



## **The Mayor's Report**

December 2019

Hello.

As the year draws to a close and I reflect on 2019, I am proud of what we have accomplished and am excited to continue the hard, but critical steps we are taking to modernize our historic city and position Shaker Heights as a healthy, thriving place to live and work for decades to come.

The Forward Together initiative is particularly noteworthy. This initiative provides a framework for the city, schools and library to engage in regular and ongoing discussions and, with resident input, work towards a community-wide facilities plan that will serve residents more effectively and efficiently.

This year we created the Sustainability Committee and hired a consultant to support our efforts to be better stewards of the environment, both at City Hall and citywide, while also being fiscally responsible. Our efforts have included expanded composting, exploring LED lighting and solar energy opportunities, conducting energy audits to measure our success and working toward LEED certification for the City.

As you know, we continue to experience more severe downpours and intense storms, in some cases resulting in significant property damage. In response, repairing and modernizing our aging sewer and dam infrastructure has been and will continue to be a priority.

Many new businesses have opened throughout the City in 2019, with several more anticipated in 2020, signaling that Shaker is a place that supports retail and commercial businesses both big and small. I believe that 2019 truly marked a turning point for the City. We are making great strides in transitioning from a primarily residential community to a vibrant mixed-use community where you can live, work, shop, and eat.

In addition, we are hard at work laying the groundwork for a long-term, multi-year plan to transform the Chagrin-Lee business corridor.

I also am extremely proud of the LGBTQ protections that were adopted this year sending a clear and important signal to everyone that Shaker is an open and welcoming place to live and work.

We wrapped up a busy year with the adoption of the 2020 budget this week. We are confident that it reflects the needs and priorities of the community, and that funds are being spent prudently.

There is more work ahead, but with the commitment, talent and dedication of City staff and the active engagement of residents, I am more confident than ever that we can accomplish big things together.

Thank you for re-electing me, for entrusting me with this work, and for being a productive partner as we strive to secure a prosperous future for the City of Shaker Heights.

In closing, I'd like to send my best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy holiday and New Year. I look forward to continuing our work together in 2020.