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District 11

Cuyahoga County Council Dale Miller District 2



Dale Miller

Financial Policies

I am currently working on a series of Ordinances that will establish a comprehensive set of financial policies for Cuyahoga County. The goal is to ensure that financial decisions are being made with the big picture in mind. We would not want to commit to numerous expenditures on the spur of the moment and suddenly find ourselves in a financial dilemma. Financial policies provide us with a better understanding of our financial stability in order to make full use of the resources we have available.

The financial policies legislation includes the following:

- Biennial budget process
- Reserve policy
- Capital improvements and debt management policy
- Investment policy
- Cash management policy
- Management of ongoing financial operations
- Financial reporting

Legislation is already in place regarding the budget process, reserve policy, capital improvements and debt management. Policies concerning investments and ongoing financial operations still need approval, while the cash management policy will most likely be incorporated in the administrative code instead of legislation. In addition, it is the expectation that the administration of the County Executive will adopt administrative language that will cover financial policies in greater detail than what is currently provided in the legislation.

How the County Can Save \$500,000 or More and Not Break a Sweat

Elections are held every even-numbered year in Cuyahoga County. If an issue is placed on the ballot during the same time elections are being held, there will be minimal cost to the County.

However, if an issue is placed on the ballot when elections are not currently being held, the County may incur a considerable amount of election expenses. The additional costs could range anywhere from \$500,000 to four million dollars, depending on whether there are state ballot issues and if there are any municipal and special elections being held. The County would share the \$3-4 million dollar election costs with other jurisdictions that are holding the elections.

During the next two years, the Health & Human Services Levy and the Arts & Culture Levy will be placed on the ballot for renewal. Placing one levy on the 2015 ballot and the other levy on the 2016 ballot would be more practical. The belief is having multiple issues on the ballot at the same time may cause interference, making it more likely that one issue will fail. However, despite this belief, four levy issues were placed on the ballot and passed in November, 2013: Health & Human Services; Metro parks; Port Authority; and the Cleveland Libraries. Therefore, I am proposing to submit the renewal for the two levy issues in the spring of 2016 primary.

Economic Development: Becoming Pro-active and Community Place-making

A year ago, I proposed two amendments that were added to the Economic Development work plan for 2013-14. The first task involved identifying what types of economic development projects we would like to see and how we can proactively pursue them. Waiting to see what opportunities come through the door should not be our only course of action.

The second task involved identifying proposed community “place-making” projects throughout the County’s neighborhoods. Place-making projects are those that may not have a major economic development impact, but gives distinctive character to a community by attracting people and businesses. The major place-making projects for downtown Cleveland include the recent upgrades to Playhouse Square, the proposed Public Square redevelopment, the walkway from the Convention Center to the Science Center, and Lakefront development.

There are also place-making projects that can enhance the quality of life throughout Cuyahoga County’s neighborhoods. Two examples are the recently completed restoration of League Park at East 66th & Lexington and the proposed restoration of the Variety Theatre on Lorain Avenue, near W. 117th St. In the next Economic Development Plan update, the Department of Development, in collaboration with the County Planning Commission made an initial report on both pro-active economic development and community place-making that proposes to do further work in both areas in the upcoming year. These approaches are expected to provide new ways to boost our economy and improve our quality of life. I am hopeful that new plans, with an emphasis on stronger neighborhoods, will emerge this year through these initiatives.

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 Cleveland State University’s Vegan 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.

Equity Commission

In 2012, County Council passed legislation adopting the County Equity Plan. The plan outlines continuous efforts 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 that will be comprised of fifteen citizens residing in Cuyahoga County that 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 and hope to have the committee fully operational in the next few months.

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 launches the Advantage Plus Loan Program in Euclid



The Cuyahoga Land Bank has partnered with the City of Euclid to launch the Advantage Plus Loan Program. The program was launched in April 2013, as a result of the City's ongoing commitment to improve neighborhood stability and the availability of homes that qualify for the Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program (OOBAP) and the Advantage Plus Loan Program. The City of Euclid and Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland (NHSGC) have both signed on as partners for this new loan program.

