

Council Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2020 – 7 PM • Community Hall

Item	Presented By:	Action	Topic	Report
Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call	Mayor Stefan Densmore			Mayor Densmore called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM EST. All members present except Mr. Pridonoff. Motion to excuse Mr. Pridonoff by Mr. Boettcher Second by Mr. Marx All in favor.
Set the Agenda & Adopt	Mayor Densmore	Review & Motion		Motion to amend the agenda to move “Solicitor” item section to top of the agenda by Mr. Boettcher. Second by Ms. Chaney All voted in favor. Motion to approve the agenda by Mr. Boettcher Second by Ms. Chaney All voted in favor.
Persons Registered to Address Council	Resident/Visitor	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph Dickhaus Recruiting Assistant U.S. Census Bureau 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Dickhaus is a recruiter for the US Census Bureau. Mr. Dickhaus thanked those in audience, the Mayor, and Council for enabling him to speak this evening. Mr. Dickhaus stated the importance of the Census as well as that the US Census Bureau is currently hiring. Census Bureau is offering jobs in several different areas starting at \$23.50/hour. Each position with the Census Bureau offers flexible scheduling. For more information or to apply please visit www.2020census.gov/en/jobs.html. Mr. Dickhaus also noted that Golf Manor has the 2020 Census prominently displayed on the website as well as promoted on the municipal building exterior signage.
Minutes to be Approved	Andy Lanser	Review & Motion	Previous meeting minutes.	January 13, 2020: Click here to review or download Motion to approve the January 13, 2020 minutes by Mr. Van Harn Second by Mr. Marx All voted in favor.

Departments/Committees

			<p>Zachary Michelson</p> <p>Doug Strand, 3156 Mapleleaf Ave.</p> <p>A.D. Motzen</p> <p>Alana Jochum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Michelson thanked the Mayor and Council for permitting him to speak to Council this evening. Mr. Michelson stated that he worries the passage of the proposed ordinance will result in an element of governmental compulsion and force upon consensual relationships between residents of the Village and will create an unfair burden on the members of the Orthodox community of the Village. • Mr. Strand stated that although he is not a resident of the Village, the passage of the proposed ordinance will impact his decision-making process when evaluating when and where to spend his time and money. Mr. Strand stated that if passed he will make an extra effort to patronize businesses based in the Village. Mr. Strand concluded that he hopes that Council will move forward this evening in remedying an injustice that the State and Federal government has ignored. • Rabbi Motzen stated that he is pained by the prospect of the passage of the proposed ordinance this evening. According to Rabbi Motzen the views of the Orthodox community have not been included in the language of the proposed ordinance. Despite this Rabbi Motzen stated that he has tried to convey the sincerity of the Orthodox position. Rabbi Motzen further stated that it has been difficult to find attorneys to help him and the Orthodox community during this process. For this reason, Rabbi Motzen is thankful to have found former Judge Hartman. Rabbi Motzen continued by stating that the Orthodox community has the impression that the Council doesn't trust and/or doesn't care about the Orthodox community. Rabbi Motzen concluded by stating that he is attempting to prevent conflict between the Village and the Orthodox community that could lead to litigation, and that he appreciates the process and the Mayor's efforts, but more work must be done. • In response to the Rabbi's comments, Ms. Jochum stated that the process the Council has performed has been enriching, engaging, and illuminating. Again, Ms. Jochum stated that she isn't aware of any Council body across the state that can speak with as much clarity on the matter as Golf Manor's can. Ms. Jochum further
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			<p>Minority Opinion</p>	<p>stated that she believes the Village is taking a step towards inclusivity. In addition, Ms. Jochum stated that she believes the proposed Ordinance matches state and federal law regarding religious exemption, and those standards should be easy to enforce. Ms. Jochum concluded her remarks by stating that she credits the Council’s courage in being the first community outside of the City of Cincinnati to potentially adopt this ordinance and that Council should be confident in the process and the result.</p> <p>3rd reading roll call vote: Mr. Boettcher: Yes Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Kneipp: No Mr. Marx: Yes Mr. Van Harn: Yes ORD 2019-10 passes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Kneipp stated that for him the decision to vote on the proposed ordinance was based on a philosophical balancing test based upon the idea that everyone should be able to live their own life as they see fit. For Mr. Kneipp discrimination is always wrong, including discrimination based upon sexual orientation. However, Mr. Kneipp is opposed to anyone imposing their will on another. For this reason, Mr. Kneipp believes that fundamental protections should be extended to all parties. Mr. Kneipp concluded by stating that he would support the proposed ordinance if a broad religious exemption was added to it. Mr. Kneipp would appreciate if members of Council and those attending in audience would seek him out to discuss the matter. <p>No votes changed</p>
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			<p>ORD 2019-14: An Ordinance Modifying Chapter 553 of the Code of Ordinances Concerning Public Nuisances</p>	<p>ORD 2019-14: Third Reading Motion to approve by Mr. Marx Second by Mr. Boettcher Discussion: Mr. Donnellon stated that the purpose of this ordinance is to reconcile the Village’s nuisance code with the most recent adopted property maintenance code.</p> <p>Roll call</p> <p>Mr. Boettcher: Yes Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Kneipp: Yes Mr. Marx: Yes Mr. Van Harn: Yes Motion passes.</p> <p>ORD 2019-14 passes.</p>
<p>Mayor</p>	<p>Mayor Densmore</p>	<p>Report & Announcements</p>	<p>Report</p> <p>Mr. Marx</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Densmore requested that Council observe a moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of former Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune. Mayor Densmore stated that he found Mr. Portune to have a great humility about him and demonstrated a willingness to fight for people. • Mr. Marx requested that Council also acknowledge the passing of Judge Nathaniel Jones. Judge Jones was a civil rights icon both in Greater Cincinnati as well as for the nation. • Mr. Marx requested that Council acknowledge that today, January 27, 2020, is International Holocaust Remembrance Day in recognition of the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. <p>Motion for Village to acknowledge that today January 27, 2020 is the International Holocaust Remembrance Day by Mr. Marx. Second by Mr. Boettcher All voted in favor.</p>

