

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Mayor Smith Joins Statewide Cohort to Improve Data Practices and Inform Policy Decisions

Mayor Smith has joined the Ohio Mayors Alliance Data Innovation Initiative, a collaborative effort between the Ohio Mayors Alliance and the What Works Cities (WWC) Certification program. The initiative will ensure the City of Lima is utilizing data to make informed policy decisions and improve city services.

“Data informed decision making must play an integral part in our leadership. Everything from the community survey that highlights opportunities for improvement, to each department’s key performance indicators that speak to our measured successes, data needs to shape and inform our decisions,” states Mayor Smith.

Like the Public Safety 360 Initiative launched on April 17th, 2023, the Data Innovation Initiative is another opportunity to build alliances with other cities and communities across Ohio.

The **What Works Cities Certification program**, launched in 2017 by Bloomberg Philanthropies and led by Results for America, is the international standard of excellence in city governance. What Works Cities Certification recognizes and celebrates city governments for their exceptional use of data and evidence to inform policy decisions, allocate funding, improve services, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and engage their residents. To date, 55 cities have achieved this distinction.

Members of the Data Innovation Initiative will benefit from tailored support for developing their data practices, moderated peer gatherings, targeted coaching, and access to experts and resources. After an initial assessment to benchmark their current data capacity, the cities will work together with WWC staff to develop action plans to implement best practices for using data to address their most pressing challenges.

For more information, please visit: [OhioMayorsAlliance.org](http://OhioMayorsAlliance.org)