Meet The Law/Human Resources Department Staff

The City’s Law/Human Resources Department is headed by Law Director/Prosecutor Frank Consolo. John Thomas and Christina Londrico are assistant law directors and prosecutors for the City. Jae Stevenson is the legal assistant to the Law/HR Department. Frank Consolo was sworn in as the City’s Law Director/Prosecutor on September 7, 2016 by Mayor Blackwell. Frank was the Mayor’s first director level appointment. The Mayor conducted a thorough and extensive vetting process before choosing Frank, who also serves as the Law Director for the Village of Woodmere. Frank met with the Mayor three times, including his initial meeting with her at an economic development forum at the City Club, which he attended with the Woodmere Council President in April 2016.

Over the next five months, the Mayor checked with the Woodmere Mayor and other elected officials in the area and gained input on the quality of Frank’s work as a law director. The Mayor then had Frank interview with members of her executive staff, including the Finance Director, Human Services Director, Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Frank then met with all the Council members (except Councilwoman Miller who was on military duty) on September 6 and introduced himself. The next day Council unanimously approved the Mayor’s appointment of Frank as Maple Heights Law Director/Prosecutor.

When Frank was appointed as Law Director, the City had a vacancy in the Human Resources Director position. Rather than spend considerable money on filling the position, Frank agreed to assume the role of HR Director given his experience and knowledge in labor and employment matters. All substantive employment related matters, including discipline, grievances, arbitrations, collective bargaining, EEOC compliance and employee benefits are handled by him after consultation with the Mayor and necessary Department Heads and Chiefs.

Frank graduated from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in 1986 and CWRU Law School in 1989. He bought his first house in University Heights for 25 years. He started off in the building department and for 20 years she worked with the police department, detective bureau, Shaker Hts. Municipal Court and city prosecutors, most recently being the executive secretary to the police chief and detective bureau. At night Jae studied to become a paralegal and interned with Frank’s law firm to earn her paralegal degree.

Frank has always been passionate about the future of inner ring suburbs of greater Cleveland, like University Heights and Maple Heights. University Heights was approaching a fiscal crisis in 2005, which spurred him to get involved in the City. He began attending Council meetings and was fascinated by the process. In 2008, Frank ran for and won a seat on Council. He served four years until 2012. As a councilman he gained invaluable experience directly participating in the municipal government process. He knows the day-to-day operations and challenges of a City as a participant, and not as just a representative.

Rather than seek another term on Council, Frank realized he was better suited to be a law director. Frank wanted to be that person the elected officials could rely on for help and guidance when necessary. He wanted to free the elected officials from having to worry about, and get bogged down, in the minutia of process and let them concentrate on formulating ideas to help their residents. In 2012 he was chosen by the Woodmere Village Council to lead their Law Department.

Frank also operates a small law firm concentrating on municipal law, labor and employment law and civil litigation. He is an Ohio State Bar Association Specialist in Labor and Employment Law and has extensive experience in both public and private sector employment issues, collective bargaining and grievance arbitrations, as well as EEOC matters. Frank’s son Horace works with him as an attorney in the firm along with John Thomas and Christina Londrico.

John Thomas, a former prosecutor for the City of Mansfield, who has tried over 2000 cases, agreed to join the Maple Heights Law Department in October 2016. Then in March 2017 Christina Londrico, a Cuyahoga Heights prosecutor, also joined the Law Department. Their knowledge, experience and professionalism have greatly enhanced the reputation of the Law Department. We prosecute nearly 250 criminal and traffic cases per month in Garfield Heights Municipal Court and Mayor’s Court.

The backbone of the Law/HR Department is Jae Stevenson. Jae joined the Department in July 2017 as a paralegal and legal assistant. Jae worked for the City of University Heights for 25 years. She started off in the building department and for 20 years she worked with the police department, detective bureau, Shaker Hts. Municipal Court and city prosecutors, most recently being the executive secretary to the police chief and detective bureau. At night Jae studied to become a paralegal and interned with Frank’s law firm to earn her paralegal degree.

With the Maple Heights Law/HR Department Jae prepares subpoenas and court files for the prosecutors as well as handling day-day employee matters, such as employee benefits, workers’ compensation, employee wellness programs, and insurance matters.
Have you ever heard the expression “Gone to the Dogs” or “It’s the Cat’s Meow”? Well, that is exactly what is going on at this edition’s business of the quarter. Located at 5620 Dunham Road in Maple Heights is Beauty In The Beast. Since 1993, owners Marc and Alaina Koplow have been providing the highest quality of pet grooming services to residents of southeast Cuyahoga County.

~Mayor’s Featured Business~

Beauty In The Beast

Alaina and the rest of the staff are true animal lovers and take excellent care of the pets entrusted to them for their pet grooming needs. In her words, “From big to small, we do it all.” Any pet grooming services you can think of including bathing, conditioning, haircuts, nail clipping, ear cleaning and hair brushing etc. are available at Beauty In The Beast.

The hours of operation are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. When asked why they chose Maple Heights for their business, the Koplow’s agree, “Because Maple Heights is a friendly, family community. The great majority of residents love and care for their pets.”

So with the holidays approaching, give your family pet a treat with some special attention and care from Beauty In The Beast. To make an appointment call 216-475-3141.

City to Install LED lighting at City Buildings and Stafford Park

For the second year in a row the City of Maple Heights has taken on an aggressive LED lighting upgrade program for its municipal facilities. The city is utilizing a $61,782.00 grant that it applied for and received from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) to replace and supplement the existing incandescent and mercury vapor fixtures with LED lighting at City Hall, the Police Station, Fire Station No. 1 and the Senior Center.

