



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 — 1:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Miller called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council President Miller asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Councilmembers Turner, Kelly, Sweeney, Gallagher, Schleper Conwell, Jones 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) **Loh, addressed Council regarding budget cuts for vital services.**
- b) **Dr. Kristen Iniguez, Child Abuse Pediatrician for the Canopy Child Advocacy Center, addressed Council regarding funding for the Child Protection Team.**
- c) **Lauren Schenk, Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE), addressed Council regarding funding for Housing, Healthcare, Mental Health and Children's services.**
- d) **Jennifer Driscoll, Board Member, Canopy Child Advocacy Center, addressed Council regarding funding for the Child Protection Team.**
- e) **Michael Sering, Chief Program Officer for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries addressed Council regarding funding for Homeless Shelter Services.**
- f) **Brittany Moore, College Now Greater Cleveland, addressed Council regarding funding for Closing The Achievement Gap (CTAG) Program.**
- g) **Mike Matoney, Chief Executive Officer, New Directions, addressed Council regarding funding for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County.**

- h) **Cory Taylor CEO Frontline Service addressed Council regarding funding for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County and restoration of the North Point Transitional Housing Program.**
- i) **Abbey Grafmeyer, College Now Greater Cleveland, addressed Council regarding funding for Closing The Achievement Gap (CTAG) Program.**
- j) **Kitty Warshawski, College Now Greater Cleveland, addressed Council regarding funding for Closing The Achievement Gap (CTAG) Program.**
- k) **Dr. Richard Robbins, Board Member of Frontline Services, addressed Council regarding funding for Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County for Crisis Service Programs and restoration of the North Point Transitional Housing Program.**
- l) **Jim Resing, Board Member of Frontline Services addressed Council regarding funding for Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County for Crisis Service Programs and restoration of the North Point Transitional Housing Program.**
- m) **Rick Oliver, Director of Crises & Trauma Services for Front Line Service, addressed Council regarding funding for Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County for Crisis Service Programs and restoration of the North Point Transitional Housing Program.**
- n) **Ed Gimerchek, Executive Director for Y-Haven, addressed Council regarding funding for Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County for recovery housing and treatment services.**

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

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

4. MATTER REFERRED TO COMMITTEE/DISCUSSION

- 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 (Continued):**

Mr. David Merriman, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, continued to carry forward with the budget presentations for the Department of Health and Human Services, and introduced LeVine Ross to make the presentation for Item b), which was taken out of order.

- a) **Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County – Interim Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer Felicia Harrison**

Ms. Felicia Harrison, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board. Discussion ensued.

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

b) Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Community Initiatives:

i) Office of Homeless Services – Director LeVine Ross

Ms. LeVine Ross, Director of the Office of Homeless Services, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of Homeless Services. Discussion ensued.

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

ii) Office of Early Childhood/Invest in Children – Interim Director Alyssa Swiatek

Ms. Alyssa Swiatek, Interim Director of the Office of Early Childhood/Invest in Children, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of Homeless Services. Discussion ensued.

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

iii) Family and Children First Council – Director Robin Martin

Ms. Robin Martin, Director of Family and Children First Council, gave a brief overview of her Office and addressed Council regarding budget requests for Family and Children First Council. Discussion ensued.

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

iv) Office of Re-Entry – Director Simeon Best

Mr. Simeon Best, Director of the Office of Re-Entry, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of Re-Entry. Discussion ensued.

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

Ms. Maria Foscia, President and Chief Financial Officer, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries addressed Councilmembers and answered their questions, pertaining to the Social Entrepreneurship Initiative for the Chopping for Change Program, accordingly.

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

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Pending or imminent court action
- b) Purchase or sale of property

A motion was made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. Kelly, and approved by unanimous roll-call vote to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending or imminent court action and the purchase or sale of property, and for no other purpose whatsoever. Executive Session was then called to order by Council President Miller at 2:54 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present Turner, Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Schleper, Simon, Conwell, Jones and Miller.

The following additional attendees were present: Assistant Law Director and Senior Counsel Gregory Huth; Public Works Director Michael Dever; Debbie Berry, Deputy Chief of Staff, Integrated Development; Ryan Jeffers, Senior Vice-President of CBRE; Planning and Program Administrator Nichole English; Legislative Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer and Research and Policy Analyst Laura Black.

At 3:45 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned without objection and Council President Miller then reconvened the meeting.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Council President Miller adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m., without objection.