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Cuyahoga County Council Yvonne M. Conwell District 7



Yvonne M. Conwell
*Chair, Human Resources,
Appointments, and Equity*
*Vice Chair, Health, Human
Services, and Aging*

A Message from Your County Council Representative

The Cuyahoga County Biennial Operating Budget for 2016/2017 was approved December 8, 2015. The \$3 billion dollar budget will fundamentally serve as the financial blueprint for providing high-quality services over the next two years that are essential for people to live their lives with dignity and respect.

During the budget proposal process, there were a number of priorities that required a great deal of consideration including: maintaining the County government's infrastructure; ensuring the increasing needs of health and human services are not compromised; providing more opportunities for economic development throughout all communities within the County; establishing a more systematic approach to workforce development that guides individuals toward a career path; and continuing the expansion of regional collaboration that encourages sustainable business practices throughout the region.

Council held a series of public meetings to assist in determining the budgetary needs of the County in addition to a comprehensive analysis of several new initiatives introduced by the County Executive. Despite the County's limited borrowing capacity, Council remained committed to instituting a balanced biennial budget that aligned with our core mission to serve and protect the citizens of Cuyahoga County.

Moving forward, I plan to continue working collectively with my colleagues for more equitable principles that encompass all citizens as it pertains to economic inclusion goals and preventative measures that lessen incarceration rates for youth. I will provide more opportunities for public forums in District 7 where residents can express their concerns regarding the needs of their community and gain access to applicable information and services. Constraints on the economy have made it more challenging to find immediate solutions to existing problems. However, if we maintain our efforts toward an efficient and transparent government, I believe we can replenish our resources and resolve issues more pragmatically in the future.

Happy Holidays & Seasons Greetings to everyone in District 7. Remember you are the ❤️ of your community.

County Councilwoman Yvonne M. Conwell's Annual Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
March 2016	Heroin Summit Series	Fatima Family Center	TBD
May 2016	Town Hall Meeting (Housing Check-up)	Glenville Recreation Center	5:00-7:30pm
July 2016	Town Hall Meeting (Demolition/Foreclosure)	Zelma George Recreation Center	5:00-7:30pm
October 2016	Domestic Violence Summit Series (Every Thursday)	Tremont Area	TBD



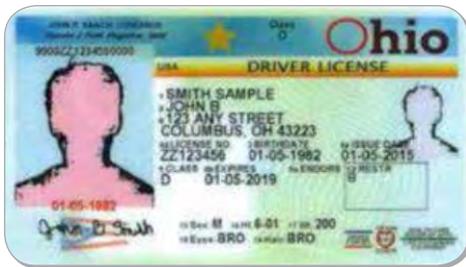
Events will be held at different locations throughout District 7 to ensure all constituents have the opportunity to take part in the public forums and events.

Identification Cards are a Basic Need

The need for identification cards is essential in our community. It is extremely difficult to obtain a job, housing or social services without proper identification. This is undoubtedly true for individuals who have low-income and are faced with the challenges of homelessness. The cost to obtain a birth certificate and State ID card is \$36.50, which can be a tremendous burden for someone who has limited income.

There is an organization known as the ID Crisis Collaborative that has been in existence since 1999 helping individuals in need obtain proper identification. They have assisted 5,000 people just in the last year alone. The organization needs \$160,000 to run the program, and they have limited funding sources.

Cuyahoga County and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS) provided \$25,000 to maintain these services through the end of 2015. I applaud the persistent efforts of my colleague, Councilman Dale Miller, who advocated for additional funding in the Biennial Budget to maintain this vital service that helps to eliminate barriers to employment, housing, and treatment services.



Dog License

Ohio law requires dog owners to renew their dog license annually between December 1st and January 31st. The licensing fee is \$20.00 for one year; however, you have the option to purchase a three-year license at \$60.00 or a permanent license for \$200.00. The licenses are usually attached to the dog's collar and are designed to help with identification and the return of stray pets.



Traditionally, all of the proceeds from the sale of dog licenses would go to Cuyahoga County's Animal Shelter. However, with the additional licensing options, a portion of the funds received from each license type will go to Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Cuyahoga County's Fiscal Office now offers ways to pay for NEW or RENEWAL dog licenses online. You also have the option to print the form and take it to one of the remote locations or mail in your application. To learn more information on how to obtain your dog license, log on to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office website at <https://fiscalofficer.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Dog-License.aspx>.



