

## MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

July 11, 2019

Special thanks to UH President Robin Rowell and University Hospitals for the donation of the "Stop the Bleed" kits. They will be put to good use by our Police and Fire Departments.

In other Police and Fire news updates, our Civil Service Commission administered the Police Department's Promotional Examination on July 1. All six candidates passed the exam and will now be interviewed for the SGT position to replace SGT Brian Jackson, who retired earlier this year. Best of luck to all candidates as they complete this process.

Civil Service Commission has also planned to administer Police and Fire Exams in September to seek full-time candidates. Notification will be going out on this in the near future.

The Police Substation continues to prepare for a ribbon cutting and anticipates that to be very soon.

The resurfacing of the streets in the glen, specifically, Trailard, Mayfriars and Glengate will begin today or tomorrow, as weather permits.

Recycle magnets are expected out next week, along with a recycle pamphlet and a letter from Republic regarding the rate increase, which I have requested Council to document by way of an ordinance on tonight's agenda as "second reading."

With the recent water main break on Worrell Road, the Water Department will be closing Worrell Road in Willoughby Hills and Kirtland tomorrow, for a period of approximately 3 to 5 hours while they make the repair. The water will be shut off for all residents on Worrell, Rogers and all streets off of Rogers Road. Residents have been advised to follow the Water Department's instructions for preparing for this outage, as well as the instructions once water service is restored.

On June 20, 2019, the City underwent a site visit by our insurance carrier, Public Entities Pool of Ohio, or PEP. The individual had only 4 recommendations after spending the day at our facility:

- 1) Enhance safety in shared parking area near Campbell Park.  
Superintendent Grubiss is working on developing a plan that will reduce liability in this area. We were also advised to ensure that our parking lot is free of potholes and cracks, citing that "a slight imperfection in a parking lot or sidewalk can create a tripping hazard and open up the City to a potential lawsuit."

- 2) Bollards are suggested at the corners of the Fire Department door. Superintendent Grubiss is working with Chief Gandee to facilitate this enhancement, which will protect structural damage caused by contact from vehicles.
- 3) “Minimum fine” plaque required to accompany all handicap reserved parking signs  
The signs will be ordered and installed by Superintendent Grubiss.
- 4) An Employee Handbook should be developed or enhanced.  
Public Entities Pool provides a FREE tool to get the Handbook created from start to finish, using an excellent Online Resource Library that is approved by the insurance company.  
Because we are provided this free tool, I once again will advise Council that I am not supporting Ordinance 2019-54 which would have the City allocate over \$6000 to have a company create a handbook. I understand the importance of this, as the Law Director has pointed out; however, I am not willing to spend resident tax dollars for the purpose of essentially covering the six non-Union individuals and City Council and Mayor. I don’t believe it is cost effective when we have been given a free tool from our insurance carrier to provide a handbook. No lawsuit brought against the City to date would have been alleviated by this handbook. I will not support 2019-54 and encourage Council to table it at this time.

Get well wishes to Finance Assistant Sharen Michney as she is recovering from surgery.

Sympathy to the family of resident Nancy Turo who passed away last month.

Finally, congratulations are in order for Councilman Chris Hallum, Finance Director Frank Brichacek and Executive Assistant Gloria Majeski, and the residents of Willoughby Hills as I received notification from the State Auditor’s Special Investigative Unit that their investigation of the WHISPER Program and all other cases involving the City of Willoughby Hills have been concluded. Further, the Auditor’s Special Investigative Unit states “Please be advised that on June 20, 2019, the investigation by the SIU was closed, and the complaint was unfounded.” This means that the Auditor’s Special Investigative Unit has taken the time (which was 9 months) to review every receipt paid out and every time sheet filled out by the accused individuals, and found nothing to substantiate the complaint against these individuals or our Senior Program.

This now concludes the criminal investigation, which also included reports from the Lake County Prosecutor, Ohio Job of Family Services Adult Protective Agency and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, all who have come back to deny any criminal activity. It is now time to open the WHISPER Program once again to our residents; however, I will no longer have one person open to take abuse as it pertains to service requests or denial. I would have a committee of three or four individuals, to which Police Chief Collins has already volunteered to be a part of, as we reopen the program. If Council decides NOT to re-open the program, I will hereby direct the Finance Director to return all funds paid into the WHISPER account to those who donated those funds. They are not permitted to be used in any other manner or to any other newly-established program. I would ask Council's prompt action as there are many seniors who have been denied assistance since February 22, 2018 when Ordinance 2018-11 to suspend the WHISPER program was passed by Council. Now that it has been fully investigated, it is time to move on and take care of our seniors. Again, congratulations to Chris, Frank, Gloria and the residents of Willoughby Hills on this great news from the Auditor.

In closing, I will announce the following upcoming Events:

First Covenant Car Show – Saturday, July 27, 9 to 3pm

Garage Sale Day – Saturday, August 3 – remember to register to get your name on the master list.