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CONTACT: Dan Pearlman, Public Information Officer  
[dan.pearlman@gahanna.gov](mailto:dan.pearlman@gahanna.gov)

## **City of Gahanna to Acquire 825 Tech Center Drive for Future City Facilities**

**GAHANNA, Ohio** – On Tuesday, the Gahanna City Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the building located at 825 Tech Center Drive, for the purpose of housing the Gahanna Division of Police Headquarters, Gahanna City Hall and the Gahanna Senior Center. Relocation of these three facilities has been the subject of multiple public discussions and three public hearings, the most recent of which occurred prior to Tuesday evening’s vote.

Current city facilities have long been identified as being inadequate to meet the operational needs for service delivery. An analysis of city facilities was first done in 2005-2006, which concluded that the City needed more than 100,000 square feet of additional space to meet operational needs at that time. A second assessment, done in 2017, found that a majority of the City’s facilities, including Police Headquarters and City Hall, were rated “fair” to “poor” based on 27 different criteria. A third study, which was started in 2018, later finalized and presented to City Council in October 2021, reaffirmed the previous two assessments and identified the space needed by the City to operate effectively, both in the present and in the future.

Over the last two years, City leaders and staff have been evaluating facilities as part of the development of a long-term capital improvement plan. Earlier this year, the City’s Administration hosted four public workshops with Council to discuss the details of the three reports. While exploring potential solutions to the problems and needs that were identified, the opportunity to acquire 825 Tech Center Drive became available.

“The building at 825 Tech Center Drive will enable the City to meet many of its needs for decades to come and will do so at a substantial cost savings,” said Gahanna Mayor Laurie Jadwin. “The current Police Headquarters has been functionally obsolete and inadequate to meet the needs of our officers for years. This facility not only provides an immediate solution for our deteriorating Police Headquarters, but it also addresses the long-term needs of City Hall and the Senior Center in the most cost-effective manner possible.”

The soon to be acquired facility is a 100,000-square-foot Class A office building. The City plans to renovate the facility and construct an additional 31,000-square-foot which will house police functions that are not compatible with traditional office space, such as an Emergency Operations Center, a sally



port, a holding facility and training space. The estimated time to complete this project is 18 to 24 months.

“We began outgrowing the current police facility in 1992, shortly after the building was renovated,” said Gahanna Police Chief Jeff Spence. “The Gahanna Division of Police provides best-in-class services. We are a modern, forward-thinking agency that lacks only in its facilities in becoming nationally accredited. Moving to 825 Tech Center Drive sets up the Division, its personnel, and the community for success for decades.”

Under the terms of the purchase agreement, the City will acquire the building for \$8.75 million. The estimated cost to renovate and expand the facility is \$52.15 million. If the City were to construct a new Police Headquarters and City Hall, the estimated cost would exceed \$99 million.

No new taxes will be needed for the 825 Tech Center Drive project. Issue 12, which was passed overwhelmingly by voters in May 2019, was intended to provide funding for long-term capital improvement projects such as streets, playground equipment, trails and city facilities. This will serve as the funding mechanism for the project.

“We have been working for a long time on trying to make Gahanna something better and make Gahanna stronger,” said Council President Stephen Renner. “This facility allows us to look 50 to 75 years down the road in finding the solutions to meet what we need for our public servants to do their jobs, with enough space and with modern offices, to actually build the type of Gahanna that we want.”

Pursuant to Gahanna Code, the vote by Council on Tuesday requires a legislative waiting period of 30 days, after which time the purchase agreement may be signed.

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