

November 5, 2019

Mayor Ben Kessler  
Bexley City Council Members  
Bexley City Auditor  
Bexley City Hall  
2242 East Main Street  
Bexley, Ohio 43209

**Via Mail and Email**  
**(electedofficials@bexley.org)**

**RE: Proposal for Halloween Festival and Saturday Beggars' Night**

Dear City of Bexley Elected Officials:

I am proposing to you for consideration moving Beggars' Night to the Saturday afternoon before Halloween and following it with a community festival on the Capital Grounds. This proposal would alleviate safety concerns and result in additional productivity for our communities' citizens and local businesses.

Per the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission suggestion, Beggars' Night is traditionally held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on a weekday, usually Halloween itself in Bexley. That same day, each of the three elementary schools has a children's parade. Many communities face increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic on Beggars' Night causing safety concerns. However, the challenge is unique in Bexley because many families come from neighboring communities to participate adding to the already unsafe conditions.

Also, there are an estimated 3,200 residents commuting outside of Bexley for work each day. Alone that might not seem significant, but most Central Ohio communities host Beggars' Night on the same evening. The resulting congestion means workers leave their jobs early to get home. For many, their workday is shortened by at least two hours, resulting in a loss of approximately 6,400 man-hours from Bexley residents alone.

Trick-or-Treating on a weeknight also results in lost revenue for Bexley's businesses. Along Main Street, there are approximately sixteen restaurants, four pizza shops, two coffee shops and numerous local retailers. Those businesses, with the possible exception of Bexley Pizza Plus, which delivers, must suffer drops in patronage on Beggars' Night. That stretch is also home to Capital University, the grounds of which are used to host a variety of community events throughout the year.

My proposed solution to the above issues is to have Trick-or-Treating on Saturday from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. followed by community activities along Main Street. A community festival on the Capital University lawn would run from 4:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. A children's parade would start at 5:00 p.m. and end at the festival grounds. The festivities would include kids' games, activities, music and food trucks. At 7:30, a family-friendly Halloween movie would show on a portable screen.

There would be a relative reduction in traffic because no one would be driving home from work, reducing safety concerns. Having children go door-to-door during daylight hours would be safer than having it while the sun is setting.

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In addition to improved safety, this solution would eliminate the thousands of lost man-hours incurred by Bexley residents under the mid-week model. Also, hosting activities along Main Street, including the student parade, would encourage more people to eat and shop at the local businesses on Saturday, while eliminating the midweek loss of patronage.

This proposal would also result in a more inclusive event that would allow the residents of our neighboring communities to engage on more than just a door-to-door basis in the dark. Finally, the residents of Bexley love a good community event, like the Fourth of July. This could become a new tradition for Bexley residents.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you would like any further information or to discuss this proposal further.

Sincerely,



Lucas R. Pampush

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