

April 17, 2009



## Community Development Committee

### 1. Main Street Kent 2009 Work Program

Representatives from the Main Street organization have requested time in Committee to share the elements and activities of their 2009 Work Program. In addition, Mary Gilbert will distribute the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter activity reports for Main Street.

#### *Administration Recommendation*

This is an informational session that does not require any Council action.

#### *Council Action*

**Receive the Main Street report.**

### 2. Draft Downtown Design Guidelines

As you may recall, Main Street partnered with the City to hire a professional firm that specializes in working with communities, particularly in downtown settings, to prepare design guidelines for new and redevelopment projects. The draft document is completed and Main Street has requested Committee time to present the draft document and receive public comment. (attachment)

#### *Administration Recommendation*

With all the redevelopment work underway in downtown Kent, I would recommend Council adopt the design guidelines as a voluntary standard to guide investment decisions in downtown Kent.

#### *Council Action*

**Adopt the downtown design guidelines.**

## Public Health and Safety Committee

### 3. Main Street Wine and Cheese Street Closure Request

Main Street has sponsored the Kent Wine and Cheese festival over the last 2 years and its success has led to a new request this year from Main Street to expand the festival on to N. Water Street. Main Street would like Council's approval to display artwork and serve food and drink in a self contained, secure area that extends beyond the Home Savings Plaza and on to N. Water Street. This would require closure of N. Water Street to vehicle traffic during the duration of the event. (attachment)

#### *Administration Recommendation*

The Main Street Wine and Cheese festival has been a successful new event. Each year attendance has grown without problems or altercations, and I would recommend Council's approval to allow Main Street to expand the festival footprint to accommodate the increased participation.

#### *Council Action*

**Authorize the new street closure for the Main Street Wine and Cheese festival.**



## Sidewalk and Utilities Committee



### 4. Winter Sidewalk Clearing

After a series of public meetings, the volunteers on the ad hoc sidewalk snow removal committee would like an opportunity to present their recommendations to City Council. At the ad hoc committee's request I have attached copies of Kent's existing sidewalk ordinance and the Bowling Green alternative for Council's consideration during the discussion. I have also included the minutes from the ad hoc committee meetings and information from Gene Roberts concerning City sidewalks and City costs and capabilities.

#### *Administration Recommendation*

Receive the ad hoc committee report and direct staff accordingly.

#### *Council Action*

**Receive the report and direct staff accordingly.**

## Information Items

### 1. Income Tax Report

John Mockler has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of March 2009. For the first quarter there has been an increase in income tax receipts in 2009 over 2008 of 1.63%. Kent State University continues to offset the erosion of income tax receipts from the other business sectors as they are up 4.3% in their total contributions. (attachment)

### 2. Ohio Legislative Update

I have included a copy of a legislative update circulated among the Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers. It provides summaries of a broad array of issues facing cities in Ohio. (attachment)

### 3. Health Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes

John Ferlito has provided copies of the agenda for the April 21, 2009 Board meeting as well as the minutes from the March 10, 2009 Health Board Meeting. The packet includes a copy of the statistical report for the first three months of the year that shows department fee revenues up 4% over last year (\$2,935) while state fees are down \$1,031(8%) from last year. (attachment)

### 4. Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda

Gary Locke has included a copy of the agenda for the April 20, 2009 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting and the corresponding staff report. There are three items up for consideration: 1412 Franklin Avenue, set back variance; 200 Sherman Street, expansion of a non-confirming rooming house variance; 452 Sunrise Boulevard, fence height variance. (attachments)

### 5. Police Statistics

Chief Peach has forwarded his March 2009 Police Statistics report. Total calls for service have slightly increased (.3%) while total arrests and ticketing figures are down. Similarly, accident incidents are up 16% while incidents of serious crimes are down 8%. (attachment)

### 6. Homeowner Letter for SubArea Q Stormwater Project

For your information I have included a copy of the letter that was sent to the residents living the SubArea Q drainage basin. The letter informs the residents that the new storm sewer is complete and that they now need to make the necessary connections to their home. (attachment)