



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, May 27, 2022

Re: Finance Office and Related Topic Updates

Investment Portfolio

For the first time in years, the City's investment portfolio consisting of Certificates of Deposit (CD's) with Independence Bank will be reduced - from \$18 million to \$16 million by the end of the month.

The City has an excellent, very long-term relationship with Independence Bank, but for diversification purposes, the decision was made to at least slightly rebalance the entire investment portfolio.

The \$2 million will be moved to the City's investment account with Fifth Third, where it will be invested in either a six, nine or 12-month U.S. Treasury security or a one-year note issued by an Ohio public entity.

HIDTA

Mayor Kurtz and Council are fully aware that the City serves as a fiduciary for both HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) and the Strike Force.

On a very basic level, being a fiduciary for HIDTA means that the HIDTA financial activity (Revenue and Expenses) flows through the City's books, for which the City is paid a fee for.

Since taking on this role in 2016, the City's Administrative Fee earned per year is as follows:

2016	\$ 9,000
2017	81,394
2018	111,428
2019	112,048
2020	110,693
2021	109,128



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HIDTA – Continued

With the \$109,128 received thus far in 2022, the total Administrative Fees earned by the City since 2016 are \$642,820.

Bureaucratic processes sometimes makes serving as the fiduciary for HIDTA somewhat challenging, but at least the City is compensated for the time and resources spent on this service activity.

Overcoming Challenges

Most people in management, leadership or entrepreneurial roles will admit that those roles often time come with their share of obstacles, hurdles, challenges and problems.

A new series out (The Offer) that documents the obstacles, hurdles, challenges and problems with making the movie “The Godfather” is a good example of how almost anything in life that ends up being worth something is riddled with obstacles, hurdles, challenges and problems.

Following are a few sentences from a recent review of this series:

- *“This was not an unfortunate travel experience (a dead rat found in a hotel bed of Robert Evans, the head of Paramount Pictures at the time)...Crime boss Joseph Colombo believed Mario Puzo’s book “The Godfather” was an insult to Italian Americans and did not want Paramount to adapt it for the big screen.”*
- *“...pressure from the mafia was just one of many hurdles that Ruddy (Producer), Evans and other players navigated to get the movie made.”*
- *“...you’re not going to believe the kinds of things that went into making it.”*
- *“...provides a window into just how hard it is to make anything in Hollywood.”*
- *“...of just how hard it is.”*
- *“...while taking heat from all sides.”*
- *“Ruddy persisted and made it happen.”*

“Persisted and made it happen” – that more than adequately sums up the dedication and perseverance needed to overcome all of the obstacles, hurdles, challenges and problems that life throws at us – especially the ones thrown at City Leaders/Public Officials.

On Monday, we will be remembering those that came before us and whose past service to our country allows us to currently serve our community in a different capacity, while we *“keep persisting and making it happen”* for the benefit of others despite all of the obstacles, hurdles, challenges and problems thrown at us.