



## **CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & AGING COMMITTEE**

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR

#### **MEETING AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026—1:00 P.M.**

#### **Committee Members**

Yvonne M. Conwell, Chair | Dist. 7  
Martin J. Sweeney, Vice Chair | Dist. 3  
Mark Casselberry | Dist. 4  
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10  
Robert E. Schleper, Jr. | Dist. 6

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#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

#### **5. PRESENTATIONS**

- a) R2026-0067: Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Western Reserve Historical Society for the African American Heritage & Cultural Celebration from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund –

Robert Bender and Kevin Heard, Steering Committee Chairs for the 2026 African American Heritage & Cultural Celebration

- b) Update on Nails IT and Going Places Grant Programs –

June E. Taylor, Chief of Strategy and Philanthropy, and Dr. E. Douglas Beach, Chief Executive Officer, Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging

#### **6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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*\*\*Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



## CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

### HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & AGING COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR

#### MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026—11:00 A.M.

#### Committee Members

Yvonne M. Conwell, Chair | Dist. 7  
Martin J. Sweeney, Vice Chair | Dist. 3  
Mark Casselberry | Dist. 4  
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10  
Robert E. Schleper, Jr. | Dist. 6

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

**Chairwoman Conwell called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.**

#### 2. ROLL CALL

**Ms. Conwell asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Committee members Conwell, Sweeney, Casselberry, Houser, and Schleper were in attendance and a quorum was determined.**

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Loh addressed the Committee regarding health concerns at the women's homeless shelter.**

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

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

#### 5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0066: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to Neighborhood Health Care Inc. d.b.a. Neighborhood Family Practice for the Increasing Access to Health Care Project from the District 3 ARPA community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

**Mr. Sweeney addressed the Committee on behalf of Neighborhood Health Care Inc. d.b.a. Neighborhood Family Practice regarding Resolution No. R2026-0066.**

**On a motion by Mr. Sweeney with a second by Mr. Casselberry, Resolution No. R2026-0066 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.**

- b) R2026-0067: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Western Reserve Historical Society for the African American Heritage & Cultural Celebration from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

**Ms. Conwell addressed the Committee on behalf of the Western Reserve Historical Society regarding Resolution No. R2026-0067. Chairwoman Conwell stated that representatives from the Western Reserve Historical Society will present this item at a future meeting.**

**On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Houser, Resolution No. R2026-0067 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.**

- c) R2026-0070: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$42,695, to the Serene Foundation for the Community Mental Health and Violence Prevention Summit from the District 10 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

**Mr. Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor, addressed the Committee and presented a proposed substitute to Resolution No. R2026-0070. A motion was made by Ms. Conwell, seconded by Mr. Casselberry and approved by unanimous vote to accept the proposed substitute.**

**Dr. Shamarah Hutchins, Owner and Founder of the Serene Foundation, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0070. Discussion ensued.**

**Committee members asked questions of Dr. Hutchins pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.**

**On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Casselberry, Resolution No. R2026-0070 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.**

- d) R2026-0079: A Resolution authorizing Title IV-D Cooperative Agreements with various providers in the total amount not-to-exceed \$8,960,556.38 for child support services for the period 1/1/2026- 12/31/2026; authorizing the County Executive to execute Agreement Nos. 5947, 5948, 5952, 5953 & 5955 and all other documents consistent with said awards and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:
  - i) Agreement No. 5947 with Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas/Juvenile Court Division/Cashier's Office in the amount not-to-exceed \$31,713.31.
  - ii) Agreement No. 5948 with Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office in the amount not-to-exceed \$4,935,003.68.
  - iii) Agreement No. 5952 with Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas/Domestic Relations Court Division in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,799,744.36.
  - iv) Agreement No. 5953 with Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas/Juvenile Court Division/Clerk's Office in the amount not-to-exceed \$247,219.43.
  - v) Agreement No. 5955 with Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas/Juvenile Court Division in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,946,875.60.

**Mr. Marcos Cortes, Administrator of the Division of Contracts and Performance; and Ms. Tiffany Dobbins-Brazelton, Director of Child Support Services, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0079. Discussion ensued.**

**On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Schleper, Resolution No. R2026-0079 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. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**Chairwoman Conwell announced that the Committee members will be going to the MetroHealth Hospital at 1:00 p.m. to tour their emergency department and trauma unit.**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Conwell adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m., without objection.**

# County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

## Resolution No. R2026-0067

Sponsored by: <b>Councilmember Conwell</b>	<b>A Resolution</b> awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Western Reserve Historical Society for the African American Heritage & Cultural Celebration from the District 7 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 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to the Western Reserve Historical Society for the African American Heritage & Cultural Celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Reserve Historical Society estimates approximately 400 to 500 people will be served annually through this award; and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Reserve Historical Society estimates the total cost of the project is \$351,500.74; and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Reserve Historical Society is estimating the start date of the project will take place August 21-22, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Reserve Historical Society requested \$10,000 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 to the Western Reserve Historical Society 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 \$10,000 to the Western Reserve Historical Society from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the African American Heritage & Cultural Celebration.

