



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, March 4, 2022

Re: Finance Office Updates

EMS Billing

The City contracts out with Medicount for EMS billing. Medicount provided its 2021 Summary Report this week.

Medicount tallied 1,006 "billable transports" in 2021 vs. 885 billable transports in 2020. Note that these are just billable transports. The Independence Fire Department's annual total Calls for Service exceed these figures.

Summarizing the last two years:

	Billing Revenue	Billable Transports
2021	\$317,360	1,006
2020	\$270,797	885

State Employment Relations Board (SERB) 2021 Wage Settlement Report

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) released its 2021 Wage Settlement Report on March 1, 2022. Contained within this report is data on "*labor contracts with a start date between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.*" Since all four (4) of Independence's labor contracts expired on December 31, 2021 and therefore won't have a Start Date until January 1, 2022, the data presented in SERB's 2021 report was for contracts that were agreed to and effective well before any of Independence's four Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA's) expired.

1,026 labor contracts from public sector entities from across the State of Ohio were included in the 2021 data summary.



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State Employment Relations Board (SERB) 2021 Wage Settlement Report Continued

The Cleveland Region consists of public sector entities located in the following Counties: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake and Lorain.

The Average Negotiated Wage Increase Percentage by Calendar Year within the Cleveland Region is as follows:

- 2021 1.86%
- 2022 2.35%
- 2023 2.28%

The full SERB report and previous years' versions can be accessed at:

<https://serb.ohio.gov/documents-and-decisions/wage-settlement-reports>

Final Quote

Daniel Henninger, a Cleveland, Ohio native, has written for the *Wall Street Journal* for decades now.

In his column from Thursday, March 3, 2022, he wrote about how countries and political leaders from across the planet ignored many of the signs of the past years about Russia's real goals and intentions, and are only seeing them now after Vladimir Putin "*obliterated the fine line that sits between order and disorder.*"

His telling quote about these recent events was:

"That is the voice of leading from behind, responding to events only when the political or actual costs of ignoring them become too high."

That's a great observation for anyone in a position of leadership, especially those of us in the public sector.