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October 22, 2020

(Via email this date to each member)

City of Lakewood City Council  
Health & Human Services Committee  
John Litten, Chair  
Sarah Kepple, Member  
Tristan Rader, Member

**Subject: Legislation to Reestablish the City of Lakewood  
Department of Health**

I encourage your committee to formulate and propose legislation that would reestablish a Department of Public Health for the City of Lakewood. (Please also see attached letter dated April 23, 2020.)

This legislation is warranted by the powerful necessity posed by a viral pandemic to protect the health, safety, and well-being of residents of Lakewood, those employed in Lakewood, and those who visit Lakewood. The rationale for such legislation is clear:

*Reason No. 1.* Our nation and state are in the midst of a global viral pandemic of historic impacts—a pandemic known to have fatal or catastrophic consequences for some of its victims. Ohio has suffered more than 5,000 fatalities in only 8 months.

*Reason No. 2.* As we attempt to go about our ordinary business in the time of the Covid-19, we each wear a mask to protect ourselves and others under a Resolution enacted on August 4, 2020 by the City. We also comply with a similar order from the State of Ohio. The State of Emergency declared by the Ohio Governor on March 9, 2020 as well as the so-far unmitigated growth of the pandemic clearly justifies the reestablishment of a department of public health in Lakewood.

*Reason No. 3.* The City of Lakewood has identified known communities that are likely vulnerable to Covid-19 and its impacts. These communities have been identified on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis in your 2018 study.

*Reason No. 4.* Due to the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health may lack the resources to provide the needed services that Lakewood has contracted for. This reason is substantiated (or can be inferred) by the previous minutes of the committee.

I truly appreciate all of the efforts of our city government and this council committee during these trying times.

Very truly yours,

Mark D. Kindt, Esq.

copy:

Mayor George & President of Council O'Malley

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April 23, 2020

**To:**

Meghan F. George, Mayor

Dan O'Malley, President of City Council (Council Member Ward 4)

Tom Bullock, Council Member at Large

Sarah Kepple, Council Member at Large

Tristan Rader, Council Member at Large

Tess Neff, Council Member, Ward 1

Jason Shachner, Council Member, Ward 2

John Litten, Council Member, Ward 3.

**Subject:** FORMATION OF A NEW DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Given the current Covid-19 Pandemic and dire health and economic consequences of this situation, I respectfully request that the City Administration and City Council with all due haste propose legislation to create, fund, and staff a new Department of Public Health for the City of Lakewood; to prepare the City to conduct testing of the virus as such testing becomes available in order to assist the public in returning to the business of normal life as may be reasonably possible.

Very truly yours,

Mark D. Kindt