**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.





**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> Western Reserve Historical Society	
<b>Address of Requesting Entity:</b> 10825 East Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44106-1777	
<b>County Council District # of Requesting Entity:</b> District 7	
<b>Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:</b>	
<b>County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:</b>	
<b>Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request:</b> Tess Snyder	
<b>Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:</b>	
<b>Email:</b> tsnyder@wrhs.org	<b>Phone:</b> 216-721-5722
<b>Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.:</b> 34-0714724	<b>Date:</b>

## 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):**

The 2026 **African American Heritage & Cultural Celebration (AAH&CC)**—one of Cleveland’s most significant and influential cultural traditions—proudly returns to the **Western Reserve Historical Society / Cleveland History Center on August 21–22, 2026**, with renewed vision, expanded leadership, and a powerful mission aligned with WRHS’s commitment to preserving and sharing the histories that shape Northeast Ohio. Revitalized by RLR & Associates in collaboration with My Cool Solutions Inc., this year’s celebration will pay special tribute to the **40th Anniversary of Kevin “MC Chill” Heard becoming Cleveland’s first national rap recording artist.**

Heard’s groundbreaking success as **“the first non-NYC solo rap act to chart nationally,”** helped propel Hip-Hop beyond its East Coast foundation and onto a wider national and global stage. In addition to his musical legacy, Heard spent more than **25 years** as a journalist at the historic **Call & Post newspaper**, documenting community stories throughout Greater Cleveland.

The 2026 AAH&CC is guided by a distinguished slate of General Co-Chairs representing institutions deeply rooted in cultural stewardship, neighborhood revitalization, and historical preservation: **Kelly Falcone-Hall**, President and CEO of the Western Reserve Historical Society; **Kate Borders**, President of University Circle Inc.; and **Terri Hamilton Brown**, Executive Director of the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation. Their collective leadership anchors this celebration firmly in the city’s cultural and civic landscape.

The 2026 AAH&CC also reflects global Hip-Hop impact and civic commitment through its Honorary Co-Chairs. **Chuck D (Carlton Douglas Ridenhour)**, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee and founding member of rap group Public Enemy, joins **Roxanne Shanté (Lolita Gooden)**, pioneering Hip-Hop icon, one of the first female stars of the genre, and the subject of the Netflix biopic *Roxanne, Roxanne*. They are joined by **Cleveland Ward 9 City Councilman Kevin Conwell**, a respected civic leader, musician, and longtime arts advocate.

The African American Heritage & Cultural Celebration traces its origins to **1992–2002**, when the African American Archives Auxiliary of the Western Reserve Historical Society—under the visionary leadership of **Dr. Booker T. Tall**—launched a community-centered celebration devoted to African American history, culture, and creativity. Over a decade, it grew from a small one-day program into WRHS’s **signature summer event**, attracting more than **10,000 attendees annually** and transforming how Cleveland’s Black community engaged with the Historical Society.

In **2012**, the tradition expanded into the neighborhood through the **Fairfax Arts & Heritage Celebration**, held along East 89th Street between Cedar and Quincy Avenues. That event honored Fairfax’s rich cultural landscape—from its legendary entertainment venues to its civic institutions—reinforcing the importance of neighborhood storytelling and local heritage.

The 2026 AAH&CC builds upon this strong foundation with a revitalized mission centered on cultural preservation, community education, and neighborhood empowerment. The celebration seeks to reconnect families and institutions, create meaningful spaces for youth engagement and artistic expression, foster civic pride, and elevate the stories that have shaped Cleveland’s African American identity across generations.

**Project Start Date:**  
August 21, 2026

**Project End Date:**  
August 22, 2026

## **IMPACT OF PROJECT:**

### **Who will be served:**

Although the celebration will be open to all citizens of Greater Cleveland and beyond, this event centers on the celebration of the culture and achievements of the African American Community. That said, hip hop has grown over the years to include people of all cultures and ethnicities, so it is the larger community that will be served, including people of all ages and economic backgrounds.

### **How many people will be served annually:**

It is estimated that 400-500 people will attend the event this year.

### **Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:**

The event will be free to the public, so that people of all economic backgrounds can benefit from the fun, musical entertainment, and cultural pride that the event will generate.

### **How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:**

Featuring a dynamic mix of performances, historical exhibitions, oral-history reflections, youth programming, artisan vendors, and community dialogues, the 2026 AAH&CC continues its long tradition of elevating culture while investing in Cleveland's future.

### **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:**

n/a

### **If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:**

When this event was first initiated 20 years ago, it was highly successful, and we believe that bringing the event back to Cleveland will be just as successful. We plan to hold the event every other year going forward, so this year's event is a major catalyst to build a following that will sustain it for years into the future.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:****Total Budget of Project:**

\$351,500.74

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

Funding will come from sponsors and the sale of vendor tables. We are just beginning to seek sponsors and vendors for the event.

**Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:**

\$10,000

**Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:**

It is our plan that this will become an event that will occur every other year in the future. We will seek to cultivate ongoing sponsors as well as new sponsors as the event continues to grow and prosper in future years.

**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:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**Additional Documents**

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