



## **Executive Order No. EO2022-0003**

### **DECLARATION AND ORDER ACCEPTING EQUITY ZONE MAPS 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 said resolution 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, development projects, and other projects and programs will benefit areas of the County that suffer from historic disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order EO2021-0015, the County Executive directed the Department of Equity and Inclusion, 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 (“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, and in accordance with Executive Order EO2021-0015, I accept the Equity Zones map developed by the Department of Equity and Inclusion and dated December 20, 2021.

2. The Department of Equity and Inclusion shall continue to work with the various departments under the jurisdiction of the County Executive to develop policies and procedures that will result in the County providing additional consideration to investments in road projects, building projects, development projects, and other projects and programs in identified Equity Zones, all in accordance with Executive Order EO 2021-0015.

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 and in Executive Order EO2021-0015.

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 15 day of February 2022, in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

  
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Armond Budish, County Executive  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Attested to by,

  
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Gregory G. Huth, Director of Law