

Shelby City Hall
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May 4, 2021

Rep. Marilyn John
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Sen. Mark Romanchuk
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Shelby City Health District

Dear Representative John & Senator Romanchuk:

Thank you very much for your efforts to save from outright elimination not only the Shelby City Health District (CHD) but also the eighteen other CHDs that serve Ohio cities of under 50,000 population. We were gratified that the language to eliminate them was removed from the House version of the state budget bill.

However, the language in the proposed ORC Section 3709.012 as the Ohio Senate considers the state budget bill is equally troubling. This section again targets the Shelby City Health District and the other mid-sized CHDs by requiring "a study examining the efficiency and effectiveness of merging with the general health district of the county in which the city is located." Quite frankly, we are concerned that the criteria for such a study will lead to a foregone conclusion. Why is it that only CHDs must conduct this study? Is it assumed that general health districts – by the sole virtue of their populations – are efficient and effective? The arbitrary 50,000 population figure is without justification. Let us point out that Morrow County has 35,328 people and Holmes County has 43,901 people (based on 2019 estimates). Yet their health department get a pass from this whole process.

Our constituents are best qualified to determine that the Shelby CHD is both efficient and effective. Here is the proof of their determination: Over the decades, Shelby voters have passed and renewed real estate tax levies time and time again and by comfortable margins to provide financial support for our local CHD. Shelbians want a health department based not in the county seat but here in Shelby.

Over the years, centralizing local government at a regional or state level has become a trend. It assumes that bigger is somehow better. We stand in opposition to that assumption; we believe that local government is the most accountable government. Accountability is lost when government is distant from the people it serves.

One should not assume that the Shelby CHD is opposed to accountability. No, just the opposite is true. It has completed the complicated, time-consuming, and expensive process of accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board, which conducted its site visit in March. We expect to receive our accreditation on May 14, 2021.

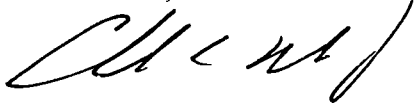
Rest assured that the staffers of the Shelby CHD are completely dedicated to the health and well-being of Shelby, its residents, and its businesses. They do their jobs, and they do them very well indeed.

Thanking you in advance for your ongoing attention to this vital matter, we are,

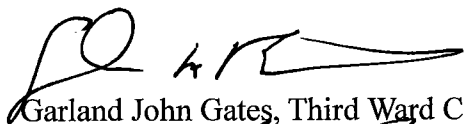
Sincerely yours,

Steve McLaughlin, Vice President of
Council & Councilman-at-Large

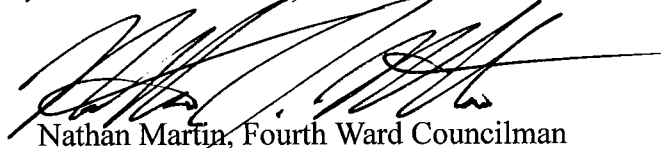
Charles Roub, First Ward Councilman



Derrin Roberts, Second Ward Councilman



Garland John Gates, Third Ward Councilman



Nathan Martin, Fourth Ward Councilman

