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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty Township Fiscal Office Receives GFOA Certificate of Achievement

POWELL, Ohio (June 12, 2023) - Liberty Township Fiscal Officer Rick Karr today announced that the Liberty Township Fiscal Office has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Liberty becomes only the third of Ohio's 1,308 townships to earn the honor.

The GFOA of the United States and Canada awarded Liberty Township the award for its comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2021. The report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the program's high standards, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The GFOA Certificate of Achievement is the highest award for governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

"Earning the certificate was a goal I set after taking office," Karr said. "I wanted to demonstrate the office's financial integrity to the residents of Liberty Township and the city of Powell. Those entities rely on a financially strong level of services, including the Liberty Township/Powell Fire/EMS, the township park system, road maintenance and zoning operations."

To apply for the award, Karr said that the fiscal office began the process of moving to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and an accrual method of accounting late in 2020.

"I want to recognize the hard work of Assistant Fiscal Officer Lee Ann Weer for her significant contributions in supporting the financial operations," Karr said.

Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber said, "Accountability, efficiency and transparency are hallmarks of good government and help establish confidence within a community that their tax



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dollars are being spent responsibly. This award recognizes the excellent work being done by the Liberty Township fiscal team. As auditor, I'm honored to congratulate them on their efforts."

Ohio State Treasurer Robert Sprague said, "comprehensive and accurate record-keeping provides residents with a closer look at the decisions being made in their community. Liberty Township's dedication to accountability and transparency is clear, and I congratulate them on receiving the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence."

"This certificate demonstrates the level of financial integrity and operational excellence that Karr and his team have brought to Liberty Township and Powell since taking office in 2020," said Liberty Township Trustee and Board Chair Bryan Newell.

"Liberty is the first Township in Delaware County to achieve this award and that demonstrates the excellence of the fiscal office," Newell said.

About Liberty Township and the Liberty Township Fiscal Office: Liberty Township in Delaware County has a population of over 32,430 people within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the township, with 18,270 people living in the unincorporated area. Liberty Township is led by a board of three elected trustees and an elected fiscal officer. Liberty Township operates the internationally accredited Liberty Township and Powell Fire and EMS Department; Roads Department maintaining 99 miles of roads; the Zoning Department, including the Zoning Commission and Board of Appeals; and Parks Department, which includes six parks covering over 400 acres of parkland in Liberty Township. The Liberty Township Fiscal Office manages the financial operations and reporting of Liberty Township in conjunction with the Liberty Township Board of Trustees.

About the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA): The Government Finance Officers Association founded in 1906, represents public finance officials throughout the United States and Canada. The association's more than 21,000 members are federal, state/provincial, and local finance officials deeply involved in planning, financing, and implementing thousands of governmental operations in each of their jurisdictions. GFOA's mission is to advance excellence in public finance. The GFOA advances excellence in



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government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.

About the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence: The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

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