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Cuyahoga County Council Yvonne M. Conwell District 7

A Message from Your County Council Representative



Yvonne M. Conwell

My first term as County Council Representative of District 7 has been extremely rewarding. There have been a number of transformations that have occurred in Downtown Cleveland which have spurred economic growth for the region. Downtown Cleveland is an intricate part of District 7 and has ignited additional economic improvement in other surrounding communities that include:

- **University Circle:** Uptown Neighborhood
- **Foreman Mills:** New apparel store opening in Cleveland
- **League Park:** Restoration Project
- **Bio Cellar:** Urban greenhouse
- **Towpath Trails:** One of Ohio's longest and most scenic bikeways (Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway)
- **Central Kitchen:** Expected to maximize overall efficiency of food distribution within Cleveland's homeless shelter system by providing a centralized location where fresh food is prepared and cooked.

Although, there have been many advancements made towards the revitalization of the County, there are still a number of issues that need to be addressed: property tax utilization, housing demolition for vacant and abandoned properties, job creation, stabilization of the County Hospital, and maintaining the County's resources for those in need or later become in need of assistance.

As I continue my work with County Council, I would like to ensure that urban areas outside of Downtown Cleveland are exposed to greater economic growth at a more expedient pace. Since local government funding is being cut from City and County government, the need for more collaboration with private institutions is imperative. Everyone must have a chance to prosper, if we all want to succeed.

Human Resources, Appointments, and Equity Policies

The policy on pay equity was designed to encompass all County employees regarding fairness in pay structure. However, implementation of the policy has not fully been executed across the board. As a result, the Personnel Review Commission (PRC) decided to enlist a consultant to review pay equity amongst all non-classified employees. As a result, eight focus groups were created to gain insight into the disparity amongst the salaries of employees.

I am currently working on legislation that will establish a continued equitable system throughout Cuyahoga County. Policies and procedures regarding pay equity will be implemented across the board for all classified and non-classified employees, and I will ensure that appointments to Boards and Commissions are made in an equitable manner.

Legislation is already in place regarding the County Equity Plan. The plan outlines a continuous effort to ensure the County promotes and achieves openness and full participation in a number of areas that include hiring, promotion, procurement and contracting. In addition, the County Equity Plan established the Citizen's Advisory Council on Equity which will be comprised of fifteen citizens residing in Cuyahoga County who embody a number of diverse backgrounds. Although, these committee positions are unpaid, they provide a significant opportunity for community leadership involvement.

You can apply for the Citizen's Advisory Council on Equity, or any of the other County Boards and Commissions, on-line by going to www.cuyahogacounty.us. The County Executive's Office and the County Council are actively seeking individuals who are interested in serving on the Citizen's Advisory Council on Equity. We hope to have the committee fully operational in the next few months. Maintaining a strong County infrastructure will ensure our services meet the needs of all Cuyahoga County residents.



Seniors are Jewels

Cuyahoga County
Division of Senior and Adult Services
Beg Bug Assistance Program

This program is designed to assist Cuyahoga County seniors and disabled adults with bed bug extermination. In order 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 (Table below);
- Reside in Cuyahoga County and live in the home that is being treated.

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.). Applications can be mailed to: Cuyahoga County Division of Senior & 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.

Building the Sustainability Agenda

“Think globally; act locally” is a well-known saying that I try to live by. Cuyahoga County can embrace this model by contributing to a better environment and a more sustainable planet. The following are ideas the County Council can work on to improve our sustainability:

- Hire a Sustainability Director, who can lead efforts in creating a comprehensive approach to applying sustainability principles in Cuyahoga County.
- Create a new option within the County’s \$100 million dollar Western Reserve Economic Development Fund to assist with clean energy projects.
- The City of Cleveland completed a climate change planning process and is preparing for implementation of these efforts to reduce the city’s carbon footprint. The County can work in collaboration with the City of Cleveland on a broader and more extensive approach.
- Conduct an energy audit on all of the County buildings in order to implement efficiency upgrades. The County has collaborated with several non-profit organizations that have expertise in this area.
- The County should seek to develop a community strategy and goal to discourage the use of plastic bags, which harm the environment.
- As presented at the Cleveland Veg Fest, solid evidence over the last 10 years reveals that eating meat, poultry, dairy products, and fish, rather than plant-based food is one of the largest contributors to climate change and the general depletion of the earth’s resources. Changing our eating habits is a major adjustment for all, but we need to consider such a change if we want to see a positive impact on the environment.



