



## SHAKER HEIGHTS

### **The Mayor's Report – October 2019**

Today I want to focus on something very important to me as Mayor: Building strong connections with residents. The candid conversations I have with residents at block parties and City events, or even in an aisle of the grocery store have given us the chance to get to know one another. I believe these interactions help to deepen our commitment to each other and to the City, enable us to tackle challenges together, and lay the foundation for lasting relationships that make Shaker so special.

The staff at City Hall share my commitment to creating opportunities for meaningful interactions with residents. Especially noteworthy is the work being done by the Shaker Heights Police Department. Today, I asked Police Chief Jeff DeMuth to join me and share with you a few of the ways the department is working to strengthen community connections, build trust and open new ways to communicate with residents.

#### **CHIEF DEMUTH:**

Thank you, Mayor. A few years ago, we did something that now anchors all of our work. We wrote a new mission statement for the Police Department which includes these key words: "in partnership with the community." That is what drives our work every day.

It is through that lens that we reinvigorated our Community Policing efforts. Our goal is to enable officers to know neighbors and neighbors to know officers.

One way we did this was by reactivating our bike patrol. By having officers out of their cars and on bikes, they are more connected to the community and can have more casual conversations with residents and business owners. We have found that these opportunities for meaningful conversations provide the chance to understand different perspectives and ideas. Another way to get to meet residents is through the Citizens Police Academy. This program enables residents to get a behind-the-scenes look at police work. Graduates then become valued community partners and assist us in building bridges throughout the community. Other opportunities like the monthly Community Meal at Heights Christian Church, neighborhood meetings, and our "Coffee

with a Cop” events further enable us to build trust and relationships within the community.

I hope all of you follow the Shaker Heights Police Department on Facebook and Twitter. While it isn't the same as face to face conversations, it does meet our goal of finding new ways to communicate with residents and have some fun with our FUR-iday Facebook posts featuring our beloved K9 officers.

Like you Mayor, we view creating meaningful connections and working in partnership with the community as one of the most essential and satisfying parts of our job.

MAYOR WEISS:

Thank you, Chief. I would also like to highlight that Chief DeMuth is participating in the Diversity Center's 10-month-long LeadDiversity program, which will further enhance his skills and in turn, those of officers throughout the department, as they implement diversity, inclusion and equity strategies across all that they do.

I know I speak for Chief DeMuth when I say that we hope to see you around town on one of these beautiful fall days for a quick hello or perhaps a longer chat.

Thank you.