Financial Policies

County Council approved a series of ordinances last year that comprised a comprehensive set of financial policies for Cuyahoga County. Topics covered by the policy include budgeting, financial management of operations, capital improvements, debt management, investment policy, financial reporting, monitoring of reserve levels, and a planning process for use when the County is having difficulty maintaining proper reserve levels. As a result, agencies are now required to provide prior notice to the County Executive and Council if they plan to adjust employee salaries, and specific information must be provided to support requests for new agency programs.

County Executive Armond Budish recently proposed two additional policies to strengthen the County's financial foundation—a separate reserve account for capital expenditures and a segregated presentation of the income and expenses from the quarter percent sales tax from the County's general fund operating account. That portion of the sales tax is being used for expenses and debt services related to the Convention Center, Global Center for Health Innovation, and the Convention Center Hotel.

The County's financial position is strong, as 2014 ended with \$130 million dollars in the general fund reserves. However, as County Executive Armond Budish pointed out, there are two significant constraints:

- 1) The County has incurred significant debt to complete major projects and has taken advantage of economic development opportunities. Therefore, we need to be careful in managing future debt issuances and make sure that resources are available for the most critically needed projects like the renovation of the Justice Center and assisting with the redevelopment of the MetroHealth Campus. Along this line, Executive Budish recently canceled the planned \$21 million dollar Emergency Operations Center Project in Brecksville and developing a lower cost alternative.
- 2) The segregation of the quarter percent sales tax reduces revenues available to balance the annual budget for ongoing services. Nevertheless, the gap is well within our capacity to manage.

Demolition Fund & County Housing Plan



Cuyahoga County launched a \$50 million dollar program to assist municipalities with the costs associated with demolishing vacant and abandoned buildings. The program mostly covers residential property; however, some commercial structures are included. The intent of the program is to remove vacant and abandoned buildings in a relatively short time to positively impact the housing market.

Municipalities are required to submit an application seeking grant awards for properties they would like to demolish. The application process is non-competitive, and all applications that satisfy the requirements of the program are approved. Applications for the first round of award recipients closed at the end of February 2015 and the total amount awarded was just over \$10 million dollars. The application process for the second round of funding is now underway.

A housing strategy requires more than just demolition. Therefore, the County has tasked the County's Planning Commission to develop a comprehensive housing strategy, integrating elements including demolition, rehabilitation, home maintenance, street repair and amenities, clean-up of contamination, foreclosure prevention, vacant land use, place-making projects, housing affordability, housing needs of people with disabilities, racial and social diversity, and public safety enhancement. When housing is interwoven with everything else the County does, we'll make real progress.

Defining your Destiny, Thinking of Starting a Business?

Are you a business owner in need of growing your investment? Whether you're a self-starter or have owned a business for some time, the Economic Community Development Institute (ECDI) can walk you through the process to identify a financing plan best suited to your business needs.

ECDI is a non-profit economic development organization that addresses the needs of small business owners in the creation and expansion of microenterprises. The program offers a variety of services that include loan financing ranging from \$500 to \$350,000 for start-up; newly-established; or growing businesses; one-on-one technical assistance; financial literacy; and microenterprise training. ECDI also offers loans to low and moderate-income entrepreneurs who may not qualify for traditional bank financing.

ECDI is funded through Cuyahoga County's Western Reserve Fund and partners with various community organizations. Since its inception, ECDI has assisted a variety of businesses ranging from restaurants, health and fitness, sports apparel and construction companies. If you are thinking of starting a business, or you are a current business owner, contact ECDI to find out how they can assist you.



2800 Euclid Avenue, #620

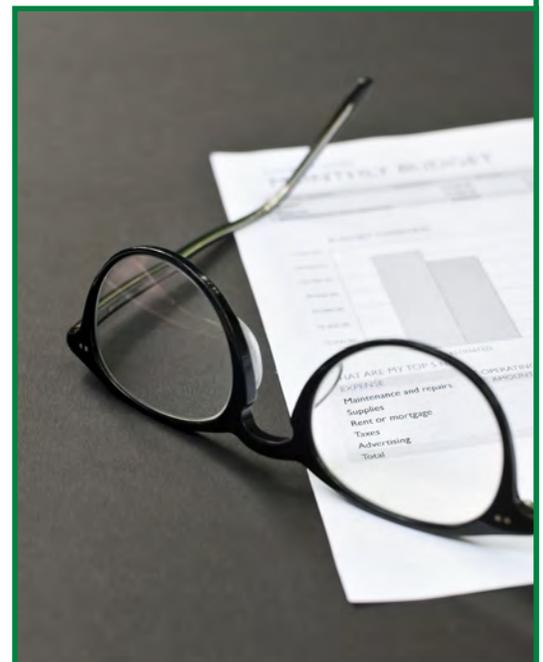
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Phone: (216) 912-5655

