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Contact: June Scharf,
Public Relations Consultant
Phone: 216.299.4959
Email: June.Scharf@BeachwoodOhio.com

CITY OF BEACHWOOD RANKS #1 IN CLEVELAND MAGAZINE'S ANNUAL FEATURE

(BEACHWOOD, OHIO –June 1, 2022) – The City of Beachwood has been ranked #1 by *Cleveland Magazine* as the Best Suburb in Northeast Ohio to live. The news was released in the June issue of magazine's annual "Rating the Suburbs" feature. Cited among its reasons for the city's #1 spot: top-rated schools, walkability, diversity, shopping, award-winning aquatic center and dog park.

"We are thrilled to achieve this ranking which is something that clearly reflects all the hard work delivered by city government officials and city hall employees," states Mayor Justin Berns. "We take great pride in this recognition, and we thank all of our residents for their great choice to live in this magnificent city!"

The methodology used by *Cleveland Magazine's* staff involved many hours of research to produce its annual assessment that ranks Cleveland's 77 suburbs. Three major factors are evaluated: safety, education and housing. The Top 20 are those suburbs with the highest combined scores, reflecting best performances all of the categories combined. Overall rankings are determined using raw data that is converted into points calculated from the average in each category.

Scores are assigned to each suburb for every category used in the rankings, based on the year's available numbers. The scores are tabulated while weighting certain categories more heavily than others. Safety and education, for example, are given more weight than property taxes, which is given more weight than environmental infractions. The Top 20 are those suburbs with the highest combined scores — in other words, the suburbs that perform best in all of the categories combined.

Education scores are based on the state's 26 possible indicators for student performance which draw on standardized tests, a gifted indicator that measures how gifted students are performing, a chronic absenteeism improvement indicator measuring the number of students who are chronically absent (missing at least 10% of the school year) as well as schools' efforts to reduce that number, and an end-of-course improvement indicator measuring the performance and improvement on retaken end-of-course tests. Each school's possible indicators vary depending on which tests its students take.

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As a measure of college readiness, school districts provided the number of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes offered. In addition, consideration was given to the percentage of seniors from the class of 2021 who took at least one of those classes during high school and who scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP test or a 4 or higher on at least one IB test during high school. For more detailed reports on local districts' state report cards, visit ode.state.oh.us.

Other source material involved in the ranking:

- **median home sale prices:** using the county auditors or fiscal officers' offices provided figures for valid sales of single-family homes in 2011, 2016 and 2021.
- **property taxes:** 2021 rates of taxation derived from county auditors, treasurers or fiscal officers and the Ohio Department of Taxation. They include each community's rollback and reduction for owner-occupied residential property for levies passed before November 2013.
- **population, poverty, diversity & owner-occupied housing:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Diversity points are awarded based on the suburb's percentage of minority residents (nonwhite, Hispanic or multiracial), with the most points given to those suburbs closest to a 50% balance.
- **environmental infractions:** The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's database of reported polluted sites, which is continuously updated and includes reports of polluted sites that the EPA has not fully investigated.
- **community services:** The mayor's office of each suburb provides information related to which of the following services are available to all residents: tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball and softball diamonds, indoor or outdoor ice rinks, indoor swimming pools, outdoor swimming pools, public playgrounds, recreation centers, public skateboarding parks, senior services, youth services, free mulch, free leaf pickup, free garbage pickup and recycling programs.
- **roads with sidewalks:** Each suburb provided information on the miles of roads and sidewalks. Percentage of roads with sidewalks was determined by dividing centerline miles of roads by half the miles of sidewalks (assuming sidewalks on both sides of the street) and converting to a percentage.
- **alternative commute & commute time to work source:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

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