



## CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

### EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS  
4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR

#### MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026 — 3:00 P.M.

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#### Committee Members

Sunny M. Simon, Chair | Dist. 11  
Robert E. Schleper, Jr., Vice Chair | Dist. 6  
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10  
Pernel Jones, Jr. | Dist. 8  
Dale Miller | Dist. 2

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

#### 2. ROLL CALL

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 18, 2026 MEETING

#### 5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0098: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$5,937.07, to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives for the Kids Community Engagement Initiatives from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective

#### 6. PRESENTATION

- a) Update from Say Yes Cleveland

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT

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**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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COMMITTEE  
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**MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 — 3:00 P.M.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

**Chairwoman Simon called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.**

2. ROLL CALL

**Ms. Simon asked Deputy Clerk Carter to call the roll. Committee members Simon, Schleper, Houser and Miller were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee member Jones joined the meeting after the roll call was taken.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

**There were no public comments given.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 4, 2026 MEETING

**A motion was made by Mr. Schleper, seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2026 meeting.**

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0077: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to Contract No. 3437 (fka Contract No. 2840) with Maximus Human Services, Inc. for the Ohio Works First Program for the period 1/1/2023 – 6/30/2026, to amend budget terms, and for additional funds in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,700,000.00, effective 1/1/2026; authorizing the County Executive to execute the amendment and all other documents consistent with this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

**Mr. Marcos Cortes, Administrator of the Division of Contracts and Performance; Mr. Darren Ross, Program Manager for Maximus; Mr. Darryl Hill, Career Mentor Supervisor for Maximus; and Mr. Paul Bounds, Deputy Administrator of the Department of Jobs and Family Services, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0077. Discussion ensued.**

**Committee members asked questions of Messrs. Cortes, Ross, Hill and Bounds pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.**

**On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Jones, Resolution No. R2026-0077 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.**

- b) R2026-0078: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to Contract No. 3438 (fka Contract No. 2841) with The Centers for Families and Children for the Ohio Works First Program for the period 1/1/2023 - 6/30/2026, to amend budget terms, and for additional funds in the amount not to exceed \$1,800,000.00, effective 1/1/2026; authorizing the County Executive to execute the amendment and all other documents consistent with this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

**Mr. Cortes; Ms. Melissa Russoniello, Vice President of Workforce Integration at The Centers; and Mr. Bounds, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0078. Discussion ensued.**

**Committee members asked questions of Mr. Cortes, Ms. Russoniello and Mr. Bounds pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.**

**On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Schleper, Resolution No. R2026-0078 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.**

## 6. PRESENTATION

- a) Update from College Now Greater Cleveland

**Ms. Kittie Warshawsky, Chief External Affairs Officer, and Ms. Sarah Griffin, Director of Scholarships for College Now Greater Cleveland, provided the Committee with an update on the number of students awarded scholarships, graduation rate, colleges attended and scholarships awarded. Discussion ensued.**

**Committee members asked questions of Ms. Warshawsky and Ms. Griffin pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.**

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

**With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Simon adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m., without objection.**

# County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

## Resolution No. R2026-0098

Sponsored by: <b>Councilmember Turner</b>	<b>A Resolution</b> awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$5,937.07, to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives for the Kids Community Engagement Initiatives from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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**WHEREAS**, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

**WHEREAS**, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

**WHEREAS**, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

**WHEREAS**, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$5,937.07 to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives for the Kids Community Engagement Initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives estimates approximately 250-500 people will be served annually through this award; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives estimates the total cost of the project is \$25,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives is estimating the start date of the project will be subject to funding availability and the project will be completed by 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives requested \$20,000 from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$5,937.07 to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives to ensure this project is completed; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$5,937.07 to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Kids Community Engagement Initiatives.