The Advantage Plus Loan Program is geared specifically toward prospective owners that are interested in rehabilitating a property for their own occupancy. While many properties in the the Cuyahoga Land Bank's inventory need extensive work, properties selected for the OOBAP generally require only a moderate investment and need minimum repairs. In fact, these properties are typically in better condition than other properties within the Land Bank's inventory and buyers usually obtain equity from the onset.

This program offers qualified buyers a low-interest, short-term loan on homes in the City of Euclid. Participants are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in renovation costs that the buyer and the Cuyahoga Land Bank agree must be completed to meet the Land Bank's Housing Quality Standards. The owner-occupant will then have 2.5 years to repay the loan to the Cuyahoga Land Bank at an interest rate of 2%. In addition, the City of Euclid has passed a first-of-its-kind ordinance that exempts program participants from paying fees for needed permits and inspections.

The Land Bank places properties in the Advantage Plus Loan Program for a select period of time, during which interested, qualified buyers can place offers. The strongest offers will be selected. To view loan requirements and properties currently available for the Advantage Plus Loan Program, interested buyers can visit <http://www.cuyahogalandbank.org/advantageplus>.



Advantage Plus Loan Program
21900 Morris Ave
Euclid



Advantage Plus Loan Program
25370 Richards Ave
Euclid



Advantage Plus Loan Program
1411 E 221st St
Euclid

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

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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.



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

2014 Public Works Projects

MAYFIELD ROAD RESURFACING (DISTRICT 10)

Repair and resurfacing of Mayfield Road from the Cleveland Heights West Corporation Line to the Cleveland Heights East Corporation Line in the City of Cleveland Heights. Estimated Construction Cost: \$3,888,225.00

HIGHLAND ROAD RESURFACING (DISTRICT 11)

Repair and resurfacing of Highland Road from Euclid Avenue to Richmond Road in the Cities of Euclid and Richmond Heights. Estimated Construction Cost: \$3,403,923.00

WARRENSVILLE CENTER – SHAKER BOULEVARD - VAN AKEN - NORTHFIELD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT (DISTRICT 9)

The reconfiguration of the Warrensville Center Road – Shaker Boulevard – Van Aken Boulevard – Northfield Road Intersection in the City of Shaker Heights and the Village of Highland Hills. Estimated Construction Cost: \$8,095,807.00

BELLAIRE ROAD BRIDGE 01.71 (DISTRICT 3)

Rehabilitation of existing bridge over Countrymans Creek in the City of Cleveland. Estimated Construction Cost: \$2,300,000.00

EAST 49TH STREET BRIDGE 00.54 (DISTRICT 7)

Rehabilitation of existing bridge over abandoned W&LE Railroad in the City of Cleveland. Estimated Construction Cost: \$1,200,000.00

BAGLEY ROAD/PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD IMPROVEMENT (DISTRICT 4)

Repair, resurfacing and widening to 5-lanes of Bagley/Pleasant Valley Road from Pearl Road to York Road in the Cities of Middleburg Heights and Parma. Estimated Construction Cost: \$22,476,000.00

BAGLEY ROAD BRIDGE 03.45 (DISTRICT 5)

Replacement of existing bridge over Plum Creek in the City of Olmsted Falls. Estimated Construction Cost: \$1,742,000.00

CROSSVIEW ROAD RESURFACING (DISTRICT 6)

Repair and resurfacing of Crossview Road from Chestnut Road to Rockside Road in the City of Seven Hills. Estimated Construction Cost: \$1,100,000.00

EAST RIDGEWOOD DRIVE RESURFACING (DISTRICT 4 & 6)

Repair and resurfacing of East Ridgewood Drive from Broadview Road to Crossview Road in the Cities of Seven Hills and Parma. Estimated Construction Cost: \$700,000.00

CHAGRIN BOULEVARD RESURFACING (DISTRICT 6 & 9)

Repair and resurfacing of Chagrin Boulevard from Lander Road to South lane in the Cities of Pepper Pike and Moreland Hills. Estimated Construction Cost: \$2,429,900.00

WEST GRACE RESURFACING (DISTRICT 9)

