



City of Independence, Ohio

"THE HEART OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY"

6800 BRECKSVILLE ROAD

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

(216) 524-4131

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz
Members of Council

From: Finance Director Vernon Blaze

Date: Friday, August 19, 2022

Re: Finance Office and Related Topic Updates

Accounts Payable

Finance Team members Molly Snow and Anissa Hansen handle the vast majority of accounts payable responsibilities for the City.

Between the two of them, as of the middle of the month here in August, they had written some 2,066 vendor checks since January 1 totaling almost \$12.5 million.

That number of checks and dollar value does not include checks and Electronic Funds Transfers for some specialty payments including medical insurance, pension payments to the various pension systems, credit card payments, etc.

The Finance Office's financial software package is provided by Software Solutions Inc. (SSI).

Earlier this year, SSI announced that it had partnered up with Corpay, a "global leader in business payments." Corpay helps organizations transition from "older payment methods" to "smarter ones."

Corpay is now working with SSI to offer those smarter payment methods to the public sector organizations that SSI serves.

When the Finance Office was made aware of SSI's new partnership with Corpay earlier this year, it jumped at the chance to be one of SSI's first public sector organizations to signal its interest in transitioning to a "smarter" payment system.

The Finance Office has been working with both SSI and Corpay to implement this transition that will result in a significant reduction in the number of paper checks written going forward.



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Accounts Payable - Continued

The goal of all three entities (Finance Office, SSI and Corpay) is to commence implementation of the Corpay system for Independence sometime here in FY 2022 still.

The Finance Office looks forward to the implementation of this smarter payment system, as it will provide some time each week for Anissa and Molly to assume some additional duties and responsibilities within the department, including assisting with payroll and cash transactions.

Richard Tait and Hays Watkins

Richard Tait's and Hay's Watkins' obituaries were in a recent Weekend Edition of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Richard created and designed the board game Cranium after he played other games in groups and found that some people did either really good or really bad at certain games. There wasn't a board game, however, that *"had a little something for everyone."*

Richard's game designing experience prior to that? None. He was a computer scientist by occupation.

Richard's moxy? Bountiful!

When he flew across the country to pitch the buyers at Barnes & Noble, he was told that they were not interested. Richard "begged" two managers to try the game. Soon, Cranium was being sold at Barnes & Noble bookstores.

How did he get the game to be sold at Virgin Record Stores? Richard went to a book signing where founder Richard Branson was appearing, and *"pitched him on the spot."*

Richard urged people to be bold in life, living by the mantra of ***"Orville Wright didn't have a pilot's license!"***

Hays claimed to never have had a career plan, even though he rose to the positions of President, CEO and Chairman. His life mantra?

"Everyone would be better off, I believe, if they simply concentrate on doing their very best and then basically let nature take its course."