

# Engage Toledo Newsletter

Paula Hicks-Hudson, Mayor



## From the Mayor's Office...

Our citizens have repeatedly said that they want the City of Toledo to spend more dollars to fix our residential streets, keep our neighborhoods safe and stop using Capital Improvement Program (CIP) dollars to bolster operations through the General Fund.

We're asking all Toledoans to support an increase in the ¾% temporary income tax that has been in place since 1982 so that we can address these priorities head on.

Why is an increase needed? Since 2008 Toledo has lost a total of \$83 million due to reductions in local government funding from the state of Ohio. In 2010 voters approved Toledo's transferring dollars from its CIP Fund to the General Fund to fill the gaps caused by these revenue losses.

During the 2016 budget process we found that once we allocated dollars for our baseline operations there were no funds available for residential street repairs.

New dollars from the increase in the temporary tax would fund \$75 million in residential street repairs over the next 4-1/2 years. We would be able to maintain appropriate safety force levels to keep Toledo safer. And importantly, the increase would allow the City to use the CIP *only* for capital improvements— no more transfers to the General Fund.

Because income tax is paid by anyone who earns wages in Toledo, commuters who use Toledo streets will also help to fund their improvement. The tax would not apply to retirees. For a person who earns \$35,000 a year, the increase would be \$7.29 per month.

Please be mindful that we work for the citizens of Toledo as we ask them for a tax increase to better care for our city. We need our citizens' support so that we can upgrade our residential streets, continue our community safety initiatives and return to using capital dollars for capital projects.

I also ask each of you to find and implement cost-savings in your areas, and explore more efficient means to accomplish more by working together.

Thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

Mayor

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From the Mayor's Office

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## **NEWS BITS**

**The former Office of Affirmative Action / Contract Compliance is now the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.**

**The Division of Code Enforcement under the Department of Neighborhoods has relocated from the 16th floor to the 18th floor in One Government Center.**

**SB&H focused on alley cleaning and safety training for employees with the lack of winter snow.**

**Legislation passed for a new time keeping system and will improve process at SB&H.**

## **21st Century Employees**

One of the pillars of the Hicks-Hudson administration is to build Toledo into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century City. It is essential that we enlist the City's most valuable resource, its employees, to help us realize this objective. The following employees are among the first to be recognized as 21st Century Employees for their consistent practice of providing exemplary services to the citizens of Toledo and for their positive impact in maintaining a positive work environment for their colleagues.

### **Roberto Martinez II, Department of Finance**

Roberto takes the initiative to tackle any issue that may arise, and he continuously looks to improve processes that will make the city run more efficiently. He established a process to streamline the SITY (seasonal, intern, temporary and youth) program. This process has enabled Finance to track all costs related to a specific program.

### **Calvin Harris, Division of Sewer & Drainage**

Calvin is being recognized for his volunteerism and dedication to the division, as well as the citizens of Toledo. During the July 2015 rain event, Calvin worked tireless hours to dispatch crews and equipment to the appropriate areas. Not to mention spending countless hours responding to and following up with residents throughout the city.

### **Michael King, Division of Water Distribution**

Michael is always willing to lend a helping hand, and is well versed in engaging with customers to talk through any issues they may have with their water meters and plumbing. He is able to balance the needs of the Division with the needs of the customer.

### **Chris McGibbeny, Division of Water Reclamation**

Chris has been working for the City over 26 years. Chris received his Ohio EPA Class IV Wastewater License in 2015 to meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. Under Chris's watchful eye Water Reclamation has consistently been in compliance with Ohio EPA regulations.

### **Jake Goetz, Division of Water Treatment**

Jake is dependable and knowledgeable, and he has a talent for overcoming obstacles and hurdles in stressful situations. Jake worked through several start up problems but helped to get our Harmful Algal Bloom treatment system fully operational in preparation for the 2015 season.

### **Carry Arnold, Department of Human Resources**

Carry took on the huge task of conducting an audit of the City's healthcare plan. By doing so, she was able to save the City of Toledo approximately \$1 million dollars.

### **Cassandra McBride, Information and Communications Technology**

Cassandra provides telecommunications support to City of Toledo Employees, and handles each call with high efficiency and quality. *(continued on next page)*

## 21st Century Employees (cont.)

### **Jimmie Jones, Law Department**

Jimmie is credited with developing both a DUI tracking database, and also a database that is used for tracking citizen interviews. In addition, Jimmie provides technical assistance to the Prosecutor's Office.

