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December 16, 2013

Lakewood City Council
12650 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44107

Re: Lakewood Recreation Task Force Resolution

Dear Members of Council:

Attached is a draft Resolution regarding the creation of a Lakewood Recreation Task Force. For more than a year, the Mayor and I have engaged in informal discussions with the Superintendent of the Lakewood City School District and the previous interim part-time Recreation Director regarding the need for better coordination between the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood City School District regarding recreation facilities and programming. Vice President Madigan and I have also raised the topic with the President and Vice President of the School Board.

As you know, the responsibility for recreation facilities and programming is currently split between the City, the School District, and various independent groups. It is estimated that less than 1% of Ohio cities have a Recreation Department managed and funded by the local public school district. The financial burden of managing our Recreation Department should no longer be borne by the School District alone. We have discussed the possibility of ultimately forming a new Recreation Department as a joint venture between the City and the School District, with a professional full-time Recreation Director. This idea and other concepts should be studied by a Task Force of Lakewood citizens.

Please join me in referring this draft Resolution to the Committee of the Whole for further action, including an invitation to the School Board seeking their participation. My hope and expectation is that the Resolution will ultimately be revised to allow for members to be appointed by the School Board and for joint adoption by City Council and the School Board.

Respectfully,

Brian E. Powers, President