April 4, 2022

The Honorable Justin M. Bibb

Mayor, City of Cleveland

601 Lakeside Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Mayor Bibb:

On Saturday, April 2, 2022, I was asked to attend a gathering in Seven Hills with the Honorable Congressman, Tim Ryan, at the Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church on Broadview Road. The Congressman was in attendance to show his solidarity with other leaders of the Eastern European ethnic community regarding the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. The atrocities Russia is perpetrating against the Ukrainian people is nothing less than genocide and the cleansing of a culture; both in the lives of these men, women and children and the destruction of their society, as whole.

In the course of the meeting I was approached by a Ms. Rehina Savchuk, a volunteer member with the Cleveland-Maidan Association. Her telephone number is (216) 732-0532. Their efforts have been to raise funds for humanitarian and rescue supplies and equipment for those who are working on the front lines in Ukraine. Their main request is for life saving equipment such as ballistic vests and helmets, and other protective gear to be used for those risking their own lives to save the lives of those victims of the bombing attacks, gunfire and falling debris. In addition, they are also looking for any other “phased out of service” fire equipment.

Ms. Savchuck indicated that she has contacted Ms. Auvil, in your office, and CPD Detective Sinclair, about this request. However, she has not heard back from either of them. Furthermore, as I heard on Saturday, the Chicago PD and the Olmsted Twp. Fire Department have already donated equipment which is no longer “approved for front line service” or surplus to the cause.

Mayor, I don’t have to tell you what we are seeing everyday on TV and monitors of the innocent slaughter of men, women and children. Today, we are hearing of reports of mass graves and civilians with their hands tied behind their backs and killed execution-style along with woman who were set on fire but not before being tied-up and raped in the City of Bucha.

Therefore, I, as Chairman of the Council’s Public Safety Committee, am officially requesting of you, the Director of Public Safety, the Interim Chief of Police, and the Chief of Fire to see if there was any such equipment that the City of Cleveland could donate for this cause and what the process might be for such a donation. If we could identify surplus or no longer needed equipment, I would coordinate with the Ukrainian community to be picked up so it could be shipped overseas.

Obviously, time is of the essence. The Ukrainians are fighting for their lives against Putin’s killers and rapists. Please let me know as soon as possible as to what we could possibly provide, if anything. I would then coordinate with the Ukrainian community.

As always, I may be reached through my office at (216) 664-4236 or via email at mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org. I may also be reached via my cell phone at

(216) 857-7363.

Sincerely yours,

 ***Michael D. Polensek***

 Michael D. Polensek

 Councilman, Ward 8

CC: The Honorable Tim Ryan, Congressman

 The Honorable Shontel Brown, Congresswoman

 The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Congresswoman

 The Honorable Blaine Griffin, Council President, Cleveland City Council

All members of Cleveland City Council

Ms. Elise Hara Auvil, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Cleveland

Ms. Ingrid Bublys – Hon. General Consul of the Republic of Lithuanian

Ms. Alenka Jerak, Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia

Mr. Andrew Fedynsky, Director Emeritas of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives

 Ms. Rehina Savchuk, Cleveland-Maidan Association