

City of Willoughby Hills

Interoffice Memo

Date: February 12, 2018

To: Council President Fellows, Council Members and Council Clerk

From: Robert M. Weger, Mayor/Safety Director

Subject: Veto on Ordinance 2018-11- Suspension of W.H.I.S.P.E.R. Program

W.H.I.S.P.E.R. was developed in 2008, following the City's United Way Day of Caring Project. At the time, the churches and civic groups were brought together to ensure they would be a part of this community endeavor to help our senior residents. Without the support of their volunteerism, we knew the program would not be successful. Because of their efforts and the efforts of Administration to facilitate the program, ten years later this program has assisted many senior residents in ways that I could have never imagined. Many of the deeds have been life-changing in nature and our City has been the envy of many others to provide the services we do.

Rather than "suspending" the program, however, it is my request that Council instead meet with Administration to understand the program and its features and processes. Unfortunately, Council's request for a lengthy Public Records Request and approximately twenty- point questionnaire provided verbally by Councilwoman Pizmoht at the Council meeting certainly does not constitute for a clear understanding of the program; hence, the suspension, without even three readings for our residents to weigh in has occurred. This certainly does not correlate with my goal to keep our "Residents First." If Council truly believed that, they would have sat down with Administration to review the program, rather than "shut it down."

In addition, I do not believe "temporarily suspending" the funds in this account are a legal action. Council is able to take the appropriation "out", but given the fact that these are all donations allocated specifically to the W.H.I.S.P.E.R. program, they cannot be reallocated elsewhere in the General Fund.

Once again, I believe Council has overstepped their bounds: It also provides for Council to perform "administrative" rather than "legislative" functions, which is a violation of Ohio Revised Code 731.05 Powers of Legislative.

I hereby veto Ordinance 2018-11 and ask Council's immediate reconsideration of this poorly written piece of legislation.