			<p>Recreation Commission</p> <p>Duke Energy Pipeline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor’s report on the future of Recreation Commission amended to the minutes • Communities of Blue Ash, Evendale, Cincinnati, and Reading have filed an application for delaying the Duke Energy pipeline installation based upon their contention that the approval process was illegitimate. As a result, the installation on the pipeline has been delayed while this works its way through the Courts. Mr. Hirth stated that Golf Manor’s objection to the project is attached to the motions from the other communities. • Mayor Densmore, Mr. Hirth, and Mr. Lanser will be meeting with representatives from Duke Energy to discuss the impact of the pipeline in the Village. Will have an update on this at the next Council meeting.
Village Administrator	Ron Hirth	Report	Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new 8” water main has been activated on Stover from Losantiville to Bremont. Construction on the southern end continues. • Stover CDS continues to be a problem. Cameras installed. Working with Solicitor on long-term solution. • Estimates for a sidewalk replacement program have been received and a plan for Council to review will be presented on February 10. • Still waiting for funding approval for the Vera corridor road project this Fall. • Follow up on the Bien property on Wiehe continues. The Planning Commission has moved to condemn and raze the property. Mr. Donnellon spoke with Mr. Bien this week. • Follow up on the flooding issue at 2411 St. Albans – the property owner continues to proactively work in good faith to correct the water issue. • Working toward next steps with Hamilton County planning on creating our master development plan. • Attended Public Information Officer training with Hamilton County Emergency Response. • Mr. Lanser attended Millcreek Valley Conservancy board meeting.

