



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

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

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026 — 3:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Simon called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 1, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Simon and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2026 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0205: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to a grant agreement to Say Yes Cleveland and College Now Greater Cleveland, Inc., for administration and fiscal agent services for the Say Yes Cleveland program for the period 7/16/2024 – 7/15/2026 to extend the time period to 7/15/2027, to amend various terms, and for additional funds in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00, effective 7/16/2026; 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. David Merriman, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; Mr. Derrick Fulton, Executive Director of Say Yes Cleveland; and Ms. Maggie McGrath, Chief Administrative Officer of Say Yes Cleveland Scholarship, Inc., addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0205. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Mr. Merriman, Mr. Fulton and Ms. McGrath pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Miller with a second by Mr. Houser, Resolution No. R2026-0205 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- b) R2026-0209: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$25,000, to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office Animal Crimes Unit for the Abused and Neglected Animal Health Restoration Fund from the District 11 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Isadora Almaro, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney; and Mr. Michael Stacks, Chief of Police for the City of Bedford, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0209. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Almaro and Chief Stacks pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Houser, Resolution No. R2026-0209 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

Committee members Houser and Miller requested to have their names added as co-sponsors to the legislation.

- c) R2026-0221: 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 extend the time period to 9/30/2026, to amend budget terms, and for additional funds in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,020,620.06, effective 7/1/2026; 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; and Mr. Paul Bounds, Deputy Administrator of the Department of Jobs and Family Services, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0221. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Miller, Resolution No. R2026-0221 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- d) R2026-0227: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to Contract No. 5491 with Youth Opportunities Unlimited for single Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program provider services for young adults for the period 7/1/2025– 6/30/2026, to extend the time period to 6/30/2027 and for additional funds in the amount not-to-exceed

\$6,475,025.00; 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; Mr. Craig Dorn, President and CEO of Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.); and Mr. Bounds, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0227. Discussion ensued.

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

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Miller, Resolution No. R2026-0227 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

6. PRESENTATION

- a) Oakwood Village Climate Action Plan – SeMia Bray, Black Environmental Leaders Association

Ms. SeMia Bray, Executive Director of Black Environmental Leaders Association and The Honorable Erica Nikolic, Mayor of Oakwood Village, addressed the Committee regarding the Oakwood Village Climate Action Plan. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Bray and Mayor Nikolic pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

Ms. Jenita McGowan, Deputy Chief of Staff for Climate and Sustainability, answered questions from the Committee regarding cities with formal Climate Action Plans. Discussion ensued.

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

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Simon adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m., without objection.