



District 7 News

SPRING 2024



Yvonne M. Conwell
Councilmember, District 7

Contact:

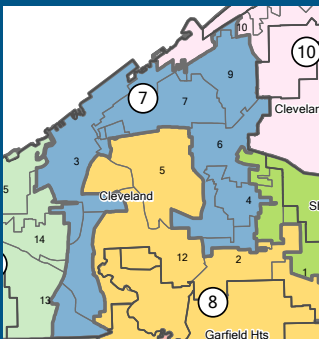
216.698.2010
216.698.2017

Email:

yconwell@cuyahogacounty.us
council@cuyahogacounty.us

Visit Council's Website:

cuyahogacounty.gov/council



2079 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
216.698.2010

A Message from... Councilmember Yvonne M. Conwell

Dear District 7 Residents,

I am pleased to welcome the vibrant and blooming nature of this spring season! This season marks a time of renewal, growth, and community spirit. It also lends to a time of reflection. As we close out on the first quarter of 2024, I reflect on the work our community is doing to better the lives of our residents through housing, economic opportunity, and human services initiatives.

For example, I am humbled by the initiative of community partners such as Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM), who, in partnership with the County, are providing tremendous care and support to our unhoused population. While maintaining the Cleveland shelters, they are also spearheading new initiatives. LMM is expanding their workforce training program to include a six-month building and maintenance repair certificate program, as well as creating four "efficiency" affordable housing suites that will be both good for the environment and good for those seeking housing. Our community is better off because of partners like them.

As Chair of the County's Health, Human Services & Aging Committee, I am a staunch advocate for the work we are doing to better the lives of our residents. In this newsletter, you will find information on new initiatives and valuable resources the County provides. Your engagement and input are valuable, so I encourage you to stay informed and involved. Whether it's participating in community events, sharing your ideas, or connecting with your neighbors, your contribution makes a difference.

I look forward to the positive impact we can make together this spring and beyond.

Sincerely,

Yvonne M. Conwell

Q4-2023/ Q1-2024 Accomplishments:

Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Final Rule and deposited it into the County’s General Fund. The County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County, known as the ARPA Community Grant Fund. \$66 million was evenly distributed to the eleven Council Districts. Since funds were allocated, District 7 has approved over \$5.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars to benefit District 7 and other Cuyahoga County projects that are beneficial to our Cuyahoga County community. These include:

The Bail Project - \$50,000 (Assisting with bail)
Black Professionals Association - \$40,000 (Scholarships)
Catholic Charities (Fatima Family Center) \$90,000 (Furniture upgrades)
Catholic Charities (Fatima Family Center) \$63,000 (Strategic plan)
Catholic Charities (Job and career training center) \$75,000 (Workforce Development Career pathways)
Catholic Charities(St. Martin De Porres Family Center) -\$65,000 (Strategic plan)
City Fresh - \$73,770 (New electronic van)
Community Housing Solutions- \$700,000 (Senior & Adult Services client housing repair grants)
Community Housing Solutions - \$125,000
Community of Hope - \$20,000 (Assistance for young adults who age out of foster care)
CWRU Community House - \$200,000 (Capital for new community engagement center)
The Devin Moore Heart Foundation - \$5,000
The Diaper Bank of Greater Cleveland - \$10,000
East End Neighborhood -\$250,000 (Capital)
Famicos Foundation - \$500,000
Front Steps Housing Services - \$75,000 (Electronic health record to support housing stability & behavioral health)
Habitat for Humanity - \$25,000
Hitchcock Women’s Center- \$1 Million (Capital- new construction & housing)
Legal Aid Society of Cleveland - \$50,000 (Legal assistance)
Merrick House - \$106,000 (Youth Development & Leadership program)
Merrick House #2- \$49,000 (Capital)
MobileMed1 DBA Medworks - \$250,000
Murtis Taylor -\$700,000 (Behavioral Health Center capital repair)
Near Westside Multiservice Corporation (May Dugan Center) -\$100,000 (Capital expansion & upgrading)
Olivet Housing and Community Development Corporation - \$25,000 (NECESS initiative and workforce development training and education).
Providence House - \$100,000
Shaker Square - \$250,000 (Renovations)
St. Clair Development Corporation - \$50,000 (Superior WayFinding Plan and Sign Design program)
To Attain Healing LLC - \$50,000
Wade Oval Park - \$200,000
Westside Catholic Centers -\$150,000 (Resource center & housing initiative)
West Side Community House - \$50,000 (Strategic plan)

Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry Housing Justice Plan

Cuyahoga County is implementing a strategy to address housing barriers faced by individuals who cycle through incarceration, homelessness, and hospitals. In October, the Office of Reentry unveiled the “Eight Point Plan for Housing Justice in Cuyahoga County”, which emphasizes the need to break the link between housing instability and incarceration. Some of the action strategies in this report include:

- **Fair Chance Housing legislation:** Develop legislation that would prevent property owners and property managers from discriminating against individuals with criminal backgrounds. It’s estimated that 23,000 individuals and their families who exit incarceration each year in Cuyahoga County would benefit from this type of legislation.
- **Housing and Community Development:** Create 105 new units in scattered sites or small-scale developments accessible to people with varying criminal backgrounds.
- **Asset-building and home ownership pilots:** Provide down payment assistance, matched savings and lease-to-own housing units, pilot flexible credit programs, and dedicated housing counselors for those impacted by incarceration. At least 673 households could benefit from these pilots.



This initiative signifies a commitment to creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all Cuyahoga County residents. More information can be found at hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov.

Advisory Council on Women’s Health

I was proud to be part of the official announcement establishing the Advisory Council on Women’s Health in September at the MetroHealth Main Campus with the County Executive, MetroHealth President & CEO Dr. Airica Steed, and my fellow Councilwomen Turner and Stephens.

The Advisory Council on Women’s Health will offer policy recommendations and support programming to improve access and health outcomes for women. Appointees will focus on all facets of services for women’s health, including reproductive and maternal health. The Council will serve as a resource for crisis response around the status of reproductive rights in Ohio.

The Council will meet quarterly and consist of 13 members, 4 of whom will be County and MetroHealth leaders. The remaining nine seats will be filled by healthcare providers, the legal community, community-based organizations, and those with lived experience.

Cleveland is the second worst city for health outcomes for Black women. The creation of this council will help us ensure that women of color are listened to and not left behind when it comes to matters of healthcare.



New Child Wellness Campus

In December 2023, Cuyahoga County announced that the Cleveland Christian Home will be the future home of the County's new Child Wellness Campus. The westside home has been around since 1900 and is operated by The Centers, formerly known as The Centers for Family and Children. The emergency childcare center will be expanded so it can offer physical, mental, and behavioral health services for youth who are involved with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

The Child Wellness Campus project is a collaboration with DCFS, Juvenile Court, Family and Children First Council, the Board of Developmental Disabilities, and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County.

This will provide a safe location where youth awaiting placement can be assessed and begin to receive treatment. The campus will also provide residential treatment and other support for youth and families, with the objective of helping children return safely to their families or another family-like setting. Witnessing firsthand the issues staff and children have faced in the Jane Edna Hunter Building, I believe this campus will provide children with the care they need in a setting that prioritizes health and safety.



Health and Human Services Levy

As Chair of the Cuyahoga County Health, Human Services & Aging Committee, I'd like to take this opportunity to provide you with important information on the Health and Human Services levy that all county residents will vote on in March 2024.

The last 4.8 mill levy was passed in 2016 and spanned eight years. Cuyahoga County is committed to ensuring children are safe, the elderly are supported in their homes, healthcare is accessible, and families in poverty are linked with programs that provide childcare and nutritional support. Children, the elderly, and families in crisis are the primary beneficiaries of programs and services supported by the Health and Human Services levy.