New Business Showcase

Professional School of Cosmetology *Now and For the Future*

8555 Hough Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106
(216) 860-4491

Please contact Mrs. Laster at (216) 334-6570 for enrollment information.

Current Course Offering:

- Cosmetology-Managing Cosmetology
 - Nail Technology- Managing Nail Technology
- Financing is available if you qualify*



If you have opened a new business in District 7, and would like to have your business showcased in the next upcoming newsletter, please contact County Councilwoman Yvonne M. Conwell’s office at (216) 698-2017.

New County Administrative Headquarters Building



The New Cuyahoga County Administrative Headquarters at 2079 East Ninth Street and Prospect Avenue.



When County Council took office in 2011, the County owned or leased more than 7 million square feet of space amongst 70 different property locations. The County Council recognized that the volume of space and numerous properties were excessive and costly. In response, the County Council commissioned a study of the County's real estate portfolio that would consolidate County operations and save on taxpayer dollars.

Over the course of several months, nine proposals were received. After extensive negotiations, numerous property tours and public meetings, the Geis Companies' proposal was selected to construct a new County Headquarters. The proposal for \$27 million dollars includes the purchase of the Ameritrust Complex located on the Northeast Corner of Prospect Avenue and East 9th Street. The Geis Company agreed to demolish the vacant Ameritrust Complex and reconstruct a new energy-efficient building.

The new County Headquarters will be approximately 220,000 square feet and include an attached parking garage for easy public access. The County will lease the new Headquarters building for 26 years with the option to buy at the end of the lease term.

The County Council is very excited about the new Headquarters and has been actively involved in the design process since the project's inception. The new location will serve as a catalyst to downtown's business district and will be centrally located near public transit, affordable parking options and the East 9th Street innerbelt ramps making it easily accessible.

Demolition officially began on April 9, 2013 and completion of the new building is expected in July 2014. We are looking forward to moving into Cuyahoga County's new headquarters.



The New Cuyahoga County Council Chambers inside the Cuyahoga County Administrative Headquarters

College Savings Account

Statistics have shown that a post-secondary education is imperative to sustaining employment, earning a competitive wage and maintaining economic stability. However, the rising cost of college tuition has made the pursuit for higher education less attainable. Today, many families struggle with saving for college costs due in part to the economic challenges of maintaining their daily cost of living.

The Cuyahoga County College Savings Account program aims to support the pursuit of higher education by providing Cuyahoga County residents with the necessary tools and incentives to promote savings and wealth-building. Cuyahoga County plans to invest funds in an educational savings account for every child in Cuyahoga County who starts kindergarten in the 2014-2015 school year. Each savings account will start with \$100 where parents will receive financial literacy on how to gradually grow their child's account and work toward paying for college. To find out more about the College Savings Account program, please visit www.collegesavings.cuyahogacounty.us.



Do you think you have what it takes to start a business?

Do you think you have what it takes to start 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 and Community Development Institute (ECDI) can walk you through the process that would be best suited for 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. In addition, ECDI 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. So, 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.



ECDI
2800 Euclid Avenue, #620
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
phone: (216) 912-5655

email: amusarra@ecdi.org
<http://cleveland.ecdi.org>
www.twitter.com/ECDICLE
www.youtube.com/ECDIOhio

Cuyahoga Land Bank's Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program



The Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program was established by the Cuyahoga Land Bank to assist occupant buyers with successfully purchasing a home. Occupant buyers will have 30 days to purchase foreclosed properties from the Cuyahoga Land Bank that need moderate repairs. The successful buyer will be required to follow the guidelines set by the Cuyahoga Land Bank and agree to reside at the property for three years.

