

**What Happened in the Toledo City Council meeting
of 11-13-18**

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 13, 2018:

R-473-18 Resolution to protect the Federal Community Reinvestment Act - lending & investment in low- and moderate communities around the country.

My Position: Support.

This landmark civil rights law ended the discriminatory practice of financial institutions drawing a red line on a map around neighborhoods that they did not want to offer financial services. Unfortunately, the problem still exists and the full potential of the Community Reinvestment Act has not been reached. With this legislation, our city is taking a stance to oppose efforts undermining the intent of this law or relaxing its goals.

Resolution adopted at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

O-481-18 Providing for the submission to the electors of the City of Toledo at a special election on February 26, 2019, an amendment to the Charter of the City of Toledo for the purpose of adding a new Section to the Charter entitled “Keep the Jail in Downtown Toledo”; repealing Ordinance 427-18.

My Position: Support.

This action puts this contentious matter to rest. Now the issue of letting the people decide whether the jail should stay Downtown or move elsewhere in the City will finally be on the ballot. It also supports the efforts of individuals who collected over 10,000 valid signatures so this important debate can be presented to voters for a collective community decision on the topic.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHERRY PRESENTS:

R-482-18 Recognize Small Business Saturday, November 24, 2018.

My Position: Support.

Small Business Saturday is an American holiday held the Saturday after our United States Thanksgiving. We should support small businesses as much as possible. They constitute the backbone of our economy. Small Business Saturday is a counterpart of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, both of which feature big box retail stores and e-commerce, respectively. This is a way to encourage shoppers to patronize brick and mortar local businesses.

Resolution adopted at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

SECOND READING ITEMS:

O-476-18 Repealing Chapter 1307 (Fees), of the Toledo Municipal Code; enacting a new Chapter 1307 (Fees).

My Position: Support.

This ordinance streamlines and simplifies city permits. It specifies the permit fees for inspections and administrative services, plan review, licensing, refrigeration, hydronic, HVAC, plumbing, electrical and building. Construction trade and contractor renewal fees and registration fees remain unchanged.

Ordinance held until meeting of December 4, 2018 at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

O-477-18 Authorizing the mayor to enter into a real property lease, by and between the city of Toledo and Crestline Paving and Excavating Co., Inc. ("Crestline") for approximately 8.78 acres located at 750 Montrose Toledo, Ohio 43607; waiving the competitive bidding requirement as required by T.M.C. Chapter 187.

My Position: Support.

This property is on the southern portion of the former Champion Spark Plug Company. This legislation will allow the city to lease these premises for five years and one five year renewal. The annual rent is one dollar. Opportunity for community input should be a part of the plan.

Ordinance held until meeting of December 18, 2018 at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

O-478-18 Authorizing the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for purchase of two pool vehicles for the Division of Transportation at 110 North Westwood Avenue; authorizing the Mayor to accept bids and award contracts necessary to complete said project(s).

My Position: Support.

Two trucks are needed for this division's everyday legally mandated transportation engineering field work.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

O-480-18 Changing the zoning maps attached to Part 11, Planning and Zoning, Toledo Municipal Code, for the property located at 3319 Nebraska Avenue, in the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio.

My Position: Support.

Both the Toledo City Plan Commission and the Toledo City Council Zoning and Planning Committee recommended approval of this zone change from multi-dwelling residential and limited industrial to single family residential. This brings the property into compliance with its surroundings.

Ordinance held until meeting of December 4, 2018 at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & RESCUE OPERATIONS:

O-483-18 Authorizing the mayor to accept a Fire Safer Grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency in an amount not to exceed \$820,991 for the Department of Fire & Rescue Operations; authorizing the deposit, appropriation and expenditure of grant proceeds in the Operation Grant Fund.

My Position: Support.

This is a wonderful feather in the cap of the Toledo Fire Rescue Department. The city is required to contribute a cost match of \$510,313 in non-federal funds. Operational staffing must be maintained during the grant period.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

O-484-18 Authorizing the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Utility Administrative Services Fund for the purchase of computers and software; authorizing the mayor to enter into contracts.

My Position: Support.

The Utility Administration division needs to replace laptops and desktop computers.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

O-485-18 Authorizing the expenditure of \$19,000 from the Contractual Services line item of the Division of Business Development's General Fund Budget for yellow book commercial appraisals for the five TARTA-owned transit stations in downtown Toledo; authorizing the mayor to accept bids and award contracts necessary to complete said project(s).

My Position: Support.

A yellow book appraisal is required for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to release its properties and interests. The Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (UASFLA) or the yellow book is a set of standards for appraisals and appraisal reviews being acquired by the federal government. It is intended to promote uniformity and efficiency.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE:

O-486-18 Authorizing the disappropriation of \$1,000,880 from the Capital Improvement Fund; authorizing the appropriation of \$1,000,880 for the District Improvement Program.

My Position: Support.

Projects authorized by a previous ordinance provided \$3,350,000 for capital projects. Most of them have been completed or are almost done. This ordinance reappropriates the unused balance for additional improvements in council districts that were funded by this original appropriation.

First reading was held on this ordinance at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

O-487-18 Authorizing the re-appropriation of \$48,000 in the Special Assessment Fund for professional services for LED street light planning.

My Position: Support.

This ordinance will allow the implementation of the plan for these lighting conversions. The agreement is with Palmer Energy.

