



February 22, 2011

The Honorable Terry Blair
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: HB 50 Annexation Petitions

Dear Chairman Blair:

In 2009-2010, the City of Huber Heights indicated to me that they wanted to annex an area of right-of-way on SR 202. This proposed annexation would have allowed the City to annex an area of SR 202 at the intersection with Carriage Trail Blvd.

The reason they wanted to annex the intersection was to place a traffic light there. They had promised a developer that access for construction vehicles would not be an issue during construction because of the traffic light.

Since the intersection is in the Township, ODOT would have required a traffic study to see if a traffic light was warranted. This would have taken time and probably not produced the results that the City of Huber Heights wanted so the City of Huber Heights wanted to annex the three corners which were out of the city limits so that they would have control of placing a traffic light at that intersection.

Two of the three corners that were not within the city limits were cemeteries owned by the Bethel Township Board of Trustees. If the cemeteries were annexed, all township workers would have been required to pay income tax for the time spent working in the township cemeteries. The City, for whatever reason, chose not to make public their annexation threat and has not contacted me with anything further on this matter.

It is my understanding that even though the Trustees owned two of the three corners that would have been annexed the Board would have had no say in the matter as property owners because of the way the current law reads.

Bethel Township supports HB 50 and encourages the House Local Government Committee to pass the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Gebhart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "G".

Michael E. Gebhart,
Township Administrator