



District 7 News

FALL 2023



Yvonne M. Conwell
Councilmember, District 7

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Contact:

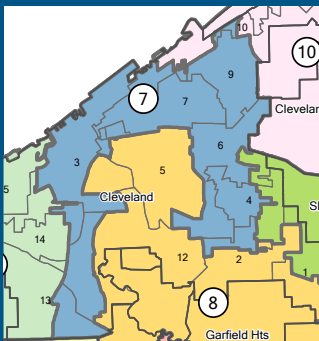
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Visit Council's Website:

council.cuyahogacounty.gov



2079 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
216.698.2010

A Message from... Councilmember Yvonne M. Conwell

Dear District 7 Residents,

I hope you are well and enjoying the beautiful weather here in Northeast Ohio. I am taking this opportunity to share information with you about what I've been up to and what County Council as a whole has accomplished over the past few months.

On November 8, 2022, I was duly elected to serve a four-year term as your Council person, representing District 7, and I am truly grateful to have this privilege. It has been an honor to have served in this capacity since the new form of government started in 2011.

Many issues are in front of us including the potential building of a new jail, a focus on reducing homelessness, the accomplishment of affordable housing for low-income families, and the creation of a wellness campus for children in DCFS care.

Please know that I value your thoughts and will continue to be a strong advocate for you, our district, and Cuyahoga County. Keeping our neighborhoods stable, our businesses strong and our citizens safe will always be my top priority.

Yvonne M. Conwell

Sincerely,
Yvonne M. Conwell

2022-2023 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. District 7 approved over \$4 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:

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

The Western Reserve Area on Aging, Cuyahoga County Community College and Cuyahoga County have partnered together for the Great Grocery Giveaways. There have been three giveaways for seniors and college students in 2023. This initiative provides aging individuals who are food insecure the opportunity to have their needs met with optimum choice, dignity, and maximum independence.



Greater Cleveland Foodbank

The almost 200,000-square-foot facility on Coit Road is located on the border of two Cleveland neighborhoods, Glenville and Collinwood. The hub will make it easier for the Food Bank's community partners, donors and volunteers to serve the nearly 350,000 people in Greater Cleveland who were helped by the Food Bank during this fiscal year.

The new hub features a large kitchen that has the capability to make 20,000 meals a day, a cooler that can store up to 100 million pounds of food, solar panels on the roof and a recycling center that will convert food scraps into fertilizer and renewable energy.

This initiative supports the ever-growing demand for food distribution and social programs in the six counties it serves. Total food distribution is at an all-time high, and the production kitchen is making more than 8 times the meals it did when the facility opened.

When the Greater Cleveland Food Bank opened in 1979, it distributed 400,000 pounds of food and in 2021, they distributed 53 million pounds of food. That's an increase of over 100%!

For more information, call the GCFB help center at 216.738.2067, visit them at <https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/> or stop by the new distribution center located at 13815 Coit Rd, Cleveland, OH 4411



UPDATE: Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office

Over the last few years, the Cuyahoga County Council has engaged in ongoing discussions about the future of our County Jail. The issues at the facility are well-known and have been regularly documented in the media. These issues include:

- **On-going staffing issues.** The County Council has worked diligently to provide the Sheriff with the necessary staff to protect the jail and the workers who are there daily. We increased the salaries of the Correctional Officers, streamlined the hiring process, and conducted numerous job fairs throughout the county to increase the number of employees. We have made an impact but still have work to do. I am hopeful that having strong leadership in the Sheriff's position will help lend stability to the operations of the Sheriff's Office.
- **Ongoing discussions about constructing a new jail.** There are certain aspects of this topic that legally, I cannot discuss in public. Rest assured that all 11 County Councilmembers as well as County Executive Ronayne are having fruitful discussions to address potential jail sites. Sites are being vetted, costs are being assessed, and determinations about the size of the County Jail are all taking place. Having served on Council for more than a decade, I've heard about lawsuits and legal settlements concerning our jail, our employees, and our lawyers for far too long.

This is a vital issue for the County, but if a new jail is constructed, the price tag will be close to \$1 billion.

- **Jail population.** Working with our partners in law enforcement and the local judges, we have significantly decreased the daily population in our County Jail. The high level of publicity concerning the unfair application of CASH BAIL has certainly helped. Now, many individuals who are facing low-level, non-violent offenses are being released on bail days earlier than in the past. This is a huge step forward. Again, we have a lot of work to do, but we have moved forward, and this progress is vital.



Cuyahoga County Sheriff Harold Pretel was sworn in on July 18, 2023

Economic Development Projects around District 7

Economic development implies economic growth, plus progressive change which determines the well-being of the people who live there. Here is a list of current economic development projects happening in my district:

Primary Borrower	Loan Amount	Project Description
CAC Project 2014 Developer, LLC	\$2,000,000.00	Cleveland Euclid Hotel Associates LLC is to redevelop the Cleveland Athletic Club building.
Project 29 Partners, LLC	\$2,000,000.00	The project was mixed-use development. 2 mixed-use buildings with ground-floor retail, subterranean parking, elevated parking, and 158 residential units.
Cleveland Rocks Holding, LLC	\$80,000.00	The renovation and modernization of the Ohio City Masonic Temple to become a world-class rock-climbing gym, and the largest yoga studio in Cleveland.
Cleveland Rocks Holding, LLC	\$210,000.00	The renovation and modernization of the Ohio City Masonic Temple to become a world-class rock-climbing gym, the largest yoga studio in Cleveland.
The Great Lakes Brewing Co	\$273,477.75	Brownfield Remediation activity for environmental cleanup.
Playhouse Square Foundation	\$10,000,000.00	The project was to build a 334-story tower, consisting of 318 residential apartments and a 530-space parking garage with retail in the Playhouse Square neighborhood.
The Hive My Place LTD	\$350,000.00	Purchased and renovated a vacant and underutilized building located at 2019 Center Street, Cleveland, OH.
FMCFP LLC	\$1,700,000.00	The borrowing Entity is in the process of building a mixed-use development, which includes 199 apartment units and a 40,000 sq.ft first-floor Meijer Grocer.
HH Cleveland Huntington LP	\$5,000,000.00	Converting the historic, vacant, Union Trust Building (the Huntington Building) into a mix of affordable workforce housing, retail, office, fitness, and gathering space.
Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network Inc.	\$500,000.00	Complete environmental clean-up preparation, and asbestos abatement, for safe remodeling and reuse of former school building structure at this site.
MAGNET QALICB, INC	\$1,000,000.00	Redevelopment and Modernization Loan of former school building.
The Sherwin-Williams Co	\$7,000,000.00	The company has explored options for a new R&D facility and a new global headquarters that will help to accelerate productivity and efficiency.
The Sherwin-Williams Co	\$2,000,000.00	The company has explored options for a new R&D facility and global headquarters that will help accelerate productivity & efficiency.
The Sherwin-Williams Co	\$5,000,000.00	The company has explored options for a new R&D facility and global headquarters that will help accelerate productivity & efficiency.
2915 Detroit Ave LLC	\$485,000.00	Renovation of Historic Vitrolite Bldg at 2915 Detroit Ave with 6 leased spaces.
2168 West 25th Street LLC	\$137,718.75	Brownfield Remediation activity for environmental cleanup.
Bridgeworks, LLC	\$42,465.00	Brownfield Remediation activity for environmental cleanup.
Bridgeworks, LLC	\$2,000,000.00	Brownfield Remediation activity for environmental cleanup.
TCD OCP Co LLC	\$332,737.50	Brownfield Remediation activity for environmental cleanup.
BC Central School LLC	\$257,070.22	Brownfield Remediation activity for environmental cleanup.
BC Empire School LLC	\$187,569.43	Brownfield Remediation activity for environmental cleanup.
VESTA LYNETTE LLC	\$136,291.58	Brownfield Remediation activity for environmental cleanup.
Skyline Cleveland Renaissance LLC	\$2,000,000.00	Brownfield Remediation activity for environmental cleanup.

