



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY OCTOBER 20, 2025 — 1:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Miller called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council President Miller asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Councilmembers Jones, Turner, Kelly, Sweeney, Gallagher, Schleper Conwell and Miller were in attendance, and a quorum was determined.

[Clerk's Note: Councilmembers Houser, Simon and Casselberry entered the meeting after the roll call was taken].

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Various individuals addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2025-0293, a Resolution adopting the 2026/2027 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program:

- a) Corrie Taylor, CEO Frontline Service, addressed Council regarding funding for the Northpoint Transitional Housing Program.**
- b) Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director, Canopy Child Advocacy Center, addressed Council regarding funding for the Child Protection Team.**
- c) David Crampton, Cuyahoga County Division of Children & Family Services Advisory Board, addressed Council regarding funding for the Child Protection Team.**
- d) Shawna Gurley, Director of Emergency Housing Services, Front Line Service, regarding funding for the Northpoint Transitional Housing Program.**
- e) Loh addressed Council regarding funding for Health & Human Services, Homeless Services**
- f) Michelle Rose, CEO, Greater Cleveland Works, addressed Council regarding funding for the Cuyahoga County Employment Assistance Program.**

Council President Miller turned the gavel over to Councilmember Turner, Chair of the Finance & Budgeting Committee.

4. MATTER REFERRED TO COMMITTEE/DISCUSSION:

Chair Turner gave introductory remarks regarding the process for the budget hearings.

- a) R2025-0293: A Resolution adopting the 2026/2027 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:

- 1) Department of Health and Human Services Brief Overview – Director David Merriman

Mr. David Merriman, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, provided an overview of the budget for the Department of Health and Human Services. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Merriman and Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director of the Office of Budget and Management pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

- a. Division of Children and Family Services – Director Jacqueline Fletcher

Ms. Jacqueline Fletcher, Director of the Division of Children and Family Services, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Division of Children and Family Services. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Fletcher and Mr. Merriman pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

- b. Cuyahoga Job and Family Services – Director Kevin Gowan

Mr. Kevin Gowan, Director of Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, addressed Council regarding budget requests for Cuyahoga Job and Family Services. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Gowan and Mr. Merriman pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

- i. Office of Child Support Services – Director Tiffany Dobbins-Brazelton

Ms. Tiffany Dobbins-Brazelton, Director of the Office of Child Support Services, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of Child Support Services. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Dobbins-Brazelton and Mr. Richard Weiler, Budget Officer, Office of Child Support Services pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

Mr. Aldonis Grimes, Administrator of the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative, addressed Council, and gave a brief presentation separate from the Office of Child Support Services, regarding budget requests for the Fatherhood Initiative. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Grimes pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

- c. Division of Senior and Adult Services – Director Natasha Pietrocola

Ms. Natasha Pietrocola, Director for the Division of Senior and Adult Services, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Division of Senior and Adult Services. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Pietrocola pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

There was no further legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2025-0293.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chair Turner adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m., without objection.