



12650 DETROIT AVENUE • 44107 • 216/521-7580 • fax 216/521-1379
Website: www.onelakewood.com

MICHAEL SUMMERS
MAYOR

May 15, 2019

Lakewood City Council
Lakewood, OH 44107

Dear Members of City Council,

The Challenge remains – how can Lakewood become the healthiest community in America? This is one of the strategic objectives in the 2019 budget document. On March 5th of this year we invited over one hundred stakeholders, including each of you, to begin a community discussion about this question. Ninety individuals attended and through discussion, confirmed that:

1. Being a healthy community is important.
2. Working upstream on preventative measures by focusing on the Social Determinants of Health which make up 70% of the factors that affect our health is imperative
3. Equity and Access. Providing education, availability and opportunity for everyone in our community to be healthy.
4. Promote and provide education about healthy lifestyle choices and how healthier choices may prevent or reverse chronic disease.
5. Aligning and collaborating all the assets of this community is important to a successful outcome – a healthy community.

Twenty-one Lakewood residents and advocates who attended in March responded that they would be willing to meet monthly for up to a year to create and tell the story of this work to the community and its leadership and lay the groundwork for long-term sustainability.

These twenty-one individuals convened as a work group for the first time on May 15, 2019 to begin a discussion on how this effort might be advanced. Working with a facilitator, a schedule and calendar for the work group has been created with the goal for the group to develop recommendations for a strategic direction and/or model for the community to advance work towards being the healthiest community.

The work group plans to work through the summer and hopes to present recommendations to the community, its stakeholders, potential funders and leaders sometime in September. Chief among these leaders is you, our City Council. Your leadership has many attributes. A very important and unique role you play is the stewardship of the city's Lakewood Hospital Fund.



Health and wellness are not historically the work of city government. We have spent several years talking about our community's health and the components of population health, wellness and clinical care. As a government we are uniquely positioned to convene and engage our greatest asset – our residents – to take on this strategic planning for our community. Ultimately, to be successful and sustainable, a framework to advance health and wellness should exist outside city government; but, this City has resources to invest in the future health of our community by supporting a Live Well Lakewood strategic initiative that will benefit the community for decades.

I urge you to keep tuned in, review the Live Well Lakewood information [on the website](#) and do some research on your own about what is happening across the country regarding various approaches to supporting healthy communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Summers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael P. Summers