Please access the following website, if you are a potential buyer and interested in purchasing a home through the Cuyahoga Land Bank:

<http://www.cuyahogalandbank.org/propertiesByImage.php?where=owneroccupier>

- A property purchaser application will need to be completed (Be sure to indicate your interest in the Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program).
- A Cuyahoga Land Bank representative will contact you to make arrangements to view the property and go over the scope of repairs the property will require.
- After visiting the property, the buyer can determine if they want to bid on the property.
- If the bid is accepted, the buyer has four months to renovate the home. All work must be 100% complete and the home has to pass inspections before the deal can close and the title transfers to the buyer.

The following link provides you with information on buying a house to renovate:

<http://www.cuyahogalandbank.org/toRenovate.php>



779 E 99th St (108-20-039)



3156 E 93rd St (126-39-015)



1163 Addison Rd (105-25-009)



1322 E 86th St (107-14-046)

New County Logo

Cuyahoga County has a new logo! Designed by local art student Nolan Beck, the new logo represents the strengths and assets of our community:

- **Water** – Represents one of our most valuable natural resources. Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River are important for their role in our day-to-day lives, supporting commerce and travel, while providing food and enjoyment for residents and tourists.
- **Leaf** – Represents another important natural resource that defines our region; trees, parks and forests. The city has the nickname “Forest City” as a result of the beautiful parks and forests throughout the area.
- **Life Line** – Represents Northeast Ohio’s strength in healthcare. For decades, we have been the leader in the healthcare industry thanks to the major health care institutions and technologies in the region. With the opening of the Global Center for Health Innovation, our region is becoming known as the nation’s Medical Capital.
- **Bridge** – Represents the skill and engineering used to create various bridges within the region that allow passage over the countless landscapes throughout the area.
- **Cog** – The cog on the seal was designed to represent a gear, illustrating the rich history and vital roles the region has played and is currently playing in manufacturing.



The logo will be prominently displayed on the County's new administration building, and will gradually be phased into all aspects of County operations.

The New Cleveland Convention Center Hotel is Scheduled to Open in 2016

The New Cleveland Convention Center Hotel is Scheduled to Open in 2016

Construction is currently underway for the New Cleveland Convention Center Hotel that will be managed by Hilton Hotels and Resorts. Cuyahoga County has awarded Hilton Worldwide the rights to manage this hotel and resorts property that will be adjoining the new Cleveland Convention Center in the heart of downtown Cleveland. Cuyahoga County is the official owner of the hotel and will be financing the project with a combination of tax-exempt bonds and other tax revenue sources.

The 28-story hotel will accommodate 600 guest rooms, approximately 55,000 square feet of meeting space, a full service restaurant, several ball rooms, recreational facilities and a rooftop bar. The hotel will be connected to both the New Cleveland Convention Center and Global Center for Health Innovation. The Global Center will provide health care innovation, technology, education and commerce through state of the art spaces, programs and virtual offerings. The hotel will play an integral role in the revitalization of the region that is designed to enhance the waterfront as the urban core center of convention and entertainment activity.

Additionally, the hotel will be centrally located amongst the growing number of assets in downtown Cleveland like the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and First Energy Stadium. The new hotel stands to strengthen Cleveland's tourism and convention business while creating a number of new jobs for hard-working families in the region.



Cuyahoga County Jail Consolidation

Cuyahoga County started the process of establishing a regional jail system that would save several cities thousands of dollars and provide additional bed space for the Cuyahoga County Jail system. These consolidation efforts will be cost-neutral for the County since they will not incur any cost in housing inmates at local jails when the Cuyahoga County Jail is filled to capacity.

The first step in creating a regional jail system was in March of this year, when Cuyahoga County Council voted unanimously to take over the Euclid City Jail. Under the agreement, the City of Euclid will pay the County \$400,000 a year to house individuals arrested in the City of Euclid or sentenced by the Euclid Municipal Court. Consolidation of the Euclid City Jail will also provide much needed bed space to accommodate the overflow of non-violent offenders in the Cuyahoga County Jail system. This agreement runs through 2019, however, it can be extended if both the City of Euclid and Cuyahoga County Officials agree to continue with the consolidation efforts. In addition, the City of Euclid will pay the County \$600,000 over the next five years for any capital improvements incurred by the Euclid City Jail.

