



Executive Order No. EO2021-0015

DECLARATION AND ORDER TO ESTABLISH EQUITY ZONES IN RESPONSE TO HISTORIC DISINVESTMENT

WHEREAS, the preamble of the Charter of Cuyahoga County states that one of the benefits of a reformed County Government should be “an improved focus on equity for all our communities and citizens; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution R2020-0122, dated July 7, 2020, the County declared Racism a public health crisis in Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, Resolution R2020-0122 found that historical policies and practices, such as discriminatory lending practices known as “redlining,” have shaped the differences in opportunities for safe and affordable housing for Black people and that Black people in Cleveland are 1.7 times more likely to be living in poverty than White people; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to establish a policy whereby future County investments in infrastructure, construction, and development projects will benefit areas of the County that suffer from historic disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive intends to identify areas of historic disinvestment within the County (“Equity Zones”) in furtherance of this policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Armond Budish, County Executive of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, by virtue of the powers vested in me under Article 18, Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution, by the Charter of Cuyahoga County, and the laws of Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio, do hereby order and declare as follows:

1. That, in furtherance of Resolution R2020-0122, dated July 7, 2020, the Department of Equity and Inclusion is hereby directed, in consultation with the County Equity Commission and the Citizens’ Advisory Council on Equity, to propose a map of the County identifying areas of historic disinvestment; such areas to be known as Cuyahoga County Equity Zones.

2. Following acceptance of the Equity Zones map by the County Executive, the Department of Equity and Inclusion will work with the various departments under the jurisdiction of the County Executive to develop polices and procedures that will result in the County providing additional consideration to investments in road projects, building projects, and development projects in identified Equity Zones. By way of example:

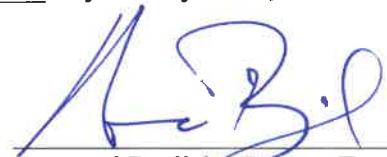
a. an Equity Zone scoring category will be added for infrastructure projects funded by the County;

b. development projects in Equity Zones that receive financial assistance from the County, will be underwritten on more favorable terms than those projects not within an Equity Zone.


3. All County departments under the jurisdiction of the County Executive are hereby directed to exercise all reasonable efforts, in coordination with the Department of Equity and Inclusion, to implement the Equity Zone program as described herein.

4. This Executive Order shall go into immediate effect upon my signature. The original copy of this Executive Order shall be filed with the Cuyahoga County Department of Law, and a copy shall be filed with the Clerk of County Council.

I have signed this Executive Order on this 26th day of July 2021, in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.


Armond Budish, County Executive
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Attested to by,


Gregory G. Huth, Director of Law