

Cuyahoga County Economic Development Commission
February 24, 2022
Minutes

Meeting held remotely via Zoom with live streaming via Cuyahoga County's YouTube channel

Members Present via Zoom: County Executive Armond Budish, Brooklyn Mayor Katie Gallagher (representing the Mayors and Managers Association), Ryan Puente (Representing Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb), Daniel O'Malley, Baiju Shah

Executive Budish called the meeting to order shortly after 10:05 AM.
There was no public comment.

Executive Budish invited discussion of the state of City Collaboration

1. Baiju Shah, on behalf of Greater Cleveland Partnership, presented his organization's Regional Strategic Plan.

Paul Herdeg asked Baiju to expand on business strategy

Baiju Shah stated that the region needs a focus of increasing businesses in the region in the same way that there is a focus on population growth and increasing visitors

Executive Budish asked whether business should take the lead in community activities

Baiju Shah stated that it is beyond their expertise

Mayor Gallagher asked whether there is a good network in the region

Baiju Shaw stated that they want build a better social relationship by welcoming business leaders and nonprofit leaders

Exec. Budish asked if we are lacking in collaboration

Baiju Shah stated that they are working to restore a system of collaboration by looking at what works on other regions (Columbus Model)

2. Joe Cimperman, on behalf of Global Cleveland, presented his organization's development strategy and activities

Exec. Budish asked whether Global Cleveland is anticipating Ukrainian Refugees

Joe Cimperman stated that 3 organizations will work together and Northeast Ohio is top 5 in the country for Ukrainian population

Dan O'Malley stated that his ward in Lakewood has more refugees than anywhere in Northeast Ohio and the immigrant/refugee population is important to Lakewood in keeping the population above 50,000

Joe Cimperman stated that Lakewood has been a welcoming hub for refugees and that the city is a leader in diversity. Prior refugees are now starting businesses in Lakewood

Dan O'Malley stated that Harrison Elementary in Lakewood is very diverse

Mayor Gallagher asked whether housing affordability has remained an issue

Joe Cimperman state that housing affordability is still an issue and it is important to keep housing affordable. Affordable housing was created in Ohio City in a small apartment building. This housing has served as a starting point for refugees.

Exec. Budish stated that he will propose to County Council to use some ARPA funds to establish affordable housing

Baiju Shah thanked Joe Cimperman for Global Cleveland's work

Exec Budish asked what can be done to keep college students in the region after they graduate

Joe Cimperman state that they are working to extend visas from STEM students

3. Christin Nelson, of Team NEO, presented an update on Site Inventory and Site Promotion

Exec Budish stated that there are large properties that could be made available (County Airport) that might not be listed in the database. We can't rely only on database for development sites

Baiju Shah stated the importance of green fields vs. brownfields and that we are competing against green fields therefore it is imperative to convert brownfields to green fields.

4. Paul Herdeg updated the committee on the County's Five-Year Plan including engaging Baldwin-Wallace and Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.