



MINUTES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR

10:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Jones asked Assistant Deputy Clerk Georgakopoulos to call the roll. Committee members Jones and Simon were in attendance and a quorum was not determined. Committee members Houser, Kelly and Schleper were absent. Council President Miller and Councilmember Gallagher were also in attendance.

In accordance with Rule 12F of the County Council Rules, Council President Miller appointed Councilmember Gallagher as a Member Pro Tem of the Community Development Committee. A quorum was established.

Council Vice President Conwell was also in attendance and arrived after the roll call was taken.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals addressed the committee members regarding Ordinance No. O2025-0001.

- a) A written statement from Mr. Ian Andrews, Executive Director of Lakewood Alive was acknowledged and entered into the record.**
- b) Mr. Brian Meng**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 18, 2024 MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. Gallagher, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2024 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2024-0433: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$20,000, to the Cleveland Restoration Society for the Jesse Owens Family Home Stabilization Preservation Project from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Margaret Lann, Director of Preservation Services for the Cleveland Restoration Society, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2024-0433. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Mr. Jones with a second by Ms. Simon, Resolution No. R2024-0433 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- b) R2025-0008: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$50,000, to the Assembly for the Arts for the Study of the Arts Funding Landscape Project from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Jeremy Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0008. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Gallagher, Resolution No. R2025-0008 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- c) R2025-0009: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$20,000, to the Western Reserve Historical Society for Placemaking Activities for the WRHS New African American History Gallery of the Cleveland History Center from the Districts 7 and 9 ARPA Community Grant Funds; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Regennia Williams, Associate Curator of African American Community Partnerships, Programs, and Traveling Exhibitions for the Western Reserve Historical Society, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0009. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Mr. Jones with a second by Ms. Simon, Resolution No. R2025-0009 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- d) R2025-0010: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$15,000, to the Greater Cleveland Association of Black Journalists for the National Association of Black Journalists 2025 Convention & Career Fair from the Districts 7 and 9 ARPA Community Grant Funds; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Rhonda Crowder, President of the Greater Cleveland Association of Black Journalists, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0010. Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Jones requested to add funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund which will be incorporated into a proposed substitute for consideration at the next Council meeting for second reading.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Gallagher, Resolution No. R2025-0010 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- e) R2025-0012: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the National Rites of Passage Institute for Cultural Community Engagement Events from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Paul Hill, Founder and Executive Director for the National Rites of Passage Institute, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0012. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Mr. Jones with a second by Ms. Simon, Resolution No. R2025-0012 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- f) R2025-0014: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$3,000, to the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. for the Swim 1922 Project from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Valerie Thomas and Ms. Kayla Thomas, Members of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0014. Discussion ensued.

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

Ms. Conwell requested to add funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund which will be incorporated into a proposed substitute for consideration at the next Council meeting for second reading.

Mr. Jones requested to add funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund which will be incorporated into a proposed substitute for consideration at the next Council meeting for second reading.

On a motion by Mr. Jones with a second by Ms. Simon, Resolution No. R2025-0014 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- g) R2025-0017: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Association of African American Cultural Gardens for the African American Cultural Garden Monument Project from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Lavita Ewing, Development Chair for the Association of African American Cultural Gardens, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0017. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Mr. Jones with a second by Mr. Gallagher, Resolution No. R2025-0017 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- h) R2025-0038: A Resolution authorizing an Emergency Rental Assistance 2 Loan and Federal HOME Investment Partnership Loan to Warner and Swasey, LLC, or their designee, in the amount not-to-exceed \$3,350,000.00 for construction of 140 units for mixed-use, mixed-income, mixed-population, historic adaptive-reuse of the former Warner and Swasey Manufacturing Plant, located in the City of Cleveland; authorizing the County Executive and/or Director of Housing and Community Development to execute all documents consistent with said loan and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Resolution No. R2025-0038 was held at the request of the department. There was no legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2025-0038.

- i) R2025-0039: A Resolution making awards to various municipalities, in the total amount of \$1,818,295.88 for various projects or programs in connection with the FY2025 Community Development Block Grant Program for the period 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025; authorizing the County Executive to execute the agreements and all other documents consistent with said awards and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:

- 1) City of Bedford in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for Bedford Ellenwood Recreation Center Repairs.
- 2) City of Brook Park in the amount not-to-exceed \$70,795.88 for John F. Kennedy Memorial Park: A Legacy of Honor and Remembrance.
- 3) City of Brooklyn in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for ADA Upgrades to James P. Brock Memorial Playground.
- 4) City of Maple Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$132,500.00 for Maple Heights Senior Center Accessibility Project.
- 5) City of North Olmsted in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for City of North Olmsted's Old Town Hall Accessibility and Revitalization Project.
- 6) City of Parma Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for resurfacing of Ackley Road.
- 7) City of Shaker Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for Hildana Park Improvements.
- 8) City of South Euclid in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for Playground of Possibilities Restoration Project at Bexley Park.

