

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Ordinance No. O2023-0007

Sponsored by: County Executive Ronayne	An Ordinance amending Section 202.08 of the Cuyahoga County Code regarding the Department of Development and enacting new Section 202.09 to establish the Department of Housing and Community Development; and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.
Co-sponsored by: Councilmembers Stephens and Turner	

WHEREAS, the Department of Development is established under Article VII, Section 7.02 of the Charter to develop, direct and implement programs and activities for carrying out the purposes of said Article; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Department of Development to more efficiently carry out the purposes set out in Article VII of the Charter, it is necessary to amend Section 202.08 of the County Code; and

WHEREAS, having a safe, affordable place to live is the foundation of family well-being, from health and educational outcomes to economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County is made up of 59 diverse communities with equally diverse housing and community development needs; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Department of Housing and Community Development will improve the quality and availability of homes and strengthen the communities of Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3.09(2), of the Charter grants Council the power to establish departments, and divisions and sections within departments, under the supervision of the County Executive, as the Council determines to be necessary for the efficient administration of the County; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to amend Section 202.08 of the County Code regarding the Department of Development and to enact new Section 202.09 of the County Code to establish the Department of Housing and Community Development to, among other things, better support the housing needs of all communities within Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall review and determine the housing needs that exist in Cuyahoga County and, based on

that data, determine the funding types and levels needed to implement the programming to address those needs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall convene housing stakeholders throughout the community and at all levels to facilitate the discussion of a county-wide housing policy that can be adopted and implemented; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall be responsible for the administration of funds directly related to housing and community development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall provide healthy and inclusive programming that strengthens and enhances the livability and quality of life in the neighborhoods and communities throughout Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, 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 entity.

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

SECTION 1. Section 202.08 is hereby amended to read as follows (deletions are stricken, additions are bold and underlined):

Section 202.08 Department of Development

- A. The Department of Development, **established in accordance with Article VII of the Charter,** shall contain the following divisions: (1) Division of Economic Development, **and** (2) ~~Division of Community Development,~~ (3) ~~Division of Regulatory Compliance & Monitoring,~~ and (4) ~~Division of Fiscal Services.~~ **The Division of Fiscal Services shall also provide such services to the Department of Housing and Community Development established under Section 202.09 of the Code.** ~~The duties, functions and employees of the Department of Development shall be incorporated into the divisions listed herein. Such duties and functions of the Department of Development shall include the economic development interests of the County with regard to the facilities, tenants, prospective tenants/businesses and parcels of the County Airport.~~
- B. **The Director of the Department of Development shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by Council in accordance with Section 2.03(2) of the Charter.**

C. Nothing in Section 202.08 of the Cuyahoga County Code is intended to limit the ability of the County Executive and the Director of the Department of Development to abolish positions for the purpose of enhancing the efficiency of operations or for any other reason permitted by general law.

SECTION 2. New Section 202.09 of the County Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Section 202.09 Department of Housing and Community Development

A. There is hereby established the Department of Housing and Community Development. To address the housing needs of all persons and communities within Cuyahoga County, the Department shall, without limitation:

1. Periodically, but no less frequently than once every five years beginning in the last quarter of 2023:

a. review the housing needs that exist in Cuyahoga County and determine the funding types and levels needed to implement the programming to address those needs;

b. convene housing stakeholders at all levels throughout the community to facilitate development of a county-wide housing policy to address the evolving housing needs of the community.

2. Provide healthy and inclusive programming that strengthens and enhances the livability and quality of life in the neighborhoods and communities throughout Cuyahoga County.

B. The Department of Housing and Community Development shall be under the supervision of the County Executive and the Director of Housing and Community Development. The Director of Housing and Community Development shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by Council in accordance with Section 2.03(2) of the Charter.

C. The Department of Development Division of Fiscal Services shall provide fiscal and other related services to the Department of Housing and Community Development including, at the direction of the Director of Housing and Community Development, administration of all funds directly related to housing and community development.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Ordinance 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 Ordinance 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 4. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Ordinance 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 Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Turner, the foregoing Ordinance was duly adopted.

Yeas: Gallagher, Turner, Stephens, Simon, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Tuma and Jones

Nays: None

_____	_____
County Council President	Date
_____	_____
County Executive	Date
_____	_____
Clerk of Council	Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: March 14, 2023

Committee(s) Assigned: Community Development

Legislation Discharged from Committee on the Floor: April 11, 2023

[Clerk's Note: Legislation Discussed in Committee of the Whole: April 11, 2023]

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: April 25, 2023

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