Repair and resurfacing of West Grace from 600' east of Turney Road to Broadway Avenue in the City of Bedford. Estimated Construction Cost: \$2,429,900.00

MADISON AVENUE (DISTRICT 2)

Repair and resurfacing of Madison Avenue from Riverside Drive to W. 117th Street in the City of Lakewood. Estimated Construction Cost: \$2,291,950.00

BROADROCK COURT & OLD ROCKSIDE ROAD SANITARY RELIEF SEWER CONNECTION (DRILL DROP) (DISTRICT 4)

Sanitary relief sewer and connection to NEORS 60" tunnel in the City of Parma. Estimated Construction Cost: \$482,000.00

BRADFORD PUMP STATION ELIMINATION (DISTRICT 6)

Install 3,800 L.F. of sanitary sewer to eliminate existing Bradford Pump Station in the City of Brecksville. Estimated Construction Cost: \$1,000,000.00

BARTON / BRONSON / COOK SANITARY SEWER (DISTRICT 5)

7,500 L.F. of sewer extension, 4,400 L.F. of waterline extension and pavement improvements in Olmsted Township. Estimated Construction Cost: \$4,000,000.00

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	216-987-7000
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

Housing Should Be A Major Focus of County Government

Cuyahoga County government focuses on several key initiatives that include health and human services, economic development, public safety, financial management, and personnel management.

Although, housing is not included as one of the key initiatives, I believe it should be added. Efforts made to include housing in the five-year Economic Development Plan have been minimal. This needs to change.

Cleveland's Building & Housing Commissioner, Ed Rybka, recently reported that just in Cleveland alone, there are 8,362 structures that may need to be demolished at a cost of \$90 million dollars. On February 19, 2014, in his fourth State of the County Address, County Executive Ed FitzGerald proposed using the County's bonding capacity to create a \$50 million dollar demolition fund. Clearly, this is a robust step in the right direction, but it also raises broader questions.

The biggest question is how the demolition bond program relates to Cuyahoga County's overall housing strategy. This may be difficult to determine, since we currently do not have a comprehensive housing plan in place. Shaker Height's Housing Commissioner, Kamla Lewis, indicates that Shaker Heights has greatly benefited from having a comprehensive housing plan in place since 2001, which allowed the Shaker Heights community to be better prepared to handle the crisis than other Suburban cities. Shaker Heights implemented programs that helped to reduce the number of foreclosures and salvage vacant and abandoned structures, so they would not detract from the quality of the neighborhoods.

I believe Cuyahoga County can accomplish the same results by establishing a comprehensive plan that outlines how we are going to improve housing and the quality of neighborhoods in the next five to ten years. Some of the key questions the plan will need to address include the following:

- What is the total cost of restoring the housing market?
- Where can we find additional resources?
- How do we get property owners and banks to accept more financial responsibility?
- What steps need to be addressed first?
- How do we promote the best possible use of land that is made available through demolition?
- How will demolition of vacant and abandoned properties fit into a larger program that also includes rehabilitation of salvageable structures, better housing maintenance, creation of attractive neighborhood amenities, and construction of new affordable housing?
- How can we target demolition efforts to have the largest positive impact on the housing market?
- How do we discourage people from moving out of the neighborhoods, which increase infrastructure costs and lead to higher taxes, and encourage revitalization of existing neighborhoods?

There are significant opportunities where Cuyahoga County can collaborate with other cities and villages to improve housing. Several potential areas that would benefit greatly from collaboration include coordinating housing code enforcement; providing legal work on cost recovery; conducting research on finding owners; and utilizing surveys to assist with side lot expansion.

Ms. Lewis believes that Cuyahoga County could establish a housing plan in three to six months as a result of the extensive resources available to the County: the Case Western Reserve University's NEO CANDO data system; the Vacant & Abandoned Properties Council (VAPAC); the Thriving Communities Institute; led by former County Treasurer Jim Rokakis; and Cleveland State University's Urban Affairs Department. In fact, a plan can easily be implemented in sufficient time to design a demolition program and formalize housing efforts with the benefit of a broader context, clear goals, and a solid strategy. Now is the time to begin.



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL
2079 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

**Clerk of
Council
Corner**

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.