The HHS levy on the ballot in March is a renewal and not an increase. The County will continue to fund these critical services for our most vulnerable neighbors without you paying more in taxes.



Journey Center for Safety and Healing 2023 Update

I have been a tireless advocate for women and families who have been affected by child abuse and domestic violence. She has been a partner with Journey since 2012, holding a domestic violence summit once a week in the month of October at various neighborhood centers. This partnership has afforded those impacted in our community with self-defense techniques, what happens after the 911 call, a personal story from a survivor, and a court presentation from a domestic relations judge. This annual mini-summit has helped families gain education of the resources available in Cuyahoga County. A look back at 2023 is below.

A Look Back at 2023

Every person's journey is unique as they find a path toward healthy, thriving relationships.



5597 crisis interventions through our 24-Hour Helpline



133 clients served in our Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter



1233 victims of intimate partner violence supported through the judicial process



119 clients served through our Domestic Violence Housing First Initiative



1177 supervised visits and safe exchanges for children of separated parents



88 victims healing through Trauma Therapy



125 clients served in the Latina Domestic Violence Project



87 support group sessions held to support survivors



8247 people educated about family violence & healthy relationships

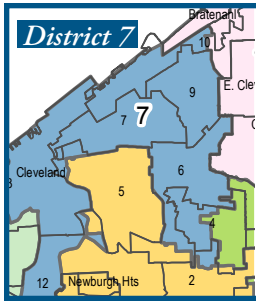
16,943 individuals were impacted by Journey Center's mission

Journey Center for Safety and Healing is grateful for your vital support. Our mission is to provide services that foster safety and healing to those affected by child abuse and domestic violence; and prevents abuse through education, advocacy, and systemic change.



**These numbers represent services received in fiscal year 2023

Journeyneo.org
216.391.4357 (HELP)



County Councilwoman
Yvonne M. Conwell, District 7
 Office: 216.698.2017
 Cellphone: 216.640.6245
 Email: Yconwell@cuyahogacounty.us

County Executive Chris Ronayne Administration

Executive Office

Erik Janas Chief of Staff
 David Razum Deputy Chief of Staff, Communications & Strategy
 Katie Gallagher Chief of Operations & Community Innovation
 Debbie Berry Deputy Chief of Staff, Integrated Development

Safety & Protection

Brandy Carney Director of Public Safety and Justice
 Harold Pretel Sheriff
 Nailah Byrd Clerk of Courts
 Dr. Thomas Gilson Medical Examiner
 Sheryl Harris Director of Consumer Affairs

Economic Opportunity & Growth

Matt Carroll Chief
 Sara Parks Jackson Director of Housing and Community Development
 Vaughn Johnson Deputy Director of Workforce Development
 Michael Dever Director of Public Works
 Michael Foley Administrator, Cuyahoga Green Energy

Health, Human Services & Aging

David Merriman Director of Health & Human Services
 Christopher Murray Deputy Director, Health & Human Services
 Jacqueline Fletcher Administrator of the Division of Children & Family Services
 Kevin Gowen Administrator of Cuyahoga Job & Family Services
 Natasha Pietrocola Administrator of the Division of Senior and Adult Services
 Simeon Best Administrator of the Office of Reentry
 Shawna Rohrman Administrator of Invest In Children
 Melissa Sirak Administrator of the Office of Homeless Services
 Robin Martin Administrator of Family & Children First Council
 Tiffany Dobbins-Brazelton Administrator of the Office of Child Support Services

Talent Management

Sarah Nemastil Chief of Human Resources
 Patrick Smock Director of Operations
 Gloria Langford Director of Benefits & Compensation
 Julie McNulty Talent Acquisition & Employment
 Alida Moonen Director of Organizational and Employee Development

Finance & Operations

Mike Chambers Chief Fiscal Officer
 Walter Parfejewic Director of the Office of Budget Management
 Brad Cromes Treasurer
 Paul Porter Director of the Office of Procurement