The second phase in establishing a regional jail system involves finalizing an agreement to consolidate the City of Cleveland Jail system. If legislation is passed, the County will receive a per diem of \$84.68 per inmate a day from the City of Cleveland to assume full responsibility of its inmates' care while the City provides additional bed space at no cost to the County. This agreement is expected to save the City of Cleveland \$6 million dollars annually.

These consolidation efforts are just part of a much larger plan to create a regional jail system that will benefit both the County and local municipalities. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements as similar efforts continue to emerge.

2014 Council Members



Cuyahoga County Council in Council Chambers - Anthony T. Hairston, Charles M. Germana, Dan Brady, Pernel Jones, Jr., Dave Greenspan, Jack Schron, Dale Miller, Mike J. Gallagher, Sunny M. Simon, C. Ellen Connally, Yvonne M. Conwell

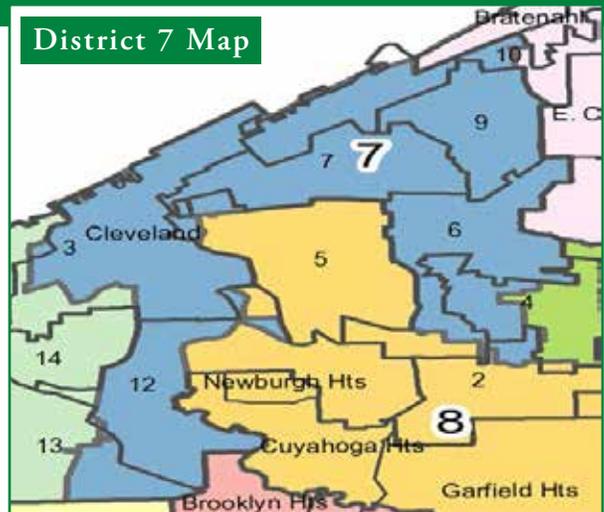
Economic Development (District 7)

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

Company	Address	Loan Amount
Playhouse Square	1501 Euclid Avenue	\$3,684,650
Flats East Bank Phase II	1078 Old River Road	\$1,500,000
Playhouse Square LLC	1317 Euclid Avenue	\$680,000
Ohio Awning	2658 Scranton Road	\$387,500
Corbo's Bakery	12210 Mayfield Road	\$375,000
Manitowoc (Cleveland Range)	1333 East 179th Street	\$350,000
Lake Erie Energy Development Corp.	1938 Euclid Avenue	\$300,000
Green Rock Lighting	3175 West 33rd	\$150,000
Coleman Trucking & Development	3580 East 93rd Street	\$125,000
Big River Online (Data Agents)	250 W Huron Avenue	\$108,000
Complion (RegBinder, Inc.)	1621 Euclid Avenue	\$100,000
Solstice Coffee Roasters	2333 St. Clair Avenue	\$75,000
Jelenic Machinery Company	1390 East 25th	\$50,000
Henninger Landfill (Western Reserve Land Consequency)	4101-4105 Pearl Snyder Henninger	\$41,500
The Foundry Project A sustainable Farm in the City	2441-2469 East 71st	\$41,500
Union Avenue GI Project (NEORS)	3515 E. 71st Street	\$41,100
East 216 Land Company LLC	3100 Hamilton	\$34,950
St. Clair Plaza (St. Clair Development corp.)	6321 St. Clair Avenue	\$6,500
Cream of the Crop, LLC & Crop Rocks, LLC	2537 Lorain Avenue & 15621 Waterloo Road	\$53,750

All of these projects have resulted in 215 jobs created and 500 jobs retained.

