



The Mayor's Report
Friday, October 15

Hello.

Today I'd like to tell you about two initiatives now underway that will further establish Shaker Heights as a leader in the region for finding creative long term solutions to current challenges.

The first is the launch of a new Mental Health Response Pilot Program that we are undertaking in partnership with the MetroHealth System and Recovery Resources. City staff, Councilmembers Tres Roeder and Anne Williams, and a group of Shaker residents worked together to develop this forward thinking program.

Scheduled to start in January, Recovery Resources will assign a social worker to work alongside the City's first responders to provide outreach to residents who may benefit from mental health, substance abuse or other social services. Together with police officers and paramedics, this new interdisciplinary team will review daily mental health calls to 911, and connect frequent 911 callers to mental health services to help prevent future crises.

I am so pleased that the City is at the forefront of creating this new emergency response model. This initiative will better serve residents who call for emergency services, but whose needs are more appropriately met by a mental health professional. This program grew out of a commitment to evaluate emergency response procedures by our police and medical first responders to ensure equitable, high quality service delivery to Shaker residents.

To further enhance the program, Shaker Heights paramedics and police officers are undergoing additional Crisis Intervention Training through the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County. This training is designed to help de-escalate situations with individuals in a mental health crisis.

I'd like to thank MetroHealth and Recovery Resources for their visionary leadership and willingness to work closely with us on this pilot program, and I am proud of our police and fire professionals for striving to find innovative ways to deliver exemplary service to our residents.

The other initiative I'd like to mention is the launch of the Shaker Lee Development Fund. This is being undertaken by the Shaker Heights Development Corporation (SHDC), one of the partners we are working with on the redevelopment of the Lee Road Corridor.

The fund provides a unique opportunity for residents and others to invest and take an active role in reshaping the commercial corridor on Lee Road. Funds raised will be directed toward acquiring and improving commercial property on Lee Road. Unlike a typical real estate investment fund, this fund is intended to provide a social impact investing opportunity for the community.

The City's Economic Development Director, Laura Englehart, will hold a non-voting seat on the Fund's board to ensure alignment between the fund, City and SHDC on larger scale initiatives.

I am excited about the possibilities this type of community driven real estate investment fund will bring to our efforts to reimagine and redevelop Lee Road.

To learn more about this investment fund and its structure, visit the SHDC website at shakerdevcorp.com.

These are just two of the innovative initiatives underway in Shaker that will strengthen our community and keep us on the path to a more modern, desirable, and inclusive City.

Thank you and be well.