**Westerville Area Chamber office 99 Commerce Park Dr. 43082**

**Agenda Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 3:30-4:45 PM**

**Attendees**: Jeff Akers, Amy Balster, Bill Bishop, Mike Carlson, Polly Clavijo, Andrew Hardy, Gene Hollins, Tamara Howard, Dr. John Kellogg, Charlene Kott, Brandon Lawson, Dina Shultz. Staff member: Janet Tressler-Davis

**Welcome:** Introductions – Chair, Jeff Akers

**Updates from Committees and Teams**

* Healthcare – Andy Hardy
  + RSV and Flu are running rampant. Please consider getting vaccinated.
* Taxation/Worker’s Comp. – Brandon/Charlene
  + Businesses should consider how they use Apps for payment processing. There is a new claiming system that businesses will be accountable to the IRS. This is primarily to go after businesses that are trying to avoid paying taxes (cleaning, construction, and other similar individual workers).
  + Visa and Mastercard have added cash versus credit payment options.
* Workforce: WorkWISE – John Kellogg/Janet/Gene
  + Here is a link to all of the resources listed below: [https://www.westervillechamber.com/workforce](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westervillechamber.com%2Fworkforce&data=05%7C01%7Cjakers8%40cscc.edu%7C585fa1c99fd04712482808dad7ea8377%7C60a9d377c82741a1bbf01aad34db4c89%7C0%7C0%7C638059699522290528%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kQTL%2BCAz%2BjLYAe5cESrXUkfaWnHS59spumbOzkXaGhQ%3D&reserved=0).
  + The Chamber co-leads community workforce efforts through the Westerville WorkWISE (Workforce, Innovation, Skills and Education) Collective. The Westerville Partnership came together to have a Talent Assessment & Development Strategy completed. The collective was an an outcome from the study to implement the goals and action steps to advance the Greater Westerville workforce attraction and talent development efforts.
  + The Collective develops a collaborative talent development ecosystem that leverages and links strategic state, regional, and local workforce partners to ensure all residents within Greater Westerville have opportunities to learn high-value and in-demand job skills to meet the needs of employers for today and in the future.
  + Check out the Workforce Resources compiled by the WorkWISE Collective. The information is housed on the City's website [here](https://business.westerville.org/business-support/workwise).
  + [City of Westerville Community Profile - Business](https://business.westerville.org/home/showpublisheddocument/37929/637937398447100000)
  + [City of Westerville Community Profile - Talent](https://business.westerville.org/home/showpublisheddocument/38206/638016214570670000)
* Updates from the mid-term election and the lame-duck session – Andy Hardy
  + Republican control will likely lead to tax cuts, but not at the cost of cuts to items towards disenfranchised communities.
  + HB85 – Distracted driving is being moved through quickly.
  + HB454 – Disallows a health care provider from offering gender transition to minors. Hearings on hold until 2023.
  + Senate Resolution #4 – Declares racism as a current crisis.

**Questions for Candidate Forum Luncheon**

* What are some of the biggest concerns that you have going into the next year?
  + What are your priorities in the coming year?
* How do you plan to work across party lines with a split house?
* How do you believe the supreme court case out of North Carolina related to state legislative control versus state supreme court control will impact Ohio?

**Highlights about the Justice Center – Chief Chandler**

* 65,000 sq ft building. 75 sworn officers. 115 total employees.
* The building is still under construction due to supply chain issues and inflation. Some items need to be cut or pushed back due to increased costs.
* The Center has a simulator that allows officers to reenact different scenarios. They are to take pictures in Westerville-located facilities to mock simulations in buildings that exist in our community.
* Staffing issues are still a challenge. The Center plans to develop a Police Academy to help offset the staffing needs. The ability to host this training would not have been possible without the facility.

**Safety tips in our businesses**

* Businesses should know that Police like to know what is going on. Don’t feel like you are a bother when you call. It is always best to call the police non-emergency line to make timely reports of issues.
* If you need assistance, please ensure the address is visible from multiple vantage points.
* WPD provides free security audits to residential and commercial customers. WPD starts with what the issues are from the business owner/tenant. They typically like a week’s turnaround to plan this.
* Criminals desire two major things: an easy target and the element of surprise. Examples are:
  + Car break-ins – keep items out of sight and out of mind.
  + Purses – consider not taking a purse out because it can draw criminals toward the item.
  + Parking lots – business, churches, and schools should light their parking lots as best they can. Lit parking lots attract business.
  + Security alarms – just the notice of a possible alarm deters criminal activity.

**Future Meeting Topics- interest from the council**

* State Budget
* OCC Legislative Update
* Others?

**Meetings**: The Business Advocacy Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month. The January meeting, however, will be moved to Tuesday, January 10th.

**Adjourn**: 4:55PM followed by a tour with the Chief of the Justice Center.