1995 and decided to sell the shop after a successful run in the pizzeria business.

⇒ Along with Police Chief Sheila Mason and Special Assistant Daphne Evans, the mayor visited the campus of the Ohio Media School. Met with campus executives to discuss potential partnerships between the Village and the Ohio Media School. Potential collaborations include student produced podcast, presenting Village Council meetings to a wider audience and promoting Woodmere Village businesses to a global audience.

⇒ Engaged in a research project at the Western Reserve Historical Society to review the documented history of the Village of Woodmere. The goal is to create an updated historical record in advance of the Village Centennial in 2044.

⇒ The mayor continues to work with Eton Chagrin Boulevard to attract hourly workers to business operations at retail shops — as well as promote shops in both the interior and exterior portions of the mall.

⇒ Finally, legislators, administrators, and residents of Woodmere Village should recognize the conflict between Russia and Ukraine will likely have an adverse effect on the economy in the US.

Fuel and an uptick in energy cost will likely negatively impact Village operations and prices of goods and services. This condition will undoubtedly have an impact on the general fund. Efficiency will be the watchword — but it is still a necessity to provide adequate village services to the residents and the community.

This concludes the mayor’s report in progress