Email: amusarra@ecdi.org

www.twitter.com/ECDICLE

www.youtube.com/ECDIOhio





Resources for Seniors

Cuyahoga County

Division of Senior and Adult Services

Bed Bug Assistance Program

This program is designed to assist Cuyahoga County seniors and adults with disabilities with bed bug extermination. To qualify one must meet the following criteria:

- Be 60 years of age and up
- An adult between the ages of 18-59 with a disability
- Have income according to the household size guidelines (see table below)
- Reside in Cuyahoga County and live in the home that is being treated

Applications can be mailed to:

Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services,
13815 Kinsman Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44120.

They can also be faxed to (216) 420-6735. Please call Centralized Intake at (216) 420-6700, if you need additional assistance with completing the application.

Once the application is received, and the eligibility requirements are met, an inspection will be scheduled to determine the presence of bed bugs and the extermination services required. Preparing the home for extermination services will also be required. The County will determine the number and type of treatments the consumer will receive.

Household Size	Income Guidelines
1	\$35,010
2	\$47,190
3	\$59,370
4	\$71,550

An application will need to be completed in order to verify all household income. Income statements should be submitted along with the application (social security, paychecks, unemployment benefits, etc.).

New Business Showcase

Sankofa's New Mural "Our Lives Matter"

"Our Lives Matter" brings into focus community concerns regarding social injustice and violence within our neighborhoods, while instilling a sense of pride, family, and empowerment. The Cleveland award winning artists Gary Williams, Executive Director of Sankofa and Vice President, Robin Robinson are the talented artists behind this exciting new mural. Funding for the mural was provided by the Ohio Arts Council, The United Black Fund, and many other generous donors.

Sankofa is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 with the mission of advancing African American art and artists in Northeast Ohio. The Art Museum and Gallery is located at 540 East 105th Street, Suite 208, Cleveland, Ohio 44108.

Sankofa is currently accepting new memberships for 2016. Please contact Gary Williams at (216) 502-6853, or you can email him at sankofafineartsplus@gmail.com or williams99752@gmail.com to inquire about membership benefits.





Economic Development

Investments in the Western Reserve Fund

The Cuyahoga County Western Reserve Fund (CCWRF) is a revolving loan fund of up to one hundred million dollars which provides gap financing for job creation and retention projects in accordance with the Five-Year Economic Development Plan. This fund is structured to leverage current assets within Cuyahoga County without increasing taxes. The CCWRF is managed by the County's Department of Development while Cuyahoga County's Community Investment Corporate (CCCIC) is responsible for reviewing, troubleshooting, and making fund recommendations.

The CCWRF has identified three priority areas for investment that include:

- Innovation Development.
- Commercial Property Revitalization.
- Business Growth, Commercialization, and Attraction.

The investment approach of the CCWRF involves leveraging existing assets, re-invigorating challenged areas, public and private non-profit coalition, and inclusive of human capital, performance measures, and flexible prioritization.

Cuyahoga County provided Economic Development Assistance and Job Creation for the following Entities in District 7 for 2015:

