

# Documenters

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## City Council

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

Date: Sept. 18, 2023

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## Summary

- In addition to the notes below, Cleveland City Council has provided these [meeting highlights](#).
- Council approved legislation for improving water pollution control systems.
- It also approved legislation teeing up [sister-city relationships](#) with towns in three African countries.

## Follow-Up Questions

- What feedback or communication from council is offered to residents who speak during the public comment period?
- Council passed [Resolution 874-2023](#) “*urging* the Board of Trustees of Cleveland State University College of Law to *consider* renaming the law school after African-American lawyer Charles Hamilton Houston.” I just wonder—what is the demonstrated impact of council [resolutions](#) that *want* an outside body to do something?

## Notes

### CLEVELAND CITY COUNCIL

Monday, Sept. 18, 2023 | 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

#### I. ROLL CALL

##### Council members in attendance:

Joseph T. Jones, Ward 1

Kevin L. Bishop, Ward 2

Kerry McCormack, Ward 3

Deborah A. Gray, Ward 4

Richard A. Starr, Ward 5

Blaine A. Griffin, Ward 6  
Michael Polensek, Ward 8  
Kevin Conwell, Ward 9  
Anthony T. Hairson, Ward 10  
Rebecca Maurer, Ward 12  
Kris Harsh, Ward 13  
Jasmin Santana, Ward 14  
Jenny Spencer, Ward 15  
Brian Kazy, Ward 16  
Charles Slife, Ward 17

Excused absences:

Stephanie D. Howse, Ward 7  
Danny Kelly, Ward 11

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Presenter: Thad Franklin, Cleveland resident

Summary: Franklin advocated for banning the sale of flavored tobacco products in Cleveland [*Editor's note: Signal's Nick Castele [has more](#) on where pending legislation stands*].

- Franklin is the owner of Major League Barbershop on Lee Road and is an organizer for social advocacy groups that seek to educate the community around public health issues (such as the health effects of vaping, the importance of prostate screenings)
- Franklin is concerned that flavored tobacco products are intentionally marketed to youth, especially in predominantly Black neighborhoods
- Columbus [recently passed a ban](#) on flavored tobacco products
- In October, Cleveland churches and barbershops will be hosting No Menthol Sunday activities, a day of observation and education led by the [Center for Black Health and Equity](#)

Presenter: DeSeanna Morgan, Euclid resident, sponsored by [Logistics Code](#)

Summary: Morgan talked about school issues

- Morgan is concerned with depleted resource of public schools
- Logistics Code is a Christian-based company that works in industry, technology, and education
- Morgan said Logistics Code will launch a high school to offer technical classes and other specialized courses, such as Hebrew and Aramaic language

- Morgan mentioned students rights and suggested she had observed the bullying and isolation of transgender youth in public schools, but did not clarify how Logistics Code or the high school would respond to this

Presenter: Sabrina Otis, Cleveland resident

Summary: Otis is concerned about police chases from outside suburbs that cross over into Cleveland

- Otis acknowledged the importance of recovering stolen vehicles and stopping violent crime, but said the risk of civilian injury outweighs any benefit of high-speed pursuits, especially if officers are pursuing people for speeding
- Especially in the case of out-of-city officers involved in these pursuits, Otis believes there should be some restriction as to how far into Cleveland a chase can be permitted

### **III. COMMUNICATIONS**

- The council heard a long list of communications from the mayor's office and various city departments, acknowledging staff appointments.
  - Oaths of office were acknowledged for the Departments of Human Resources, Public Safety, Education, Public Works and Community Development as well as for the Community Relations Board
- Council heard communications from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control, acknowledging new liquor license applicants and transfers of ownership

### **IV. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

- Council offered condolences for community members who have passed away
- Council also congratulated individuals and groups that have achieved awards/milestones
  - 25th anniversary of [Judge Larry A. Jones Drug Court](#)
  - 90th anniversary of [Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority](#)

### **V. PRESENTATIONS**

Presenter: Council Member Starr

Summary: City Council recognized the 60th anniversary of [Beta Lambda Omega](#), the Cleveland alumni chapter of [Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.](#)

- Founded in 1963 at Morgan State College in Baltimore, Iota Phi Theta is the fifth largest African American men's community service fraternity
- The president and board chair of Beta Lambda Omega spoke to express their gratitude to City Council and to their chapter members

### **VI. LEGISLATION**

- About two dozen [emergency ordinances](#) were read and referred to administrative review
  - Many of these ordinances regarded continued partnerships with contractors to the City of Cleveland who have been hired to support interests of public health, safety, the justice system, and economic development
  - Mayor Bibb and Council President Griffin sponsored [resolutions](#) for Cleveland to establish sister-city relationships with Cape Town, South Africa; Kigali, Rwanda; and Tema, Ghana
- Council approved six resolutions objecting to liquor permits
- More than a dozen emergency ordinances were read and approved by council
  - Many of these ordinances regarded specific expenses approved by the city:
    - Selling \$90,000,000 of water revenue obligations to improve the Waterworks System ([Ordinance 899-2023](#))
    - Selling \$45,000,000 of Water Pollution Control revenue bonds to improve the water pollution control system ([Ordinance 898-2023](#))
    - Six ordinances approved agreements for the use of [Casino Revenue Funds](#)

*[Editor's note: Check out council's [meeting minutes](#) for more details on the legislation council referred and passed.]*

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Presenter: Council Member Santana

Summary: Cleveland City Council is invited to promote multiple events during Hispanic Heritage Month

- Sept. 15 marked the start of [Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- