

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Ordinance No. O2011-0037

Sponsored by: County Executive FitzGerald	An Ordinance establishing the Department of Public Safety and Justice Services, and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Charter Section 3.09, subsection 2, gives Cuyahoga County Council the authority “[t]o establish departments, and divisions and sections within departments, under the supervision of the County Executive, and such boards, agencies, commissions, and authorities, in addition to or as part of those provided for in this Charter, as the Council determines to be necessary for the efficient administration of the County;” and,

WHEREAS, currently the offices of Witness/Victim, Office of Mediation, Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System, Office of Emergency Management, Public Safety Grants and Training, Public Safety Administration, and Cuyahoga Regional Information Systems are housed under the Department of Justice Affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice Affairs is not specifically delineated in the Charter of Cuyahoga County, yet such department existed under the prior form of government; and,

WHEREAS, this Council’s purpose and intent in formally establishing the Department of Public Safety and Justice Services is to recognize the continued existence of the Department of Justice Affairs and to house all current Justice Affairs offices within the Department of Public Safety and Justice Services in order to more efficiently and effectively provide for a safer community, ensuring justice, support and recovery for all citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the creation of a Department of Public Safety and Justice Services is necessary for the efficient administration of the County; and,

WHEREAS, this Council determines that it is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue and to provide for the usual, daily operation of a County Department.

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

SECTION 1. The Department of Public Safety and Justice Services is hereby officially established, and it shall be its own appointing authority pursuant to Section 9.04 of the Cuyahoga County Charter.

SECTION 2. The duties, functions, and employees of the former Department of Justice Affairs, which has historically operated as its own department, are hereby incorporated into the herein established Department of Public Safety and Justice Services. The Department of Public Safety and Justice Services shall contain the following divisions and sections: (a) Public Safety & Justices Services Administration, (b) Public Safety Grants, (c) Information Technology, containing the Cuyahoga Regional Information System section, (d) Office of Emergency Management, containing the Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System section, (e) Witness/Victim, and (g) Mediation. The specific goals, duties, and activities of the Department of Public Safety and Justice Services and its divisions shall be further determined by the County Executive who shall employ and supervise a Director and such number of deputies, assistants, and employees as shall be reasonably necessary in carrying out the duties of the new Department of Public Safety and Justice Services. Nothing in this Ordinance is intended to limit the ability of the County Executive and the Director of the Department of Public Safety and Justice Services to abolish positions for the purpose of enhancing the efficiency of operations or for any other reason permitted by general law.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective in order that critical services being provided by Cuyahoga County can continue without interruption, and to continue the usual daily operation of the County. Provided that this Ordinance receives the affirmative vote of eight members of Council, this Ordinance shall be come immediately effective upon the signature of the County Executive.

SECTION 4. 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 Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. Gallagher, the foregoing Ordinance was duly enacted.

Yeas: Simon, Greenspan, Miller, Brady, Germana, Gallagher, Schron, Conwell,
Jones, Rogers and Connally

Nays: None

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: August 9, 2011
Committee(s) Assigned: Justice Affairs and Public Safety

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