

January 4, 2021

Mr. William Lutz, President  
Members of Troy City Council  
City Hall  
Troy, Ohio

Dear Mr. Lutz and Council Members:

As I sit here and attempt to write an annual report of my first year as Mayor of Troy, Ohio, I wonder about where to begin. Nobody at this time last year could have guessed what was in store for all of us. It has certainly been tumultuous, full of twists and turns, steep dives, massive uphill climbs, detours and running into brick walls.

On January 11, we experienced an unprecedented and unexpected winter tornado. City staff were extremely responsive and did an amazing job cleaning up and restoring traffic flow. Nine buildings in our historic downtown were damaged, four of them significantly, with three of them still not completely restored.

Over 100 homes were damaged, but none destroyed. We were so blessed that no lives were lost and no injuries reported. Homeowners and their insurance companies did an amazing job handling their damages and repairs. We had several groups offer to help residents with debris and tree removal.

In early March, the world began dealing with the Covid-19 virus. It has upended our city, our country and the world. As much as we want to be, we are still not back to normal. Businesses across the board are struggling, schools are struggling, families are struggling. I have and will continue to be vocal and support our local businesses in any way possible. We all continue to try to navigate this current climate as gingerly and carefully as possible.

We have seen multiple cancellations of meetings, events and activities, not only on personal levels, but on the municipal level, as well. Memorial and Veterans Day events, Troy Strawberry Festival, the GOBA 3-day event in Troy, the Tour de Donut, concerts and events at Hobart Arena, the Grand Illumination – all disappeared in 2020. We remain hopeful, as do their organizations, that these will take place in 2021.

I mentioned in the first paragraph the massive uphill climbs that have been a part of this year. It is interesting to note that the mountain top moments are always celebrated. However, in reality, things don't really grow all that well on the mountain top, and it takes a lot of work to get there. It is in the valleys that things are nurtured and where sustenance is found. My hope for 2021 is that we will have those mountain top moments to celebrate, but that we will take advantage of those times in the valleys to improve, grow, and do what is needed to succeed and have those mountain top moments.

I started out the year wanting to visit every city department, to see their operations, meet their employees, and introduce the department to city residents. I have very much enjoyed this! While there are just a couple remaining, I plan to continue this in 2021.

Additionally, along with sending birthday greetings to all employees, I have started recognizing employee's employment anniversaries in five-year increments. Coming up with a nice certificate was a group effort here in the office, Mr. Titterington and I both sign the certificate, and I personally deliver them. This has been a really nice way to meet employees and put names with faces, while at the same time acknowledging their time with the City.

The big project for the city continues to be the planning of the West Main Street re-design and construction, Phase I (and also working on Phase II at the same time). This is anticipated to begin in 2022, but no definite start-date yet.

The HRC (Human Rights Commission) was resurrected in response to racial tensions in early June, to be an advisory group that would give feedback on any issues in Troy that we in the administration might not be aware of. To date many commission and sub-committee meetings have taken place. Presentations by local employers and groups have been very beneficial in providing insight into hiring practices and services that are available in the community.

I was pleased that our 4<sup>th</sup> of July turned out to be such a beautiful day, and that the morning parade, evening concert and fireworks all took place. The altered Christmas tree lighting was also a highlight this year.

While our finances are stable, we will not know the real impact until May, after tax season. All departments were asked to scale back their 2021 budget in light of the potential and expected impact. Some items that had been included in previous proformas were removed from this year's expenditures and put back into the proforma for another time. We so appreciate the time and the work that they have done.

This is a very difficult year to have and/or make plans for anything other than what is already in the works. My hope is that we can return to normal ASAP, that the Strawberry Festival, GOBA and the Tour de Donut, will all take place this summer. I want our Summer Concert Series on Prouty Plaza to return.

Below you will find a breakdown of task that I have been involved in during the past year:

**What has kept me busy this year:**

- January 11<sup>th</sup> tornado
- Ribbon-cuttings with the Chamber
- Tours of city departments
- Proclamations
- Bi-monthly radio shows at Troy Community Radio
- Bi-monthly City Council meetings
- Bi-monthly City staff meetings
- City Council committee meetings
- Board of Park Commissioners meetings

- Recreation Board meetings
- Zoom meetings!
- Zoom meetings with Governor DeWine and John Husted, Jena Powell, Jobs Ohio, and the Canadian Consul General (re: Gordie Howe Bridge)
- Governor DeWine's press conferences!
- Being sounding board for a *Service Dog Awareness* program that is being developed, using Troy has the prototype and first location.
- Swearing-in of new city employees, including our new Chief of Police.
- Retirement ceremonies for retiring city employees, including Chief Phelps.
- Weekly communications meetings with the Communication Coordinator and Management Analyst I
- Cabinet meetings (day after City Council meetings)
- Reverse-angle parking trial
- Dayton Development Coalition – meetings as needed
- Body cam presentations
- APAC tour
- Low Dam Removal meetings
- West Main Street re-design and construction
- Tactical Communications Seminar
- Harassment Seminar
- CPR Class
- Employee Picnic
- Quarterly meetings with City Administration, Chief Simmons, Chief McKinney, and Sheriff Duchak
- Board/Commission appointments
- Attending budget meetings with department heads
- Working with JETRO (**J**apanese **E**conomic **T**rade **O**rganization)
- Emails, phone calls and random meetings with city residents

**Committees/Boards that I serve on and attend regular meetings:**

- Dayton Area Mayor's & Managers (I am the Vice President; meets monthly)
- Mayors Roundtable (meets monthly)
- Family & Children First Council (meets monthly)
- Mayor's Youth Council
- MVRPC Executive Committee (meets monthly)
- MVRPC Board (meets monthly)
- City of Troy Planning Commission (second and fourth Wednesday of the month)
- Activate Troy Partnership (meets monthly)
- Sculptures on the Square Committee (meets monthly)
- KHN Roundtable (meets monthly)
- United Way Board
- Tri-Cities Mayors and Managers (meets monthly)
- Miami County Council

**Boards that I appoint to:**

- Board of Park Commissioners
- Recreation Board

- Board of Zoning Appeals
- City Beautification Committee
- Civil Service Commission
- Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee
- Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC)
- Community Reinvestment Housing Council (CRA)
- Miami County Board of Health
- Human Relations Commission (HRC)
- Community Improvement Corporation (CIC)
- Records Commission
- County Hazard Mitigation Committee
- Corrections Planning Board

All in all, 2020 has made for an interesting first year as Mayor. I love that every day brings new challenges. I so appreciate the office staff and the work they do to serve our residents to make the mechanism of City Hall work. Every day is different as the information coming out of Columbus changes almost daily. My goal is to keep City Hall open, to keep things moving, to keep our employees working, to take in all the information that is available to make the best decision possible. 2021 can only be better! (Right?!)

Sincerely,

Robin I. Oda  
Mayor

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