



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026—10:00 A.M.

Committee Members

Michael J. Houser, Sr., Chair | Dist. 10

Pernel Jones, Jr., Vice Chair | Dist. 8

Patrick Kelly | Dist. 1

Robert E. Schleper, Jr. | Dist. 6

Sunny M. Simon | Dist. 11

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Houser called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Houser asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Committee members Houser, Jones, Kelly and Schleper were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee member Simon was absent.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 13, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Schleper, seconded by Mr. Jones, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2026 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0240: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$11,109.52, to the City of Brecksville for the Stadium Drive ADA/Family Restroom Project from the District 6 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Monica Bartkiewicz, Director of Purchasing for the City of Brecksville, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0240. Discussion ensued.

Committee members expressed their support for the Project. Chairman Houser asked about the total amount of the of the Project, which Ms. Bartkiewicz answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Kelly, Resolution No. R2026-0240 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- b) R2026-0241: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$14,530, to the City of Brecksville for the Brecksville Community Portable Changeable Message Sign Project from the

District 6 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Monica Bartkiewicz, Director of Purchasing for the City of Brecksville, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0241. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Bartkiewicz pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Kelly, Resolution No. R2026-0241 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

[Clerk's Note: Item No. 6.a) was taken out of order and presented before Item No. 5.c was considered].

- c) R2026-0243: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Sevynteenth Foundation for the Guardians of the Community Awards Event from the District 10 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Ashley Thomas, Founder and Director of the Sevynteenth Foundation, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0243. Discussion ensued.

The Committee members had no questions for Ms. Thomas. Chair Houser encouraged Council to participate in the Guardians of the Community Awards Event, and expressed his thoughts of each Councilmember nominating a person from their District who is not often acknowledged for the great work they are doing in their Community. Mr. Houser mentioned that he reached out to the Cavaliers, the Browns and the Guardians, regarding their participation. Mr. Houser said he would like to honor the nominees in partnership with the Guardians at the event, and stated more details regarding the date are forthcoming.

On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Mr. Jones, Resolution No. R2026-0243 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

6. PRESENTATIONS

- a) Office of Violence Prevention Update. – Myesha Watkins, Administrator, Office of Violence Prevention, Public Safety and Justice Services

Ms. Myesha Watkins, Administrator, Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), Public Safety and Justice Services, addressed the Committee and gave an update on the quarter at a glance. The OVP received \$200,000 from the Cleveland Foundation to invest in the Countywide National Office of Violence Prevention Network; Ms. Watkins also said the (OVP) received ARPA funding, which enabled them to release an Informal Request for Proposals to Community Violence Intervention Organizations; Distributed 260 firearm storage boxes in partnership with The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio, and gave away 206 gun locks; Ms. Watkins said that \$45,000.00 will be awarded to (3) organizations targeting youth engagement, violence interruption hotspot outreach and mentoring; court advocacy; prevention and education. Ms. Watkins spoke about the Promoting Safety: Safe Home Pilot;

Promoting Safety: Tamir Rice Act; building partnerships; local and county; community health philanthropic & national. Ms. Watkins introduced Cleveland Foundation Fellow Genesis Chalmers, who will be working in the Office for the next year. Ms. Chalmers brings violence-prevention knowledge to (OVP's) expanding portfolio. Ms. Watkins also shared that the Office will be launching the National Office of Violence Prevention landscape analysis, strategic plan, and cost of violence report, and finalize the OVP Dashboard; Pursue additional funding opportunities; use Listen & Learn findings to shape countywide strategy and expand Tamir Rice Act awareness: business outreach, resident reporting and coordination with Consumer Affairs.

- b) Unified Zoning Code – Mary Cierebiej, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission
Patrick Hewitt, Assistant Director, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

Mary Cierebiej, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and Patrick Hewitt, Assistant Director, gave an overview of the Cuyahoga County Unified Zoning Code. Ms. Cierebiej shared the Planning Commission's vision of inspiring all of the County's communities to thrive; their mission to advance Cuyahoga County's social, economic, and environmental health through equitable community planning; and their core values of inclusion, collaboration, communication, accountability, respect and excellence.

Mr. Hewitt spoke about the ongoing zoning issues in Cuyahoga County; Zoning Initiatives underway; Unified Zoning Code Proposal, cost and funding.

Ms. Cierebiej gave a funding update for the unified zoning code and touched upon Community contributions from the Cleveland Foundation; Cuyahoga Land Bank; Akron Cleveland Association of Realtors; Community contributions; County Planning Revenues and the overall timeline. Ms. Cierebiej also noted various Housing Bills that are happening at the Federal level: Residential Economic Development District (State of Ohio); PRO Housing Grant (Federal Government) and the 21st Century ROAD to Housing (Federal Government). Ms. Cierebiej said the next steps are to enter into contracts with communities; release a Request For Proposals for a consulting firm and final the consultant contract.

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Houser adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m., without objection.