Technology, Innovation & Performance

Andy Johnson Deputy Chief Technology Officer

Legal & External Affairs

Rick Manoloff Chief Law Director

Communications

David Razum Chief
 Kelly Woodard Director of Communications & Media Relations

Inspector General

Alexa Beeler Inspector General

Internal Audit

Monica Houston Director of Internal Audit

Quick Reference Directory

Agencies, Boards & Commissions	Phone
Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services	216.241.3400
Animal Shelter	216.525.7877
Auto Title	216.443.7010
Board of Developmental Disabilities	216.241.8230
Board of Elections	216.443.8683
Board of Health	216.201.2000
Children and Family Services	216.431.4500
Child Abuse Hotline	216.696.KIDS
Child Care Assistance	216.416.4440
Child Care Information Line	216.987.6929
Child Support Services	216.443.5100
<i>Fatherhood Initiative</i>	216.348.3967
Clerk of Courts	
<i>Civil Division</i>	216.443.7951
<i>Criminal Division</i>	216.443.7999
County Council	216.698.2010
County Executive	216.443.7178
County Metropolitan Housing Authority	216.348.5000
Department of Development	216.443.7260
Department of Sustainability	216.443.7178
Fiscal Office	
<i>Appraisal, Board of Revision, Property Valuation,</i>	
<i>Real Estate Services, Tax Assessment,</i>	216.443.7010
<i>Treasury and Collections, & Unclaimed Funds.</i>	
Food Assistance/Medicaid	216.987.7000
Healthy Start	216.987.7346
Home Repair Loan Program	216.348.4066
Homestead Exemption	216.443.7010
Employment Opportunities	216.443.7190
Inspector General	216.348.3941
<i>Whistleblower Hotline</i>	216.698.2999
Jury Duty	216.443.8625
Medical Examiner	216.721.5610
MetroHealth System	216.778.7800
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District	216.881.6600
Office of Emergency Management	216.443.5700
Office of Homeless Services	216.420.6844
Office of Mediation	216.698.4996
Office of Procurement & Diversity (OPD)	216.443.7200
Office of Re.entry	216.698.3437
Ohio Means Jobs	
Main Location Downtown	216.777.8200
Old Brooklyn NFSC	216.635.2931
Quincy Place NFSC	216.561.5503
Prosecutor's Office	216.443.7800
Public Safety & Justice Services	216.443.7265
Public Works Department	
<i>Sanitary & Sewer Maintenance.</i>	216.348.3800
Recycling Programs	216.443.3749
Regional Transit Authority (RTA)	216.621.9500
Senior and Adult Services	
<i>Elder abuse hotline, Community Office on Aging,</i>	
<i>Home Support Programs, Options for Elders.</i>	216.420.6750
Sheriff's Office	216.443.6000
United Way, Essential Community Services	2-1-1
Veterans Service Commission	216.698.2600
Witness/Victim Service Center	216.443.7345

**LEARNERS TODAY
LEADERS TOMORROW**



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Where growing and learning begins for birth to 5 years old

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216.325.9678

EARLY LEARNING SERVICES

- ✓ Free diapers, wipes, and formula.
- ✓ Free breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack - healthy meals to fuel wellness.
- ✓ Curriculum-based environment that promotes active learning.
- ✓ Highly qualified teachers and staff.
- ✓ Welcoming and diverse classrooms serving children of all abilities.
- ✓ Safe and clean environments - follows CDC guidelines.
- ✓ Supportive services to help strengthen the whole family.

Early.Learning@TheCentersOhio.org

BINGHAM
Early Learning Center
2421 Central Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

McMILLAN
Early Learning Center
1941 S Taylor Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

CLIFTON
Early Learning Center
13889 Clifton Blvd
Lakewood, OH 44107

WADE
Early Learning Center
9111 Yale Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44108

DEBRA ANN NOVEMBER
Early Learning Center
5225 Library Lane
Maple Heights, OH 44137

SMART START
Home Visiting
Free for eligible pregnant women and children up to age five in Cuyahoga County.