Company	Address	Loan Amount	Use of Funds
Animal Oralectrics LLC	1768 East 25th Street	\$ 100,000	North Coast Opportunities
Playhouse Square 1317 LLC	1317 Euclid Avenue	\$ 680,000	Redevelopment & Modernization
Jobu Needs a Refil, LLC (Avenue District Townhouses)	1451-1481 Superior	\$ 32,039	Community Assessment
Hingetown LLC (Schaefer Printing Redevelopment)	1455 W 29th Street	TBD	Community Assessment
Solstice Coffee Roasters	2333 St. Clair Ave	\$ 75,000	Business Growth
Corbo's Bakery	12210 Mayfield Road	\$ 375,000	Business Growth
Green Rock Lighting	3175 West 33rd	\$ 150,000	Business Growth
Jelenic Machinery Company	1390 East 25th	\$ 50,000	Business Growth
Coleman Trucking	3580 East 93rd Street	\$ 125,000	Business Growth
Schofield Properties, LLC		\$ 5,000,000	Business Growth
Landmark-May, LLC (The May Company Building)	158 Euclid Avenue	\$ 4,000,000	Casino Revenue Fund
Stark Enterprises (Gateway-Huron)	4th Prospect and Huron	\$ 3,000,000	Casino Revenue Fund
Downtown Cleveland Advisors (Warehouse-Gateway District Revitalization)	Gateway & Warehouse Districts	\$ 1,500,000	Casino Revenue Fund

All of these projects have resulted in 46 jobs created and 135 jobs retained.



Arts & Culture Levy

The renewal of the cigarette excise tax for an additional ten years to support arts and culture facilities in Cuyahoga County was approved by County Council to be placed on the ballot in November of 2015 and passed with a 75 percent majority vote in favor of the renewal. The original levy was passed in 2006. Cuyahoga County has been fortunate to have inherited world-class cultural institutions, at a time when Cleveland was one of the largest cities in the world. Maintaining these facilities can be a challenge but the Arts & Culture Levy makes it possible.

The levy provides roughly \$15 million dollars per year for operating and program support. Major institutions like the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Arts Museum, the Museum of Natural History, and the Great Lakes Science Center receive significant support. The levy also supports neighborhood institutions and art programming in public schools.

As people smoke less, the cigarette tax is a declining source of revenue, and it is not a permanent solution for arts and culture funding in Cuyahoga County. A new funding solution will need to be considered when the levy expires again in 2026.



Caught In the Community Giving Back:

Caught in the Community Giving Back Proclamations began in 2011 to acknowledge youth in Cuyahoga County who are award recipients and have given back to their community. If a youth is identified by County Councilwoman Yvonne M. Conwell at an event or awards ceremony, they may be the lucky recipient of a Cuyahoga County Proclamation recognizing their achievements. The proclamation will be personally delivered to the student's classroom by the Councilwoman. The only requirement is for students to maintain excellence in education, the arts, music, or volunteering for their community.

You may be next!



Music and Arts Programs for Youth

Are you looking for an after-school music and arts program that will enhance your child's creativity? New Bridge offers free after-school programs for youth in grades 9-12 that include ceramics, digital photography, film/video, graphic design, and music recording and production. These courses allow students the opportunity to showcase their work in the community and nationally through exhibits and performances. New Bridge provides an atmosphere of support and opportunity where students can explore their interests while learning new concepts. For more information, please contact Maya Lyles at (216) 867-9775, Ext. 104, mlyles@newbridgecleveland.org

In addition, Tri-C Performing Arts Academy provides students ages 8-18 with several after-school and weekend programs that include Jazz Prep Club, After-School Band Program, and The Orchestra Program (TOP). Students learn about music history and theory while developing their skills to play an instrument through instruction and performance opportunities. Each program provides special discounted rates for students who attend the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD). Additional scholarship options are also available. For more information, please contact Karah Vance, Creative Arts Division at (216) 987-6145, karah.vance@tri-c.edu

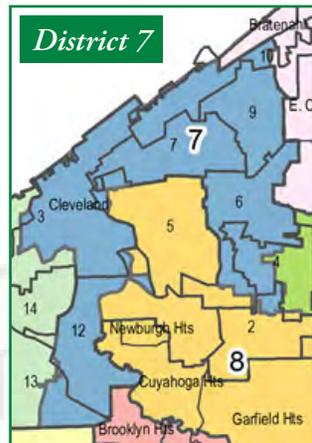
As an active supporter of youth programs and services, I believe that a structured environment helps to stimulate growth and ingenuity while building self-esteem. These programs provide constructive outlets that reinforce positive energy and productivity while cultivating an appreciation for the performing arts.

