

City of Willoughby Hills

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-11

AN ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE WHISPER FUND ACCOUNT IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM POLICIES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF THE WHISPER PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the “Willoughby Hills Isolated Seniors Program for Everyday Relief,” (“WHISPER”) is a program which is intended to offer assistance to Willoughby Hills senior citizens who are in need of such assistance, temporarily or permanently, with services such as: lawn care, house cleaning, general maintenance, meals, companionship, a helping hand; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2009-10, which created the program, provided that expenditures shall be made from the “WHISPER” Fund to pay for home repair services, supplies, and all other legally approved expenditures deemed necessary for the operation of the WHISPER Program, with said expenditures to be recommended and approved by the Mayor and Finance Director or their designated alternates; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2018, the following information was requested from the Mayor’s Assistant who administers the WHISPER Program for seniors: detailed documentation of all services rendered, including name, address, age, date of service, series provided, name of volunteer providing service, expenses paid; all resident applications requesting services; any documentation related to application approval or denial; any document detailing eligibility requirements such as definition of “senior”, criteria assessed when making determinations if someone is eligible for services, appeal process if denied; all volunteer applications and all information related to how volunteers are selected and vetted; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Assistant responded to the request by stating that some of the information that was being requested was not part of the program; and

WHEREAS, Council has serious concerns as to how the WHISPER Program is being administered, and therefore, deems it imperative to put in place policies and regulations for the proper supervision of the WHISPER Program; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, it is not the intent of this Council to isolate seniors, rather to aid our seniors by making them part of the community, while holding City officials accountable for decisions that are made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. The temporary budget for 2018 is hereby amended to reflect that no funds are to be expended for the Willoughby Hills Isolated Seniors Program for Everyday Relief, (“WHISPER”).

SECTION 2. The Finance Director is hereby directed prevent any further expenditures from WHISPER Program Fund No. 297.110.56360 without further legislative action by Council. No costs may be incurred for the WHISPER program from and after the effective date of this ordinance. If costs have been incurred but not paid prior to the effective date of this ordinance, the Finance Director shall provide information to Council regarding the date of the expenditure, the purpose of the expenditure and evidence that the Mayor or

the Finance Director approves of the expenditure that was made by their designee(s), and Council may approve such expenditure by a motion and majority vote.

SECTION 3. The actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this legislation were conducted in lawful meetings of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were held in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby Hills.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance constitutes an emergency measure in that the same provides for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City of to immediately ensure that funds are not appropriated from the WHISPER Fund until regulations and policies are legislatively put in place for the proper monitoring of the WHISPER Program; wherefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and approval by the Mayor, or as otherwise provided by the Charter of the City of Willoughby Hills.

PASSED: *[Signature]*, 2018

Nancy E. Fellows
Nancy E. Fellows
President of Council

Submitted to the Mayor for his approval
on this *4* day of *February*, 2018

Approved by the Mayor

_____, 2018

ATTEST:
Victoria Ann Savage
Victoria Ann Savage, CMC
Clerk of Council

Robert M. Weger
Robert M. Weger
Mayor

On February 21, 2018, Council received the Mayor's veto of Ordinance No. 2018-11. Thereupon, at the Regular Council Meeting of February 22, 2018, Council by a 6-1 vote, set aside the Mayor's veto and enacted Ordinance No. 2018-11

Date: *February 22, 2018*

Attest:
Victoria Ann Savage
Victoria Ann Savage, CMC
Clerk of Council

Nancy E. Fellows
Nancy E. Fellows
Council President