



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
9:30 AM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Houser called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Houser asked Assistant Deputy Clerk Georgakopoulos to call the roll. Committee members Houser, Kelly and Schleper were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee members Simon and Jones arrived after the roll call was taken. Council President Miller and Councilmember Turner were also in attendance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 28, 2025 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Schleper, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor for County Council, addressed the committee and stated that the 5 awards on the agenda for consideration are from the Community Development Fund, which is funded by the Casino Tax that the County receives quarterly from the State of Ohio; indicated that Council received a total of 13 applications for funding in Round 1 and that 1 award to the African Town Plaza in District 8 has already been approved by Council; said that if approved, these 5 items will bring the projected year-end balance to

approximately \$4.8 million for potential additional awards, as well as other obligations coming from the Community Development Fund.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2025-0172: A Resolution awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,000,000 to the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation for the purpose of the Stimulating Housing Markets in District 10 Project; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Ricardo León, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0172. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. León pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Kelly with a second by Mr. Schleper, Resolution No. R2025-0172 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- b) R2025-0173: A Resolution awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed \$315,000, to the City of Berea for the purpose of the Coe Lake Concession & Restroom Facility Improvement Project; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Antonio Armagno, Director of Public Works/City Engineer for the City of Berea, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0173. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Armagno pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Houser with a second by Mr. Jones, Resolution No. R2025-0173 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- c) R2025-0174: A Resolution awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed \$500,000, to the Birthing Beautiful Communities for the purpose of the Construction of a Birth Center Project; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Jazmin Long, President and Chief Executive Officer for Birthing Beautiful Communities, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0174. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Long pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Jones, Resolution No. R2025-0174 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

Mr. Jones and Ms. Turner requested to have their name added as co-sponsors to the legislation.

- d) R2025-0175: A Resolution awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, to the Cleveland Public Theatre for the purpose of the Cleveland Public Theatre Capital Campaign Project; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Raymond Bobgan, Executive Artistic Director and Ms. Melissa Waddell, Executive Director for the Cleveland Public Theatre, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0175. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Bobgan and Ms. Waddell pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Jones, Resolution No. R2025-0175 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- e) R2025-0176: A Resolution awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed \$300,000, to the Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, Inc. for the purpose of the renovation of the Cleveland Habitat Building Project; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. John Litton, President and Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Bob Whitney, Director of Government Affairs for the Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, Inc., addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0176. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Litton and Mr. Whitney pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Houser with a second by Mr. Schleper, Resolution No. R2025-0176 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Houser adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m., without objection.