In addition $50,000 of the $100,000 allocated to the City of Maple Heights for improvements to senior and youth recreational programs in the State of Ohio capital budget is being used to replace and supplement existing incandescent and mercury vapor fixtures with LED lighting at Stafford Park. The lighting upgrade at Stafford Park will be funded through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and includes all of the parking lot lighting as well as the lighting in the vicinity of the pool, tennis courts, and park restroom/pavilion areas.

LED lighting improvements reduce overall energy consumption and maintenance requirements while increasing the overall quality of the lighting in all of the targeted areas. The lighting upgrades at Stafford Park are expected to have an impact on discouraging and preventing loitering, vandalism, and other criminal behavior which are a direct threat to public safety.

Construction on the lighting upgrades at the municipal building is currently underway and the construction on lighting at Stafford Park is expected to begin shortly.
Great things going on at MHPD!

The Maple Heights Police Department has great things happening! We hired a new officer, placed another officer into the detective bureau, and we now have a new chaplain for the department. We are appreciative of the support we receive from Mayor Blackwell as the Safety Director to do our jobs. We look forward to continuing the great partnership and teamwork that has developed between the departments within the City and City Council to address the needs of the community and move up and out of fiscal emergency. Our officers and employees have been working extremely hard under very demanding conditions and we are looking toward a bright 2020 that will bring Maple Heights out from fiscal emergency and able to more fully support our mission to protect and serve our residents.

Our newest member is Officer Colton Cramer. Officer Cramer was hired off of our civil service list last July. He had some previous experience with Linndale PD. Colton comes from a law enforcement family. His father (Officer Rick Cramer), uncle (Sgt. Todd Cranner), and aunt (Officer Berri Cramer) are all with Garfield Heights Police Department. Colton graduated Strongsville High School in 2014 and attended the Cuyahoga Community College Police Academy. He comes in with a great attitude and is ready to serve the community. We are excited to have him on the team.

Officer Chris Faunce was named to the open spot in the Maple Heights Detective Bureau with the departure of Detective Paul Hobart recently. Detective Faunce went through a rigorous tryout process and passed with flying colors. He will join Det. Tom Halley and Det. Drew Sperie in the bureau under the direction of Det. Lt. Don Grossmyer. Chris is a member of the Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) Hazardous Device Unit (HDU—formerly known as the bomb squad), a department OC (pepper spray) Instructor, and was one of our Field Training Officers (FTO) for our new hires. He is a welcome addition to the detective bureau and we look forward to many more years of great service.

Recently, our department chaplain, Edward Strnad, decided to step down from his duties after a long career. Chaplain Strnad served Bedford PD and Maple Hts. PD with many years of faithful service starting in the 1960s! He will still be stopping by and checking on the officers here and there but will no longer be functioning as the chaplain. He is a long-time Maple Heights resident so if you see him please offer him thanks for the many years of service.

Officer George Allen is the new MHPD Chaplain. Officer Allen went through chaplain training and is now certified to be our man. Officer Allen is a minister with his church and his brother is a minister also. He has a strong faith and, being a member of the department already, he has built the bonds of trust through his 11 years of faithful service to MHPD. This is an extra duty for Officer Allen at the department. He is an FTO, a Use of Force Instructor, and is the bargaining unit representative for the police union. George is a respected member of the MHPD team and has always represented the department and the city well during his tenure. I think it is an excellent opportunity for George to showcase his police and pastoral skills for the betterment of our officers’ mental health and the City overall. I asked George what he thought about his new appointment and he said, “Policing is all about helping others. I am grateful that God is using me to accomplish His work through helping those who help others.” — Police Chief Todd Hansen

Animal Warden Update

The Maple Heights Animal Warden ended trapping season on November 1, 2019. The projected date for trapping season to begin again is tentatively scheduled for mid-April of 2020. To ensure humane live animal trapping, night time temperatures must remain above 32 degrees on a consistent basis for trapping to begin.

During the winter season, our Animal Warden continues to follow up on loose, stray or neglected dog calls during regular business hours. Please call the Service Department at 216-587-9014 to get a message to him. After 3:30 PM on weekdays or on weekends, please call the non-emergency police number at 216-662-1234.

Just a reminder, it is mandated by Maple Heights City Ordinance that dogs must be on an leash or contained in a secure, fenced in backyard. Also, while walking or exercising your pet, they must be on a leash.

When time permits, during the winter months, the Animal Warden will be assisting with other seasonal duties in the Service Department.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library Update

In the February, 2018 edition of the Maple Heights Headlines, we shared information with you about free books available to children from birth to age 5 in our community. We let you know that the National Commission on Reading said that “the single most important factor influencing a child’s early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home before starting school.”

We are so pleased that you listened and signed your children up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library! The most wonderful news is that we received word from Joan Spoor of the Imagination Library that Maple Heights has one of the highest percentages of enrolled children in Cuyahoga County! We are hovering around 50% of eligible children, but their goal is to see that percentage reach 65% within the next year.

Haven’t signed up yet? It is not too late. To enroll, parents of children age 4 ½ years old and younger can visit our local library or enroll online at www.literacycooperative.org. There is no cost or obligation to the child’s family. It truly is a FREE GIFT!

Help us build stronger brains and promote a love of books and reading among children in our community by spreading the word about this wonderful boo gifting program that mails free, new age appropriate, high quality books to registered children’s homes every month from birth to age 5.
WASTE MANAGEMENT IS PROUD TO BE THE WASTE SERVICES PROVIDER FOR THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS.

We value your business and look forward to keeping Maple Heights clean - and green - for years to come!