**SECTION 2.** If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

**SECTION 3.** That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

**SECTION 4.** That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

**SECTION 5.** If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

**SECTION 6.** To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

**SECTION 7.** It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County

Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

**SECTION 8.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Council President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: April 14, 2026

Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_



## Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115  
(216) 698-2010

### COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

<b>APPLICANT INFORMATION:</b>	
<b>Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.):</b> The Greater Cleveland Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)	
<b>Address of Requesting Entity:</b> P.O. Box 5831 Cleveland, Ohio 44101.	
<b>County Council District # of Requesting Entity:</b> Cuyahoga County District 9	
<b>Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:</b> The project will take place in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.	
<b>County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:</b> The project will take place throughout Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Specific site locations will be determined based on suitability, accessibility, and partner availability.	
<b>Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request:</b> Victor McDowell, Jr., Chapter President	
<b>Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:</b> P.O. Box 5831 Cleveland, Ohio 44101	
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:president@noblecle.org">president@noblecle.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b> (440) 903-8628
<b>Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.:</b> 91-1823721	<b>Date:</b> 3/19/2026

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):** Project Name: NOBLE Cops & Kids Community Engagement Initiatives

This project is a multi-component community engagement initiative led by The Greater Cleveland Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), designed to serve youth ages 12–25 in Cuyahoga County. Rooted in NOBLE’s mission to serve as the conscience of law enforcement, the initiative focuses on building trust, reducing violence, and improving outcomes for Cuyahoga County residents and youth through positive, relationship-centered programming.

The project will be implemented through three core program areas:

1. **Cops & Kids Fishing and Outdoor Engagement Events** – providing youth with access to outdoor recreation and positive interactions with law enforcement.
2. **Teen Summit on Mental Health and Violence Reduction** – equipping youth with tools, resources, and support systems to address mental health challenges and prevent violence.
3. **Restorative Justice and Community Dialogue Initiatives** – fostering accountability, conflict resolution, and healing through structured engagement between law enforcement and community stakeholders.

This project is critical in addressing the ongoing need for safe, accessible programming that supports youth development, strengthens community relationships, and reduces disparities in access to resources and opportunities.

Given the dynamic nature of community needs, funding timelines, partner availability, and economic conditions, the initiative is intentionally designed to be flexible in implementation. While program delivery methods and scheduling may adapt throughout the 2026–2027 period, the target population (youth ages 12–25) and service area (Cuyahoga County) will remain constant. This flexibility ensures responsiveness to emerging needs while maintaining alignment with core objectives and measurable impact.

### **Timeline & Milestones:**

- **Planning & Partnership Development:** Ongoing based on funding availability and partner alignment
- **Program Rollout:** Phased implementation of program components throughout 2026–2027
- **Engagement & Delivery:** Multiple touchpoints and events across program areas
- **Evaluation & Continuous Improvement:** Ongoing tracking of participation, outcomes, and community impact

In closing, we respectfully request full funding to support this high-impact initiative and its measurable benefits to the community.

**Project Start Date:** To be determined based on funding availability.

**Project End Date:** Fiscal year 2027

## IMPACT OF PROJECT:

**Who will be served:** The program will serve youth ages 12–25, focusing on those from underserved and inner-city communities with limited access to resources and enrichment opportunities. It will also engage civic leaders, clergy, and public safety personnel to promote mentorship, strengthen community partnerships, and build trust between youth and law enforcement.

**How many people will be served annually:** Approximately 250-500 individuals will be served annually.

**Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:** Yes. The program will prioritize serving low- to moderate-income youth in Cuyahoga County, particularly those from underserved communities, by providing free access to programming, resources, and mentorship opportunities.

**How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:** This project aligns with existing community and public safety initiatives in Cuyahoga County by supporting youth engagement, violence prevention, and positive police-community relations. It complements ongoing efforts by local law enforcement, community organizations, and faith-based partners by providing accessible programming that strengthens relationships, expands outreach, and reinforces shared goals of safety, trust, and youth development.

**If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary:** N/A

**If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:** This project presents no adverse environmental impacts. It promotes positive environmental engagement by encouraging outdoor recreational activities and fostering appreciation for natural resources among participants.

**If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:** This project establishes a sustainable model for youth engagement and community partnership that can be expanded and replicated across Cuyahoga County. By strengthening relationships between youth, law enforcement, and community stakeholders, it creates a foundation for future programming, increased participation in outdoor activities, and continued investment in collaborative, community-based initiatives.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

**Total Budget of Project:** The requested budget of \$25,000 will cover program expenses, including equipment and supplies, outreach and recruitment efforts, participant support (meals and materials), and costs associated with coordinating and delivering program activities.

**Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):**

**Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:** \$20,000 is requested to support program implementation, including equipment, supplies, participant support, and program coordination.

**Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:** Following the use of one-time funds, the project will be sustained through the pursuit of additional funding sources, including grants, sponsorships, and community partnerships.

## DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

### Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name: Victor McDowell, Jr.

Signature:

*Victor McDowell Jr.*

Date: 3/16/2026

## Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:  
N/A