



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Chardon Police and Chardon Local Schools Collaborate on Security Plan for Friday Night Football**

Chardon, Ohio (September 4, 2020) – The Chardon Police Department and Chardon Local Schools have collaborated on a security plan to promote a healthy and secure environment for this evening's football game and other activities on the high school grounds and elsewhere in the city.

"We take very seriously the safety and security of our community and have been diligent in planning with school officials and other local resources to provide a positive environment for tonight's football game," said Chardon Police Chief Scott Niehus.

Parking will be available as normal for those going to the game. Personnel will be on-site to assist in directing ticketholders to the appropriate stadium entrance. Please note that only game ticketholders will be permitted in the immediate vicinity of Memorial Field.

As a reminder, COVID-19 related measures from the State Health Department and OHSAA remain in effect for tonight's game. The District is required to limit access to the stadium and there will be no General Admission tickets for the game. Social distancing is strongly encouraged.

"The safety and security of every member of our school community is our highest priority," said Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Superintendent. "We appreciate the work of Chief Niehus and other law enforcement officials in developing an action plan for tonight's event that prioritizes a safe evening for everyone as well as placing a focus appropriately on the Hilltopper Varsity Football contest."

The District is making available an area on school grounds for a rally planned in support of police and other law enforcement officers. Because the District values and supports the rights of individuals to gather and exercise their free speech rights, school leaders worked closely with Chardon Police to locate a Free Speech Zone on the lawn in front of Chardon High School. The District is not a sponsor or participant in the rally.

Chardon Police have been advised of an additional rally planned at Chardon Square in support of social justice. "I spoke with organizers of both rallies and established expectations for peaceful and responsible demonstrations," said Chief Niehus.

The District will continue coordinating with the police department to help everything run smoothly this evening and so the football game can proceed as planned. GO HILLTOPPERS!

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