GORDON SQUARE
Early Learning Center
5209 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102



Scan the QR code and scroll to the bottom of the page to see virtual tours of each of our Early Learning Centers!

TheCentersOhio.org

What does Cuyahoga County do for me?

Builds & Maintains Infrastructure:
The County builds and maintains physical infrastructure like roads and bridges. Counties also provide public transit options and support essential community infrastructure, including airports, parks, and water and system sewers.

Supports Job Creation:
Cuyahoga County runs economic development programs to draw investment, attract new businesses, and promote job growth. This includes revitalization programs, tax incentives, and workforce skill-building.

Manages Money:
The County balances residents' needs for services with finite taxpayer funds. Counties can raise or reduce public funds by adjusting taxes and fees, and by placing referendums before voters.

Helps Those in Need:
The County administers programs that protect children and older adults, provide child support, and connect families to food, transportation, employment opportunities and more.

Administers Justice:
The County's Sheriff's Office keeps the peace and runs the County Jail, while the Prosecutor's Office prosecutes criminal acts. The Court of Common Pleas helps people resolve wide-ranging disputes.

And More!
In addition to these vital functions, the County also implements programs to protect our environment, air, and water, enforce building code and land use restrictions, administer elections, and so much more!

Beat the Streets Cleveland



In every District 7 newsletter, I highlight a new business, agency, organization, or program that reflects and works toward the mission of Cuyahoga County. Beat the Streets Cleveland's mission is to positively alter life's trajectory for K-12 student-athletes in the City of Cleveland by giving them access to youth development, mentoring, and wrestling, free to families. The programs strive to robustly develop young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors to nurture their well-being, set personal goals, and grow into self-sufficient adults. There is a social and emotional impact for the students to develop a goal-oriented mindset through the on-the-mat trainings. The programs couple that with off-the-mat resources to develop the student's full academic potential. Besides the health, wellness, social, and emotional impacts, this program also provides physical literacy. For more information on getting involved, visit btscl.org or email info@btscl.org.



Cuyahoga County Council
2079 East Ninth Street, 8th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115



Yvonne M. Conwell
Councilmember,
District 7

County Council Meetings and Committees Open to the Public with Complimentary Parking

All regular Council meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month and are free and open to the public.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend in person in the County Administrative Headquarters, 2079 East 9th Street in the C. Ellen Connally Council Chambers located on the 4th floor.

You can also watch meetings via Council's live stream at cuyahogacounty.gov/council



County Council's Committee times are as follows:

- Community Development: Cheryl Stephens., Chair, Mondays at 10 a.m.
- Council Operations & Intergovernmental Relations: Martin J. Sweeney, Chair, Tuesdays at 3 p.m.
- Economic Development & Planning: Jack Schron, Chair, Mondays at 3 p.m.
- Education, Environment & Sustainability: Sunny Simon, Chair, Wednesdays at 3 p.m.
- Finance & Budgeting: Dale Miller, Chair, Mondays at 1 p.m.
- Health, Human Services & Aging: Yvonne M. Conwell, Chair, Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
- Human Resources, Appointments & Equity: Meredith Turner, Chair, Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
- Public Safety & Justice Affairs: Mike J. Gallagher, Chair, Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
- Public Works, Procurement & Contracting: Mike Byrne, Vice Chair, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Dates and times are subject to change; please go to Cuyahoga County Council's Website at cuyahogacounty.gov/council or you may call 216.698.2010, to access the schedule of upcoming meetings. Complimentary parking is available to the public in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the C. Ellen Connally Council Chambers from the 5th-floor parking level of the garage.

2079 East Ninth Street, 8th Floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 / Phone: 216.698.2010 / Fax: 216.698.2040
Email: council@cuyahogacounty.us / Website: cuyahogacounty.gov/council