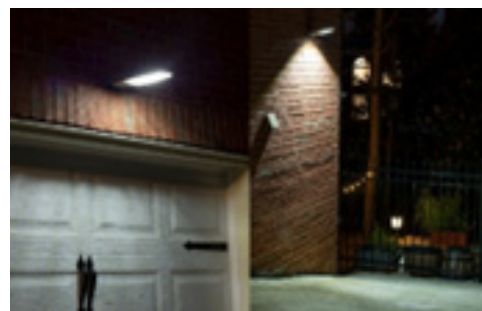
Community Development Projects around District 7

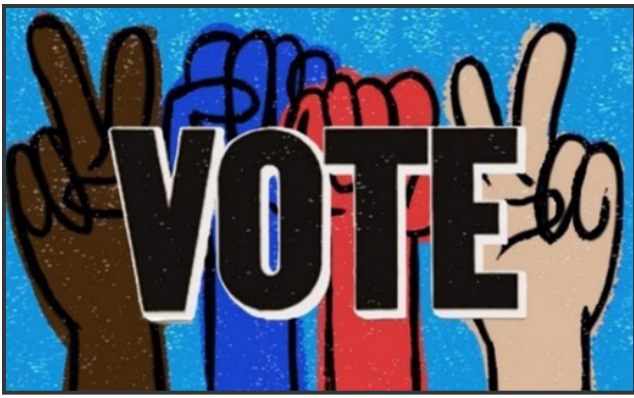
Project Light Up the Blocks offers up to \$2,500 reimbursement to private property apartment owners to install outdoor lighting and video camera surveillance in an area that is experiencing sharp rates of decline and high crime.

This project is funded through the Supplemental Grant Program which is a competitive grant process that makes awards to cities, villages, townships, and non-profit organizations that help strengthen communities and neighborhoods, encourage regional collaboration, and improve the quality of life for county residents.

Projects include, but are not limited to:

- Safety
- Streetscaping
- Lighting and landscaping
- Road resurfacing
- Park construction and improvement





Voting represents the principles of equality and inclusivity by giving every eligible citizen an equal opportunity to influence the course of their society. Engaged voters allow marginalized voices to be heard, paving the way for social progress and change. High voter turnout strengthens the legitimacy of elected officials and government institutions, reinforcing the stability and credibility of democratic systems. In this way, voting is not only a right but also a responsibility of citizens.

Voting empowers individuals to have a direct say in the decisions that shape their communities and their government. In Ohio, including Cuyahoga County, all three branches of government are elected, including the executive, legislative, and judicial offices. Voters both elect these leaders and hold them accountable. As a result, elected leadership is often more responsive and attentive to the needs of the community when making important policy decisions. In addition, voting allows citizens to directly weigh in on specific policy decisions, through the approval of various constitutional, statutory, and charter amendments, as well as certain tax levies.

As an American, it is your right to vote! The 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution states that it is the right of citizens of the United States to vote, and they shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. I encourage you to vote! Vote on important issues, and vote for leaders with values similar to your own. You can help make the change we all want to see in our society.



THE CENTER FOR EST. 1913
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
RESEARCH • ANALYSIS • ACTION

The Center for Community Solutions held a discussion for Cuyahoga County's 2024-2025 Biennial budget and its process. The event was held from 10:00-11:30 AM at the Jerry Sue Thornton Center at Tri-C. The Human Services Advocacy Network (HSAN) was developed to discuss issues that impact Cuyahoga County residents each quarter.

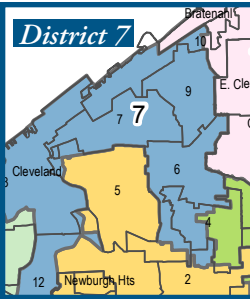
The event is always open to community partners and the public. This particular series assisted with providing an overview of the Cuyahoga County budget process and understanding how your County government works for you. County Executive Ronayne provided welcome remarks and an overall vision during his first budget planning.

Will Tarter, Jr. moderated the panelists and provided a host of budget-related questions. The panel consisted of Yvonne M. Conwell, Chair, Cuyahoga County Council, Health and Human Services & Aging Committee, Dale Miller, Chair, Cuyahoga County Council, Finance Committee, Katie Gallagher, Deputy Chief of Operations and Community Innovations, and Walter Parfejewiec, Director, Office of Budget Management, Former Director of HHS.

You can view the discussion by following the YouTube link below, or access the article written by Ideastream to learn more!