### **Monica Brown, Department of Neighborhoods**

Monica accepts each assignment with enthusiasm and goes above and beyond to ensure the success of each and every task. She took the lead on the department's volunteer efforts for the cleaning and beautification of Ottawa Park by coordinating with Hickory Farms' volunteers and departmental volunteers as well as soliciting donations from various businesses in the community.

### **Sergeant Angela Jones-Crooks, Toledo Police Department**

Sergeant Jones-Crooks is to be credited for implementing policies and procedures that have allowed the Records Bureau to run more efficiently. She is called upon daily to solve problems, answer questions or provide clarifications to difficult issues that arise before, during or after her tour of duty.

### **Officer Tracy Britt, Toledo Police Department**

Officer Britt has been an advocate for residents on the east side and has made many strides for the betterment of the community. She encourages residents to build better relationships as a way to rebuild their neighborhoods.

## TPPA supports Wounded Warriors Program



The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team™ (WWAST) is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to inspire and educate others while enhancing the health and welfare of Wounded Warrior Amputees. They will be playing in Toledo on August 20, 2016. An all day garage sale on April 8th and 9th at the Toledo Police Patrolman's Association Hall at 1947 Franklin Avenue will support the WWAST. All are welcome to come out to support this effort.

Beginning March 1, 2016 the Toledo Police Department will be using hand held photo enforcement lasers. These hand held lasers will record speed violations through video and still pictures through a new enforcement program. Through this program there will not be a traffic stop made by a police officer, but the equipment will automatically generate a ticket that will be sent through the mail.



BCR Executive Director Linda Alvarado coordinates the MLK Unity Celebration each year with a committee of volunteers.

Community members attend the MLK Unity Celebration at UT's main campus.



"Let's work together to honor his legacy by becoming a beloved community, where peace, justice and compassion define us as a city."  
-Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, 2016 MLK Unity Celebration

## SAP Training, Troubleshooting

Employees who would like to learn to use SAP more effectively are invited to contact Lisa Miller at 419-936-2649 or [Lisa.Miller@toledo.oh.gov](mailto:Lisa.Miller@toledo.oh.gov) to set up a one-on-one training session in the ERP center on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor of Government Center.

**Remember to use the SAP Help Desk at 419-245-1005 to help troubleshoot SAP issues.**

## MBE/WBE Contractor Event 3/31

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises are invited to become engaged in the city's bid process during an informational, interactive networking event from 5:30 – 7 pm on Thursday, March 31 in the McMaster Center at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. Businesses of all sizes are encouraged to attend to learn about projects that are coming up for bid for the Toledo Waterways Initiative. The International Park Storage Basin will be highlighted. However, presented information will be relevant for all city projects.

"We continue to offer MBE/WBE opportunities within the Toledo Waterways Initiative as well as other city programs and hope for broad participation at this event to aid companies' understanding of our bidding process," said Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson. "Another benefit of this meeting is that our businesses can meet and interact with city personnel who can help them through the application process."

The International Park Storage Basin is a \$25 million project mandated by a consent decree between the City of Toledo and the US EPA as part of the Long Term Control Plan. The project will be advertised for bids in early spring with construction beginning in August. Business owners will learn how the city's Planet Bids database works and are encouraged to bring multiple copies of capability statements, if available, to the event.

Although reservations are not required, attendees are asked to RSVP by email to [kelly.bejaige@toledo.oh.gov](mailto:kelly.bejaige@toledo.oh.gov).

## Grant Funding Used to Help Stabilize Neighborhoods

The City of Toledo used Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grants to acquire vacant and foreclosed houses to be renovated and subsequently sold to qualified homebuyers. The program is designed to benefit low and middle income individuals and households. Fourteen families were served by the Department of Neighborhoods through NSP in 2015.

One of the properties acquired and renovated with NSP funds and sold to a qualified homebuyer is located in the Library Village and is shown at right. Library Village was among several areas in the city where NSP funds were spent because of the high foreclosure rates. This home was sold to a middle-income single mother with three children.



Please provide news items to Stacy Weber at [stacy.weber@toledo.oh.gov](mailto:stacy.weber@toledo.oh.gov) by the 15th of each month to be considered for publication.