



The Mayor's Report – August 7

Hello, Mayor Weiss here. I wanted to provide a brief update to you regarding our progress and work in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion. We've had a tremendous number of conversations with a broad range of individuals and organizations in our community to get their concerns, their thoughts, their input. In response to those discussions, I wanted to mention a few actions that we've specifically taken. We've launched our Community Conversations. We've had three so far. The first one, on July 23rd, was entitled "Policing in Partnership with the Community." We had over 130 participants and over a hundred questions and comments submitted. The panel was made up of representatives from our police department and other related city departments. And this was an opportunity to share information and answer questions from the community. In addition, we had two Community Conversations with the SAMS organization and residents, relating to police practices and community engagement.

The audio for all three of these conversations can be found on our website. These have been really valuable conversations. Hearing questions from residents allows us to understand and respond to community concerns. In addition, we've met with other organizations, including Minorities Together Movement and the Shaker Heights, Anti-Racism Coalition. We listened to their proposal presentation. We participated and spoke in their Unity March, and we'll be participating in another event next week. In addition, City Council and the Management team participated in a joint training session facilitated by Erica Merritt from the Equus Group. We anticipate more learning opportunities like this for all of our staff in the city along with the community and council. In short, we've been very busy; this level of engagement takes considerable time and effort by everyone, including our residents, staff and the commitment of city council.

But we are in fact committed to this work and making a change, as council's resolution made very clear. We have made this work, and further action, a priority. We know that change takes time. But we thank you for your patience as we work together to create a more just and equitable future for our community in terms of next steps. We are preparing a framework and roadmap for actions to be taken that we'll be discussing with council at the next session. Monday evening, of course, the public is welcome to listen in. Lastly, I wanted to update you briefly on the Census. Recently, the Census Bureau announced that they changed the deadline to respond to the Census. Now, the forms must be filed by September 30th.

It only takes a few minutes to complete, and the information and the form can be found either on our website, or you can go to www.my2020census.gov. It's vitally important that you complete the Census

form if you haven't already done so. The Census numbers have a wide range of impact, including resources that come back to our community. And that's why it's so important that everyone be counted. So, with that, let me close by saying "Mask Up, Shaker," enjoy the weekend and, as always, be safe and be well.

Thank you.