Approaching The 2024-2025 Cuyahoga County Budget Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7R11VcLEdE>

Here is the Ideastream article on the event: <https://www.ideastream.org/health/2023-08-29/cuyahoga-county-council-focuses-on-foster-care-basic-services-in-budget-negotiations>



District 7

County Councilwoman
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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
 Rhonda Gibson Administrator of Corrections
 Nailah Byrd Clerk of Courts
 Dr. Thomas Gilson Medical Examiner
 Sheryl Harris Director of Consumer Affairs

Economic Opportunity & Growth

Matt Carroll Chief
 Paul Herdeg Director of Economic Development
 Sara Jackson Director of Housing and Community Development
 Vaughn Johnson Deputy Director of Workforce Development
 Michael Dever Director of Public Works
 Michael Foley Director of Sustainability

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
 Adrienne Nickerson Interim Director of Benefits & Compensation
 Julie McNulty Talent Acquisition & Employment
 Alida Moonen OED & Employee Engagement Programs

Finance & Operations

Mike Chambers Chief Fiscal Officer
 Walter Parfejewiec Director of the Office of Budget Management
 Lisa Rocco Interim 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

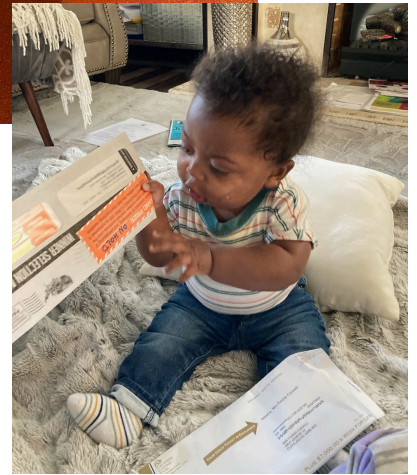
Quick Reference Directory

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

Free Books!



Enroll your child to receive a free book in the mail every month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program. All children under the age of five are eligible to receive a brand new, high-quality, age-appropriate book every month instilling a love of books and family reading from an early age. The Literacy Cooperative leads the program throughout Cuyahoga County where 38,000 children are currently enrolled.



Enroll your child today by scanning the QR code, visiting: www.literacycooperative.org, text FREEBOOKS to 216-412-9005, or call us at 216-776-6180.



the **literacy**
cooperative

Do you want **brand-new, FREE** books for your young child?

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will mail your child a free, high-quality, age-appropriate book every month they are enrolled from birth until they turn 5.

There are many ways to register!

- › Text **FREEBOOKS** to **216-412-9005**
- › Go to literacycooperative.org
- › Call us at **216-776-6180**
- › Scan the **QR code** with your phone

Already enrolled but need to update your address? Call us at **216-776-6180**.



the **literacy**
cooperative

¿Quiere libros nuevos y GRATUITOS para su hijo pequeño?

El Programa de Dolly Parton's Imagination Library enviará por correo a su hijo un libro gratuito, de alta calidad y apropiado para su edad cada mes en el que esté inscrito desde el nacimiento hasta que cumpla 5 años.

¡Hay muchas maneras de registrarse!

- › Envíe un mensaje de texto **FREEBOOKS** a **216-412-9005**
 - › Inicie sesión en literacycooperative.org
 - › Llámenos al **216-776-6180**
- › Use su teléfono para escanear el código QR

El código QR lo mandará a la página en inglés. Si necesita leer la página en español, copie la información y péguela en la página de traducción de Google.

¿Ya está inscrito, pero necesita actualizar su dirección? Llámenos al **216-776-6180**.



Major Legislation Sponsored by Councilwoman Yvonne M. Conwell

Community Engagement

- Sponsored a resolution for maintenance and upgrades to Cuyahoga County's Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation (R2023-0002)
- Sponsored a resolution to create, place and maintain a sculpture of Cleveland Indians icon Rocco (Rocky) Domenico Colavito Jr. (R2021-0041)

Ethics and Transparency

- Sponsored an ordinance making confirmable by Council, DCFS, Cuyahoga Job & Family Services, Department of Children & Family Services Directors (O2022- 0001)
- Sponsored an ordinance enacting the Cuyahoga County Appointment and Confirmation Act (O2014-0030)
- Sponsored an ordinance amending chapter 114 of the Cuyahoga County Code to ensure transparency and equity across county appointees (O2015-0001)

Equity

- Sponsored an ordinance adopting an equity plan for Cuyahoga County (O2012-0014)
- Sponsored a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis in Cuyahoga County (R2020-0122)

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 council.cuyahogacounty.gov



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: Scott Tuma, Chair, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Dates and times are subject to change; please go to Cuyahoga County Council's Website at council.cuyahogacounty.gov 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
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