



May 14, 2020

**STATEMENT FROM MAYOR AND SAFETY DIRECTOR MICHAEL DYLAN BRENNAN
REGARDING CLOSING OF POOL AND CANCELATION OF SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

Last year, we declared 2019 the Best Summer Ever on the cover of our Mosaic magazine, and we delivered. In 2020, we planned to top it. For reasons that are neither your fault nor ours, that cannot happen this year.

University Heights residents and communities like ours across the state have worked and sacrificed to flatten the curve. We all feel there should be a reward for that, beyond simply remaining well. But the effort is ongoing, because the pandemic continues.

COVID-19 has no effective treatment; COVID-19 has no vaccine; COVID-19 is highly contagious and potentially fatal. The opening of Ohio's economy will promote increased opportunities for infection.

With summer approaching we turn now to Beryl E. Rothschild Pool at Purvis Park. Our pool is popular and attracts large crowds. We cannot reasonably expect to achieve social distancing in the pool. While the pool water contains chlorine, we cannot be certain of the adequate disinfection of surfaces around the pool area or in the restrooms. Cloth face coverings would be difficult to breathe through when wet. City lifeguards could not perform rescues without exposing themselves to potential infection.

While we each assume a certain amount of risk in our daily lives, there are risks associated with opening the pool and conducting summer activities beyond what is normally associated with these activities, and beyond what is acceptable during this pandemic. We cannot say these activities are safe now, or will be made safe in the near future.

It pains us to announce the closing of the pool for this year, as well as the cancelation of city-sponsored events through Labor Day.

The summer in University Heights is a cherished time. The pool and community-building events help make University Heights a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

We will get through this. We are all in this together. We will miss what would have been a great summer full of activities, but your health and safety matter more. We join you in looking forward to one day being able to reopen the pool and hold these events again.

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