County Councilwoman Yvonne M. Conwell, District 7

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County Executive Armond Budish New Administration

Executive Office

Sharon Sobol Jordan, Chief of Staff

Frank Bova, Chief Community Safety & Protection Officer

Ed Kraus, Director of Regional Collaboration

Public Safety

George Taylor, Director of Public Safety

Clifford Pinkney, Sheriff

Kenneth Mills, Director of Regional Corrections

Mark Griffin, Inspector General

Nailah Byrd, Clerk of Courts

Dr. Tom Gilson, Medical Examiner

Finance & Operations

Dennis Kennedy, Fiscal Officer

Chris Murray, Treasurer

Health, Human Services & Aging

Matt Carroll, Interim Director of Health & Human Services

David Merriman, Administrator of Job & Family Services

Thomas Pristow, Administrator of Children & Family Services

Dr. Richard Jones, Administrator of Senior and Adult Services

Rebekah Dorman, Director of Invest in Children

Robin Martin, Director of Family & Children First Council

Public Works & Operations

Mike Dever, Director of Public Works

Lenora Lockett, Director of Office of Procurement & Diversity

Bob Triozzi, Law Director

Mike Foley, Director of Sustainability

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services	216-241-3400
Auto Title	216-443-7010
Board of Developmental Disabilities	216-241-8230
Board of Elections	216-443-8683
Board of Health	216-201-2000
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
Common Pleas Court	216-443-8560
County Council	216-698-2010
County Executive	216-443-7178
Department of Development	216-443-7260
Department of Sustainability	216-443-7178
Fiscal Office	216-443-7010
<i>Appraisal, Board of Revision, Property Valuation, Real Estate Services, Tax Assessment, Treasury and Collections, and Unclaimed Funds.</i>	
Food Assistance/Medicaid	216-987-7000
Home Repair Loan Program	216-348-4066
Homestead Exemption	216-443-7010
Human Resources	216-443-7190
Inspector General	216-698-2101
<i>Whistleblower Hotline</i>	216-698-2999
Jury Duty	
<i>Petit Jury</i>	216-443-8628
<i>Grand Jury</i>	216-443-8652
Medical Examiner	216-721-5610
Office of Emergency Management	216-443-5700
Office of Homeless Services	216-420-6844
Office of Mediation	216-698-4996
Office of Re-entry	216-698-3437
Ohio Means Jobs	
Brook Park	216-898-1366
Downtown	216-664-4673
Southgate	216-518-4954
Westshore	216-939-2599
Prosecutor's Office	216-443-7800
Public Safety & Justice Services	216-443-7265
Public Works Department	216-348-3800
<i>County Kennel, and Sanitary and Sewer Maintenance.</i>	
Recycling Programs	216-443-3749
Senior and Adult Services	216-420-6750
<i>Elder abuse hotline, Community Office on Aging, Home Support Programs, Options for Elders.</i>	
Sheriff's Office	216-443-6000
Veterans Service Commission	216-698-2600
Witness/Victim Service Center	216-443-7345



2079 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 / Phone: 216-698-2010 / Fax: 216-698-2040

Email: council@cuyahogacounty.us



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL
2079 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

County Council Meetings and Committees Open to the Public with Complimentary Parking

All Regular Council meetings are held every 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 new County Administrative Headquarters, 2079 East 9th Street, located at the corner of East 9th Street and Prospect Avenue. You can also watch meetings via Council's live stream at www.council.cuyahogacounty.us

County Council's Committee times are as follows:

- Committee of the Whole: Dan Brady, Chair, Tuesdays at 3 p.m. before regular Council meetings
- Community Development: Anthony Hairston, Chair, Mondays at 9 a.m.
- Council Operations & Intergovernmental Relations: Dale Miller, Chair, Tuesdays at 3 p.m.
- Finance & Budgeting: Dave Greenspan, Chair, Mondays at 1 p.m.
- Economic Development & Planning: Jack Schron, Chair, Mondays at 3 p.m.
- Education, Environment & Sustainability: Sunny Simon, Chair, Wednesdays at 3 p.m.
- Health, Human Services & Aging: Pernel Jones Jr., Chair, Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
- Human Resources, Appointments & Equity: Yvonne Conwell, Chair, Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
- Public Safety & Justice Affairs: Mike Gallagher, Chair, Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
- Public Works, Procurement & Contracting: Chuck Germana, Chair, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

To access the dates and times of upcoming committee meetings, go to Cuyahoga County Council's Website at www.council.cuyahogacounty.us or you may call (216) 698-2010.

Complimentary parking is available for the public in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage.