<p>Fiscal Officer/Asst. Admin</p>	<p>Andy Lanser</p>	<p>Report</p>	<p>Report</p> <p>ORD 2020-01: An Ordinance Authorizing Incentive Compensation for Employees of the Village of Golf Manor, Ohio During Calendar Year 2020, and Declaring An Emergency</p>	<p>Motion to accept November and December monthly financial reports By Mr. Boettcher Second by Mr. Van Harn All voted in favor. Motion to accept the employee compensation ordinance by title only Mr. Boettcher Second by Mr. Marx All voted in favor.</p> <p>ORD 2020-01: Motion to approve ordinance as an Emergency by Mr. Boettcher Second by Ms. Chaney Roll call: Mr. Boettcher: Yes Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Kneipp: Yes Mr. Marx: Yes Mr. Van Harn: Yes Motion passes.</p> <p>Motion to suspend the rules by Mr. Marx Second by Mr. Van Harn Roll call: Mr. Boettcher: Yes Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Kneipp: Yes Mr. Marx: Yes Mr. Van Harn: Yes Motion passes.</p>
<p>Police</p>	<p>Chief Chris Campbell</p>	<p>Report</p>	<p>Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father Bruno M. Kremp, founding member and chaplain of the HCPA passed away over the weekend. • For December the Police Department responded to 458 calls for service and filed 10 incident reports. • For 2019 the Police Department responded to 5,815 calls for service and issued 327 incident reports.

LMFR Fire District	Chief Jim Puthoff	Report	Report	<p>Chief Puthoff not present. Mr. Marx reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 2019 the Fire District performed 2,074 runs for service. Of these 1,597 were for EMS services, and 477 were for fires. • In Golf Manor there were 660 total runs, 574 in Columbia Township, and 378 in Fairfax. • Chief Puthoff is requesting the Fire District hire a grant writer.
Executive Committee	Lou Marx	Report		Executive Committee did not meet this evening.
Education	Sharon Chaney	Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPS Superintendent was assigned the responsibility of identifying solutions to school overcrowding, including for Pleasant Ridge Montessori. Two solutions were identified; 1. Make Woodford a magnet school and; 2. Change the boundaries for PRM. • PRM LSDMC is writing letters to the CPS school board demanding that the CPS school board perform community engagement with the families of PRM. It is apparent that the community wants to add another Montessori school. • PRM LSDMC has recently been notified that the Bramble School in Madisonville is a possibility for a new school since it is currently vacant. • PRM has recently hired a full-time security guard for the school.
Non-Profit	Eric Pridonoff			No report
Fire District	Lou Marx	Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMFR Board Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 1:30 PM at Fairfax. Following will be a District Sustainability meeting. • LMFR Fire Board meets Wednesday, February 19, 2020 - 6 PM, at Golf Manor. • Columbia township. Trustee Susan Hughes has left the LMFR Board. Caroline Heekin, financial officer will be replacing Mr. Lemon on the board, who is retiring on 4/1. They will need to place an elected trustee on the Board to replace Ms. Hughes.
Planning Commission	Matt Boettcher	Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Planning Commission meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020 pending any business.

Community Engagement	Danny Kneipp, Chair	Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Committee met on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Demetrios. Mayor Densmore attended and presented his priorities for Committee. Also discussed a potential solution to the status of the Recreation Committee and its long-term future. Moving forward the Committee will work to identify what assets are available for community outreach and engagement, including the Census. Mr. Kneipp plans to sit down with Mr. Van Harn and Mr. Lanser over the next few weeks to facilitate better outreach in the community. The Committee will meet every third Thursday in Chambers.
Finance Committee	Matt Boettcher, Chair	Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Village is in a much stronger financial position to start 2020 than it has been in several years. The Village now has a General Fund carryover balance near \$600,000. Mr. Hirth recognized Ms. Gedeon and Chief Campbell for their work in the area of expense control.
Old Business				
New Business	Sharon Chaney	Discussion	Recreation Commission	Ms. Chaney stated that the subject is being addressed in the Community Engagement committee and needs no discussion here.
Executive Session			A Matter of Personnel & Compensation	<p>Motion to move to Executive Session for a matter of personnel and compensation by Mr. Marx Second by Mr. Kneipp</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Mr. Boettcher: Yes Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Kneipp: Yes Mr. Marx: Yes Mr. Van Harn: Yes All voted in favor.</p> <p>Motion to move out of Executive Session by Mr. Kneipp Second by Marx All voted in favor.</p>

