

Hello residents, I am coming to you from City Hall this week, and want to share some things that are sitting heavy on my heart. This week's video will be slightly shorter than my previous, but nonetheless we will still cover some construction updates and other City happenings.

It is with a great sadness that I discuss this with you today. It's something that, to be frank, should never have had to be said.

There is a problem in both Porter County and Portage Schools.

Drug and Alcohol Addiction. Sadly, many young individuals have been drawn to the social pressures of trying drugs, only to become addicted. Many young children are affected by their parents in the same manners. I find it unfathomable that so many young and older individuals feel that they must turn to such a thing for relief from the stresses of life.

I have been speaking with residents, and hearing firsthand accounts of how addiction has overtaken families. Throughout America, we see drugs as an epidemic that appears to be a losing battle. With so many affected by the effects of these substances. This means that it is time for the City of Portage to take a stand. A stand against the actions of those who push to bring drugs into our schools, against the addiction that so many young persons have been effected by.

I am now calling for a Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Commission. This commission is to be tasked to spear head and to eliminate this scourge upon our City. The commission will consist of individuals who are affected personally, and involving our youth council. The process will be

tiresome, and will be laborious, but in the end will be what makes Portage even stronger. Education is key for the prevention of such problems. I believe that education against the use of such things should start with parents, and individuals willing to tackle this feat. I am asking for this commission to be convened immediately and begin to work promptly for the removal of drugs and alcohol from our young residents' lives. If you want to be a part of the solution to ending this scourge, please call City Hall at 219-762-5425, today.

It is hard to follow up such a heartfelt message with some good news happening in the City. However, progress is the way into the future. If you have been following the progress on Fallen Timbers you will know that the work has been tedious, to say

the least. I am pleased to say that as of now, Fallen Timbers is in its final stages of completion. Paving and final sidewalk/curb placements have taken place. Some other pieces still need to be done, but the massive undertaking of the crews and minds behind this project have finally payed off. Thank you again for your continued patience.

Central Avenue East is also wrapping up, and looks to be on schedule for its November completion. Our Welcome to Portage Gateway, on Crisman Road, will also see some great amounts of development this week.

The last good news piece I want to share with you, is the newest crime rate reports, received today- through September 2019 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter), the overall crime rate is down 17.17% and the violent crime rate is down 10.21%, a historic amount

for the City. I want to personally thank all of our residents and our Portage Police Department for this great news.

Residents, thank you for your time today. Let's remember to come together for the betterment of Portage. God bless, and see you next week.