



June 25, 2010

TO: Council President
City Councilmembers
Council Appointees

FROM: Eric Norenberg

SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Following are updates on various topics for your information. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Economic Development

- City and Lorain County Partners Win Business Attraction Award - The Fourth Annual Team NEO Economic Development "Plus" Awards were announced at an event Wednesday night at Akron's John S. Knight Center. "The event celebrates the 'wins' in Northeast Ohio," said Tom Waltermire, Team NEO's chief executive, in a statement. "(These are) projects that are helping to diversify and advance our economy." The City of Oberlin, Team Lorain County, the City of North Ridgeville, and the Lorain County Growth Partnership won the award in the important *Business Attraction* category for collaboration in attracting GreenField Solar Corp to Lorain County. Council Vice President Sharon Soucy and City Manager Eric Norenberg were on hand to receive the award along with our co-recipients and GreenField Solar representatives. (Additional information is attached.)

The award recognizes our City's cooperation and collaboration with other agencies in County for this particular project. However, it is important to know that this work doesn't end after one "win" or after an award. Our staff and regional partners persist in following leads, nurturing relationships and trying new ideas to strengthen our local and regional economy. Equally important for Oberlin's continued economic vitality is the valuable work of our City staff, Oberlin City Schools, local non-profit agencies, Oberlin College and local businesses that make our community one that is attractive to businesses to move to this community. In the last 12 months, at least one-half dozen new businesses have opened in Oberlin.

Public Works

- Staff Follows Up on Concerns – On several occasions, Warren Daniels has appeared at City Council meetings to raise concerns about compensation for work on the Oberlin Water Treatment Plant upgrade project. Because Mr. Daniels' son Derek was a subcontractor on the project, the City did not have a direct role in decisions related to subcontractors. However, staff did make extra efforts to facilitate communication, and ultimately a resolution, between the general contractor and Derek Daniels.

This is an example of the many extra efforts our City staff engage in daily to resolve resident concerns. This often requires extra time, as employees go “above and beyond” what would typically be expected. We pride ourselves in serving our community, so our team strives to support our core values, including providing “excellent and effective services” to our community with a “neighborly attitude and friendliness.”

City Manager’s Office

- Vacation Plans – I will be out of town for a family vacation to Iowa next week. We depart Wednesday, June 30 and will return to Oberlin on July 5. During that time, I will have access to e-mail and can be reached by cell phone. Gary Boyle will be Acting City Manager.