Announcements				<p>Next Meetings for Monday February 10, 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive Committee meets at 6PM in Chambers ○ Council meets at 7PM in Chambers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Engagement Committee will meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6PM
Adjourn				<p>Motion to adjourn at 9:22 PM by Mr. Boettcher Second by Ms. Chaney All voted in favor.</p>

_____ Date: _____
Submitted by Andy Lanser, Fiscal Officer

_____ Date: _____
Stefan C. Densmore, Mayor

_____ Date: _____
Anna Gedeon, Asst. Clerk

Ron Hirth

From: Jivanto van Hemert <jivanto.vanhemert@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Stefan Densmore; Matthew Boettcher; Sharon Chaney; Danny Kneipp; Lou Marx; Eric Pridonoff; Roger VanHarn
Cc: alana@equalityohio.org; jen@equalityohio.org; Ron Hirth
Subject: Support for Nondiscrimination Ordinance

Dear Mayor Densmore, Vice Mayor Boettcher, and Council Members Chaney, Kneipp, Marx, Pridonoff, and Van Harn:

As you prepare for the 3rd reading of this ordinance I want to call your attention back to the original intent which, I fear, has been clouded in recent iterations of the conversation: the goal of this ordinance is to reaffirm Golf Manor as a safe and welcoming community for all by prohibiting discrimination for those among society who historically and currently are the most vulnerable to bias, bigotry, and inequity.

As someone who has had the opportunity to shop, play, and love in Golf Manor I am proud you are having this conversation. As someone who has seriously considered the prospect of making the Village my home, it is important to me to know that community—and particularly—the elected representatives are committed to Justice. As someone who regularly has the opportunity to introduce the Village to people for the first time, I want to be able to highlight that Golf Manor supports its citizens regardless of who they are or whom they love.

Everyone has clearly agreed throughout the conversations that federal law and the very bedrock of our nation provide for the free expression of religion and thus, certain exceptions to this ordinance. Equally clearly, it is not the intention of the current religious community in Golf Manor to discriminate against people on the basis of who they are or whom they love. As Council Members, is your prerogative and, I'd argue duty, to ensure this spirit remains—codified in your ordinance— for future generations.

Let me end with a recognition that you have adopted a difficult undertaking—the more than a year you've spent having conversations to craft the ordinance that will be before you this evening is evidence enough of that. I've read that "love is the blending agent that fuses the political and the intimate, providing urgency to one and context to the other" and I've witnessed what a difficult backdrop this is to have collaborative dialogue. I applaud your efforts up to this point and urge you be responsive to the inherently intimate nature of this work.

I am proud to support full nondiscrimination protections in the village of Golf Manor that affirm the dignity and worth of all human beings and provide religious exemptions that match those at state and federal level. I implore you to recall the core of the conversation is love—tonight you have the opportunity to reaffirm that Golf Manor is a place that loves. I hope you do.

Best,

Jivanto

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Jivanto P. van Hemert, MBA, M.Ed

JI-VAWN-toh VAN HEY-mert

Pronouns: He, Him, His



Jivanto.vanHemert@gmail.com

Ron Hirth

From: Dixie Beer <dyb3694@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 6:59 PM
To: Ron Hirth
Subject: Non-discrimination ordinance support

Dear Mayor Densmore and Village Council members,

I am a resident of Golf Manor and I urge you to vote in favor of the non-discrimination ordinance which would prohibit discrimination in housing, employment or public accommodation based on protected classes that also include sexual orientation and gender identity, including expression.

