



Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor

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To: Council Members & City Directors
From: Mayor Kurtz
Re: Administrative Update for June 12, 2020

There were ten resolutions and one ordinance on the June 9 Council Meeting agenda. Eight pieces of legislation passed with unanimous approval, including Ordinance No. 2020-61, allocating funds and authorizing the purchase and distribution of personal protection products for vulnerable, at-risk residents. Here are the results of the remaining legislation:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-52 approving the tax budget for the year 2021 (**Adopted 6-1; Synek-No**)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-56 authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with Youth for Christ to coordinate and direct the Campus Life Program for the 2020-2021 school year was removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to **First Reading**.

Also, St. Michael Church took down a house they own on Second Avenue. We anticipate discussions with church officials and neighbors about how this property as well as the entire block will be used in the future.

The unapproved June 9 Council Caucus Minutes will be posted on the website on Monday, June 15.



The next Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on July 14 under strict social distancing guidelines. Residents will *only have access through Zoom* next month.

Protests & Pandemic Life

The nationwide demonstrations ignited by the tragic death of George Floyd are bringing attention to the critical issues of racism, social inequalities, bias, and bigotry. Mr. Floyd's death was an appalling and unambiguous act of injustice.

As Mayor, I am responsible for protecting the rights and safety of everyone who lives, works, or visits the City regardless of race, religion, or gender. Our safety forces are among the best trained in the state. The Police, Fire, and EMS personnel understand and respect the community they serve and treat everyone fairly. We evaluate all City policies regularly to ensure that we are keeping pace with evolving social, cultural, and technological changes.

My deep faith and convictions serve as compasses in my life. I believe all people are equal in the eyes of God and we should all denounce discrimination of any kind.

The convergence of the protests and pandemic life has left most people feeling stressed, fatigued, and even overwhelmed. It is essential to seek help if life in the time of COVID-19 has become too difficult. ***Attached are two valuable lists of resources*** prepared by the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals with healthcare organizations that provide short- and long-term care.

The City's comprehensive plan to stay ahead of the evolving coronavirus pandemic is working. We continue to safely open recreational facilities for residents while being compliant with all federal, state, and local guidelines related to COVID-19.

Elmwood Park

The **outdoor pool will open to residents on Monday, June 15**. Signs explaining the Social Distancing Rules are posted at every facility to keep employees and residents safe.

On **Tuesday, June 16, the brand new Liberty Playground designed for 2-to-5 year olds will open**. The Civic Center's indoor pool and fitness area opened earlier this month, and residents tell us they appreciate the added safety precautions.

The modified **Summer Camp will begin on July 6**. Community Services is also busy planning some "pop-up" events starting in July -- more information soon.

Compliant & Constructive

I held my first socially-distanced, outdoor team meeting in the Kiwanis Pavilion this week. The one-person-per-table seating arrangement worked well, and it was very productive.



I urged everyone to avail themselves of the mental health counseling services provided by the City. Anyone who is feeling stressed, anxious, or depressed should not hesitate to take advantage of the EAP program. .

Aerial Patrols



FirstEnergy-CEI began the Annual Vegetation Management Aerial Patrols on Friday, June 12. The helicopter company, Helo Air, will be assisting in the inspection of all CEI transmission lines to identify conditions that may be a threat to the safety and reliability of the transmission system. Aerial inspections will continue through June 18, weather permitting.

A-Plus!



Bravo to everyone who work on the Independence High School Car-Commencement Parade. It was gratifying to see the joy and excitement on the faces of all the students. In case you missed it, here are just a few photos from the one-of-a-kind event.



