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MICHAEL SUMMERS
MAYOR

August 25, 2017

Re: Resiliency & Sustainability

Dear Members of City Council,

I wrote to you in June regarding exciting new urban strategies and plans that are emerging across the nation. These new strategies are emphasizing designs, redesigns, and policies that emphasize a focus on achieving improved behavior of sustainability and resilience.

Since June, our Planning staff has identified the gap between our existing plans, studies, and strategies versus leading edge national templates. The good news is that we are on the right path. The challenging news is that it appears that we have not been thinking broadly enough. Resiliency can and should be defined as the ability to withstand external shocks. These can be sudden and/or incremental. They can and will affect our quality of life in a variety of fashions. Our thinking must embrace: livability, prosperity, health and well-being, connectivity, mobility, ecosystem stewardship and resource regeneration.

More concretely, our strategic efforts must consider food, water, energy, education, industry, mobility, information, the built environment and its designs, and public health. It calls for a review of the balance between quantity and quality of living.

I ask that City Council engage with me, our planners, and a talented firm of proven strategic thinkers from the firm Rethink to create and lead a citizen led task force that will address external forces that threaten the vitality of our community. I further ask that City Council meet with the administration team in the next few weeks which will allow City Council to gain a better understanding of this roadmap and to identify next steps to harness the talent in our community to create strategic and operating plans that will likely serve our city for decades to come.

I also ask that this letter serve as a call to citizens who are interested, able and willing to bring their time and talents on behalf of the broad subjects of urban sustainability and resilience. I ask these residents to indicate their interest in serving on a citizen led task force by contacting the mayor's office at mayor@lakewoodoh.net.

Respectfully,

Michael P. Summers