Ordinance placed into the Streets, Public Services & Utilities Committee at the Toledo City Council Meeting of November 20, 2018.

O-488-18 Authorizing the disappropriation of \$100,000 from the Facility Operations Fund; authorizing the appropriation and expenditure of \$100,000 from the Facility Operations Fund for maintaining city-owned assets; authorizing the mayor to enter into contracts for said purpose.

My Position: Support.

Facility Operations has depleted its resources for this fiscal year. This is the amount needed for them to maintain city-owned facilities until the end of 2018.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

O-489-18 Authorizing the issuance and sale of taxable industrial development bond anticipation notes, in the aggregate principal amount of \$4,450,000, to refund advances made to retire notes issued for the purpose of acquiring the former MedCorp site and other property for sale or lease for private redevelopment; appropriating the proceeds of the Notes; authorizing the expenditure of those proceeds for that purpose.

My Position: Support.

This allows the city to re-issue notes for the MedCorp site in this amount.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES:

O-490-18 Authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract for citywide seasonal, intern, temporary, and youth program supplemental staffing services for two (2) years with the option to renew for up to one (1) additional year; authorizing the expenditure of funds.

My Position: Support.

This ordinance approves a contract with Job1USA. However, the city is continuing to reduce its reliance on supplemental staffing. We have had a relationship with this company for 19 years. They provide us with substitutes.

First reading was held on this ordinance at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHERRY, CHAIR, ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE,
REPORTS AS APPROVED:**

O-491-18 Changing the zoning maps attached to Part 11, Planning and Zoning, Toledo Municipal Code, for the property located at 443-447 10th Street, in the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio.

My Position: Support.

The Plan Commission and the Zoning and Planning Committee of Toledo City Council recommended approval. This property is occupied by an historically significant building that was constructed between 1802 and 1906. The applicant wants to put it to retail use or office space, which would mirror the other land uses in this area.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

O-492-18 Changing the zoning maps attached to Part 11, Planning and Zoning, Toledo Municipal Code, for the property located at 2517 W. Sylvania Avenue, in the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio.

My Position: Support.

The Plan Commission and the Zoning and Planning Committee of Toledo City Council recommended approval. A duplex sits on the property. Duplexes are non-conforming in this location. The applicant wants the house to continue as a duplex should it need to be re-built for any reason, i.e., because it was destroyed or demolished.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

O-493-18 Granting a Special Use Permit for a Tobacco Shop for a site located at 607 Monroe Street, in the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio; subject to certain conditions.

My Position: Support with Reservation.

The Plan Commission and the Zoning and Planning Committee of Toledo City Council recommended approval. The applicant intends to open "La Bueno Vida Cigar Lounge" and a high-end tobacco store above The Blarney Irish Pub Restaurant. Customers will be able to buy cigars on the first floor and smoke them upstairs or take them home.

Ordinance passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.

ITEM RELIEVED OF NEIGHBORHOODS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH COMMITTEE:

O-461-18 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Real Estate Purchase Agreement with Uptown Place, LLC and to execute and deliver needed instruments for the sale and conveyance of certain city-owned real property at 336 14th Street in the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio; waiving the competitive bidding and advertising provisions of TMC 187.19; authorizing the deposit of \$350,000; authorizing the Mayor to execute and deliver the needed instruments to release the mortgage in whole, on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Project for the 52-unit multi-family rental housing complex called Uptown Arts Apartments; making certain findings with respect thereto.

My Position: Do Not Support.

In good faith, the City entered into a 90 year ground lease with the current owners of Adams Street Limited Partnership, LLC; provided a Home Investment Partnership loan and assisted in the project being awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits in exchange for making a certain number of units affordable for a period of time. This is the fifth (5th) offer by this company for the sale and conveyance of the 0.8982 acre of land. All of them have been disingenuous, going from paying the city back nothing (\$0), to falling \$135,000 short of the \$500,000 that was really owed. The company claimed that it did not make any money on the project but kept throwing first one increase after another in an appalling here's all you get back, take it or leave it manner. It was divisive and split Council right down the middle. Quite frankly, interest and late fees should have been added. Hardly ever mentioned was the 15 years of tax abatement that benefitted this company.

The city is not so desperate for money that it must yield to the mercenary demands of a debtor who paid nothing on the loan for fifteen (15) years; or buckle to the incessant, sometimes brusque and offensive, repeated offers in increasing amounts by individuals who kept claiming it was the best we could do. It was not, in my opinion, because each time an offer was rejected, the new offer went up. We were willing to cave in and not stand up for the

taxpayers under the guise of hurting the tenants if there was a foreclosure. This was clearly a case of the city being taken advantage of and it will now never receive the full loan repayment. Instead, we will receive a pay off amount that is still far less than owed. This is classic capitulation.

We should not have grown weary of standing up for the repayment of the loan. Instead, the administration accepted a "here's all you get", offer by the company who only gave us \$365,000 to let them sell the property to another business. Taxpayers were still cheated out of \$135,000 with the tie-breaking vote by the Executive Branch of city government - not to mention being gypped out of the interest and fees that should have also been paid.

It was unfortunate that the pretense of foreclosure was held as a threat to make tenants unnecessarily nervous in this scenario. It was no more real than the company's inability to pay anything.

Any other future deals like this one should not be approved and met with stronger resistance than was mustered in this situation.

Ordinance was amended and passed at the Toledo City Council meeting of November 20, 2018.