



**AGENDA**  
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013**  
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**  
**3:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO THE AGENDA**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 6, 2013 MEETING**
- 5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
  - a) O2012-0036: An Ordinance establishing a College Savings Account Program for the purpose of investing in the higher education of Cuyahoga County residents, and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.
- 6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**
- 7. OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

\*In accordance with Ordinance No. O2011-0020, as amended, complimentary parking in the Huntington Park Garage will be available for the public on any day when the Council or any of its committees holds meetings. Please see the Clerk to obtain a parking pass.



## MINUTES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2013  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR  
3:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

**Chairman Rogers called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.**

2. ROLL CALL

**Mr. Rogers asked Assistant Deputy Clerk Carter to call the roll. Committee members Rogers, Schron and Connally were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee members Simon and Germana were absent from the meeting. Councilmember Miller was also in attendance.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO THE AGENDA

**No public comments were given.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 6, 2013 MEETING

**A motion was made by Ms. Connally, seconded by Mr. Schron and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2013 meeting.**

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) O2012-0036: An Ordinance establishing a College Savings Account Program for the purpose of investing in the higher education of Cuyahoga County residents, and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.

**Mr. Kenneth Surrat, Special Assistant to County Executive FitzGerald; Ms. Nora Hurley, Deputy Chief Law Director; and Mr. David Merriman, Deputy Chief of Staff**

**for Health and Human Services, addressed the Committee regarding Ordinance No. O2012-0036. Discussion ensued.**

**Committee members and Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Surratt, Ms. Hurley and Mr. Merriman pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.**

**Mr. Rogers introduced a proposed substitute to Ordinance No. O2012-0036. Discussion ensued.**

**A motion was then made by Ms. Connally, seconded by Mr. Schron and approved by unanimous vote to accept the proposed substitute to Ordinance No. O2012-0036.**

**No further legislative action was taken on Ordinance No. O2012-0036.**

**6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**There was no miscellaneous business.**

**7. OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT**

**No public comments were given.**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business to discuss, Chairman Rogers adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m., without objection.**

# County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

## Ordinance No. O2012-0036

Sponsored by: <b>County Executive FitzGerald and Councilmember Rogers</b>	<b>An Ordinance</b> establishing a College Savings Account Program for the purpose of investing in the higher education of Cuyahoga County residents, and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 7.01 of the Cuyahoga County Charter provides that “The County shall have as a primary responsibility the promotion and enhancement of the economic well-being and prosperity of the County and all of its residents. In furtherance of that purpose, the County shall, as authorized by the Constitution of Ohio, general law, and this Charter and enactments pursuant thereto, develop and implement policies, programs, and activities for the expansion and enhancement of economic activity in the County so as to create and preserve jobs and employment opportunities for and available to residents of the County;” and,

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3.09 of the Cuyahoga County Charter provides that the County may, through legislation, “establish and provide for the administration of a program to provide scholarships, loans, grants and other forms of financial assistance for residents of the County that will enable them to participate in post-secondary education, including vocational education and job training and retraining;” and,

WHEREAS, the County wishes to promote a culture of academic achievement and college success within Cuyahoga County; and,

WHEREAS, the County wishes to establish the Cuyahoga County College Savings Account Program to invest in the college education of Cuyahoga County residents; and,

WHEREAS, the County through the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Early Childhood, will evaluate and choose an appropriate entity to administer the Program, and one or more financial institution partners to provide the financial savings product and other programmatic support; 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 agency.

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

**SECTION 1.** There is hereby created the Cuyahoga County College Savings Account Program to be known as the “Cuyahoga County College Savings Account Program.”

**SECTION 2.** The Cuyahoga County College Savings Account Program shall include the following:

- a) An agreement with a qualified entity to administer the County College Savings Account Program, which administration may be subsidized by the County;
- b) College savings accounts automatically established for each County resident upon entering kindergarten, where the County is the custodial owner of the account and the student is the beneficiary, to be used for qualifying post-secondary education expenses or costs associated with starting a business;
- c) An initial deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of County funds into each college savings account;
- d) An opportunity for families who do not wish to participate to opt-out of the Program
- e) Growth of the accounts through family, student, and other outside private or public contributions;
- f) “Benchmark” incentives to promote educational success and sound savings habits, such as savings matches and donor deposits from other sources;
- g) Opportunities for families and students to increase financial literacy; and
- h) Opportunities for families and students to establish banking relationships.

**SECTION 3.** “Post-secondary education” as used in this ordinance includes post-secondary education, including but not limited to vocational education and any two or four-year degree program from an accredited educational institution.

**SECTION 4.** “Qualifying Post-secondary education expenses” as used in this ordinance includes tuition, mandatory fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for enrollment or attendance, or for any other necessary cost of attending school, including travel to and from school. If a student has special needs, distributions can be used to pay for any accommodations that are required to make it possible for the student to attend school.



First Reading/Referred to Committee: December 11, 2012  
Committee(s) Assigned: Environment & Sustainability

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