- 9) City of Strongsville in the amount not-to-exceed \$115,000.00 for Senior Center Restroom Enhancement Project.
- 10) City of Warrensville Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for Granada Boulevard Reconstruction Project.
- 11) Village of Glenwillow in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for ADA Upgrades to Danals Norman Payne Recreation Complex Playground.
- 12) Village of North Randall in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for Housing Preservation and Rehabilitation.
- 13) Village of Oakwood in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 for Tryon Road Phase 2 Resurfacing Project.

Ms. Kellie Glenn, Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0039. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Mr. Jones with a second by Ms. Simon, Resolution No. R2025-0039 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- j) R2025-0040: A Resolution making awards to various municipalities and agencies in the total amount not-to-exceed \$1,648,012.00 for various projects or programs in connection with the FY2025 Community Development Supplemental Grant Program for the period 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2025; authorizing the County Executive to execute the agreements and contracts and all other documents consistent with said awards and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:

- 1) Burton Bell Carr in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Safety = Community Empowerment Series.
- 2) City of Berea in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Edgewood Drive Improvement Project.
- 3) City of Brecksville in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Brecksville Kids Quarters Project, Phase 3: Tot Lot Project.

- 4) City of Brook Park in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Carpenter Park Playground Transformation.
- 5) City of Brooklyn in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Exterior Home Repair Program.
- 6) City of Cleveland Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Cleveland Heights ADA Park Improvements.
- 7) City of Euclid in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for E. 215th Street Trail: Phase I Project.
- 8) City of Fairview Park in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Bohlken Park Playground Improvement Project.
- 9) City of Garfield Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Exterior Home Repair Grant Program.
- 10) City of Lakewood in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for The Merl Bunts Park Improvement Project.
- 11) City of Maple Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for 2025 Exterior Home Repair Grant Program.
- 12) City of Middleburg Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Craigmere Drive Resurfacing from Webster Road to Nethersole Drive.
- 13) City of North Olmsted in the amount not-to-exceed \$47,672.00 for Old Town Hall Accessibility and Revitalization Project.
- 14) City of North Royalton in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for State Road Sidewalk Extension.
- 15) City of Parma in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Parma-Parma Heights Regional Dog Park Project.
- 16) City of Parma Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Parma-Parma Heights Regional Dog Park Project.
- 17) City of Shaker Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Hildana Park Improvements.
- 18) City of Solon in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Building New Pavilion by the City Community Park.
- 19) City of Warrensville Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Granada Boulevard Reconstruction Project.
- 20) Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation in the amount not-to-exceed \$35,000.00 for One World Day 2025.

- 21) Cleveland Neighborhood Progress Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Wayfinding and Directional Signage for Historic Shaker Square.
- 22) Cuyahoga Land Bank Charities in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Euclid Avenue Streetscape Enhancement.
- 23) Jefferson-Puritas West Park CDC in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for "More Alike than Different" Mural Extension.
- 24) Mpac Cleveland in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for LOOS-Saving Our Own Lives in Partnership with Rivers in the Desert.
- 25) Northwest Neighborhoods CDC in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Replacement of Gordon Square Arcade Lower Roof.
- 26) Orange Village in the amount not-to-exceed \$27,640.00 for Orange Village Traffic Calming Initiative: Solar-Powered Radar Speed Signs.
- 27) Village of Brooklyn Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Baseball Diamond #2 Fence Improvements.
- 28) Village of Glenwillow in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for ADA Upgrades to Donald Norman Payne Recreation Complex Playground.
- 29) Village of Highland Hills in the amount not-to-exceed \$40,300.00 for Fire Department Re-roof.
- 30) Village of Newburgh Heights in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Kathy Edwards Park Fence Replacement.
- 31) Village of North Randall in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Housing Preservation and Rehabilitation Supplemental.
- 32) Village of Oakwood in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for Tryon Road Phase 2 Resurfacing.
- 33) Village of Walton Hills in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 for ITA Pavement Reconstruction - Phase IV.
- 34) Village of Woodmere in the amount not-to-exceed \$47,400.00 for Village of Woodmere Bandstand.

Ms. Glenn addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0040. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Jones, Resolution No. R2025-0040 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- k) R2025-0041: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to Contract No. 1827 (aka Contract No. 2446) with The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, in the original amount not-to-exceed \$1,000,000.00, to increase the per household rate paid by the County from \$1,067.00 to \$1,700.00, effective 4/1/2021; no additional funds required; authorizing the County Executive to execute this amendment and all other documents consistent with this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Sara Parks Jackson, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0041. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Mr. Jones with a second by Ms. Simon, Resolution No. R2025-0041 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- l) O2025-0001: An Ordinance amending Section 714.02(E) of the Cuyahoga County Code to prioritize municipal corporations and townships in Cuyahoga County when evaluating applications to the Cuyahoga County Community Development Supplemental Grant ("CDSG") Program.

Ms. Simon, Mr. Michael King, Senior Legislative Strategist for Council; and Ms. Parks Jackson, addressed the Committee regarding Ordinance No. O2025-0001. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. King and Ms. Parks Jackson pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

There was no legislative action taken on Ordinance No. O2025-0001.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m., without objection.