District 7 Map



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

County Council	216-698-2010
County Executive	216-443-7178
Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services	216-241-3400
Auto Title	216-443-8900
Board of Developmental Disabilities	216-241-8230
Board of Elections	216-443-3200
Board of Health	216-201-2001
Clerk of Courts	216-443-7952
Common Pleas Court	216-443-8560
Economic Development	216-443-7260
Employment Connection	216-664-4673
Fiscal Office (Appraisal, Board of Revision, Property Valuation, Real Estate Services, Tax Assessment, Treasury and Collections, and Unclaimed Funds)	216-443-7300
Health and Human Services	
Child Abuse Hotline	216-696-KIDS
Child Support Services	216-443-5100
Food Assistance Program	216-987-700
Homeless Services	216-420-6844
Medicaid/Child Care Assistance	216-987-7346
Office of Reentry	216-698-3437
Senior Citizens Care (Elder Abuse Hotline, Community Office on Aging, Home Support Programs, Options for Elders)	216-420-6750
Home Improvement Programs	216-443-2149
Housing Rehabilitation Loan	216-348-4066
Homestead Exemption	216-443-7050
Human Resources	216-443-7190
Inspector General	216-698-2101
Whistleblower Line	216-698-2101
Jury Duty	216-443-8628
Medical Examiner	216-721-5610
Prosecutor's Office	216-443-7800
Public Safety and Justice Services	216-443-7265
Witness/Victim Service Center	216-443-7345
Office of Emergency Management	216-443-5700
Office of Mediation	216-698-4996
Public Works (County Kennel, Sanitary and Sewer Maintenance)	216-348-3824
Recycling Information	216-443-3749
Sheriff's Office	216-443-6000
Veteran's Service Commission	216-696-2600

Youth News

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!

Teaching Children How to Choose Healthy Foods in a Fun Way:

In March of 2015, a lucky elementary school, from District 7, will be chosen to participate in a healthy eating contest that is in partnership with the Cleveland Public Library, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), the Greater Cleveland Food bank, a local grocery store, and County Councilwoman Yvonne M. Conwell. This program teaches students how to choose healthy foods on a limited budget. Students will earn points for attending the learning sessions and the student who earns the highest points will qualify to shop at a local grocery store for healthy foods while racing a clock.



The New Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center

In October of 2014, DVAC opened a new facility offering victims of family violence a place to learn new skills, strengthen bonds and ultimately – heal. The new campus, located in Cleveland's Midtown corridor, offers increased space for community outreach, trauma counseling, art therapy as well as education and training classes.

The impetus for the agency's move was an expansion grant provided by the federal government for the Safe & Sound Supervised Visitation Center. The center serves the most vulnerable children whose family has been splintered by violence, substance abuse or mental illness. While continuing contact with a non-residential parent is often mandated by the courts, safety of the children may be at risk. Safe & Sound is the only place in Cuyahoga County with the expertise and capacity to facilitate these visits with the ultimate goal of fostering healthy family relationships. Last year, DVAC facilitated 1513 supervised visits and safe exchanges and with additional funding, the agency hopes to double that number in the next year.



Councilwoman Yvonne M. Conwell was instrumental in connecting the Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center with the Cleveland Indians who have just recently sponsored a room at the center alongside the Cleveland Browns and the Cleveland Cavaliers.





CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL
2079 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Cuyahoga County Code

The electors of Cuyahoga County adopted the Cuyahoga County Charter in November of 2009. The new form of government encompassed an elected County Executive and County Council of eleven members, replacing the Board of County Commissioners. The Charter became operational in 2010 and the legislative power of the County was assumed by the County Council. The laws of the County are enacted by Ordinances. These Ordinances are then codified into the Cuyahoga County Code to allow for greater accessibility and transparency to the public.

In 2012, the Office of the Clerk of Council, the Law Department and the Department of Information Technology began the process of creating an in-house web based codification system. The codification system provides better quality control, protects the integrity of the County Code and allows for quicker and more efficient updates as new Ordinances are enacted and signed into law. The County Code was officially launched in July, 2013 and includes a certification by the Clerk of Council.

For more information about the Cuyahoga County Code, please contact the Clerk of Council, Jeanne Schmotzer at (216) 698-2020 or by email at jschmotzer@cuyahogacounty.us

You may access the Cuyahoga County Code at www.code.cuyahogacounty.us

General Statement about County Council Meetings

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

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.