One of the things that I love about Golf Manor is the diversity of residents and we need to proclaim that each and every resident, as well as visitors to our area, are accepted and protected with no exclusions or discrimination. Ours is a vibrant community, made even more vibrant with the young families who have moved in. Young families tend not to share the old prejudices and the inclusion of this ordinance would declare that we are a welcoming community to this desirable demographic

I have been to the meetings where this is discussed and I urge you to pass the ordinance with the religious exemptions that are the same as those at the state and federal level. A blanket religious exemption can open a whole Pandora's box of unintended consequences. We only have religious institutions of one faith here right now, but we also need to think about making this ordinance address possibilities in the future. I am from Pleasant Ridge originally, lived in Indiana for several years and have lived in Golf Manor ever since I moved back into the area. While living in Indiana, I have seen how storefront churches of all kinds that don't necessarily follow the area's norms can pop up almost overnight. There, I lived in a great neighborhood in the middle of the city, and even there at one time a snake-handling congregation moved to a house just a block from me. There was not a non-discrimination ordinance and all kinds of discriminatory behavior was tolerated. I was one of the founding members of a social justice group and we heard stories all the time of people who had experienced discrimination with no recourse.

I implore you to pass this non-discrimination ordinance so that Golf Manor remains a diverse welcoming community that I am so proud of and that it protects the most vulnerable in our midst.

Thank you.

Dixie Beer
6130 Hammel Ave.

Dear Mayor Densmore and Village Council Members:

As a community member and resident of Golf Manor, I urge you to vote in favor of the nondiscrimination ordinance which would prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, or public accommodations based on protected classes including race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or military status.

I believe that all Golf Manor community members and future residents should have the right to live and prosper without fear of prejudice or discrimination. As a community, we need to protect all individuals, no exclusions, no discrimination.

Fair employment practices along with fair housing practices and access to any commercial enterprise is the right thing to do, but it is also good for the community, good for business and essential to operating expenses and obtaining grants for a community.

Upon reviewing the data and report produced by Thrive, a number of narratives stood out in the qualitative data which council can address by passing a broad Equality Ordinance. First,

“All residents should be included for income taxes and rental property taxes. Many are not and money slips through the village’s hands.”

I wonder how much income the Village is losing out on when a significant portion of our housing stock is being provided to non-resident members of a religious organization without any income recorded.

Secondly,

"I also believe that the Village government is somewhat disconnected from significant portions of the residential population. This isn't meant to be a criticism of the Village government or elected officials, when in fact I believe that the Village leadership has taken tremendous strides in making the Village as inclusive as they can. Yet, the approximately 70% of the Village belongs to a minority population and this is not necessarily reflected among the elected leadership and staff of the Village. I think it's apparent that representation and inclusion promote general safety and wellbeing for an entire community."

This was painfully made true to me when residents of Ridgeacres had no idea of this ordinance. I have no idea who wrote that, but I could not have stated it better.

And third,

"I believe that the Village is challenged in providing the kinds and levels of services that residents of the Village demand given the resources (or lack thereof) at the Village's disposal."

Again, if the Village is losing a significant amount of income from housing stock that is excluded from the tax base both through the lack of income tax and property tax we as residents are making the sacrifice.

I don't see myself as a marginalized person, yet I affirm the sacred dignity and worth of all human beings. However, offering protections to people with a historically marginalized identity is not only the right thing to do, it makes economic sense so everyone in Golf Manor gets fair and equal representation.

I am proud to support full nondiscrimination protections in the village of Golf Manor. Please pass the nondiscrimination ordinance with religious exemptions that match those at state and federal level to protect those most

vulnerable in our community and declare Golf Manor the welcoming and thriving community it can be.

Thank you,

Elaine Moscovitz



**Agudath
Israel
of America**
אגודת ישראל באמריקה

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OFFICE OF STATE RELATIONS

Rabbi A. D. Motzen
National Director of State Relations

CLOSING SPEECH, GOLF MANOR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING, JANUARY 27, 2020

As you know, I spent the past year working with Council on behalf of the Orthodox community.

It pains me to say this, but unfortunately, while Golf Manor will pass an ordinance tonight for the “guarantee of equality and inclusion,” sadly, the one group whose views are not truly included in this ordinance is that of the Orthodox community.

We’ve had a year of discussion. We’ve met with the village administrator, the current mayor, the vice mayor, and members of Council. We listened to their concerns. We hope they listened to ours. They conveyed to us their sincere belief that people cannot change their sexual orientation and simply want to be afforded the same level of protection as other classes of people, and we tried to convey our sincerity in our immutable religious beliefs.

We explained that all people deserve love, dignity and respect, and we oppose unjust acts of discrimination. But we can’t deny that there are areas of life where religious beliefs conflict with the civil rights of others. This ordinance was trying to balance that conflict and trying to find a path forward.

Many community rabbis, school leaders, and residents, testified in support of the language that was similar to that of the city of Cincinnati, saying that anything less will not meet the needs of the Orthodox community and institutions of Golf Manor.

The ordinance, as written, limits a religious institution from deciding who to hire, and potentially turns houses of worship and religious schools into public accommodations subject to new restrictions on their ability to operate.

Yes, there are a few religious accommodation paragraphs, some of which are required by the Constitution, but at the last meeting you reversed some of the accommodations that Council had already voted on. Council (in a 4-3 vote decided by the mayor) turned down an impassioned plea by Councilman Van Harn to give religious organizations the same berth given by the city of Cincinnati and countless other jurisdictions.

It’s very sad, because I thought we were finally getting our message across. When a vote was almost taken on a Jewish holiday when no one was able to attend from our community, we had over 100 emails sent to council, but the Mayor clarified that it was a miscommunication and we went forward.

I have to admit, it was hard to find attorneys to work with us, because every attorney wanted a bad law and then sue Golf Manor. That’s what they do. Thankfully I had Judge Hartman and others who tried to work with us to make the law *better*, to *avoid* conflict, to *avoid* litigation. We tried, but it didn’t happen.

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In May, the Solicitor wrote; "We have no intent to interfere with the various Jewish schools." In November, the Solicitor asked, why is it that some people have this impression that the Village is ignoring the Jewish community?

So allow me to explain.

We went through this very long process. Maybe I didn't do a good enough job explaining our concerns to Council. I failed. The Mayor's not convinced. Council's not convinced. Every rabbi got up, every institution got up and said this does not meet our needs. Lawyers said that this does not meet our needs. Maybe you still question whether or not this is a burden on our religious liberty. We failed.

So let me illustrate this with the following example. Imagine my spouse tells me to please close the window, because they have a medical condition which makes them very sensitive to the cold and causes them to be severely ill. What if I said, "Honey, it's 70 degrees outside, I don't understand why you get sick from cool air. I've never heard of such a condition. Cool breeze doesn't make *me* sick. And if you don't like it, you can leave the room." What does that mean?

It means that I don't trust my wife, and I don't care.

I don't think that's what Council believes. But the solicitor asked a question which I'm trying to answer. *That's* the message that my community has received. We've tried our best to explain and maybe we failed. But that means one of two things to us -- either you don't believe us, or you don't care.

I'm hoping that's not the case. There's still time. There are amendments you can still make.

I sent an email to all of Council, trying to help prevent litigation and prevent conflict. You can do what other cities have done, what other jurisdictions have done. It's in your hands. But if you decide to go forward, which is your right to do, understand that *those* are the feelings you're going to have to overcome.

This Humans Rights Commission is going to have a lot of work on its hands before any case comes to it, because if its goal is to promote equality and inclusion, it's going to take a lot of work. It's going to take a lot more than menorah lightings and visits to synagogues. It's not impossible. We've been here for 70 years, and we plan to continue to be here, but it's going to take a lot of work. It's very sad and it's unfortunate.

We appreciate the process. We appreciate the Mayor's efforts to make it a balanced process, but I'm expressing the feelings that I've been hearing from community leaders.

I'm hoping that there's still a chance before the night is over that we go away with perhaps more hope.

Thank you very much.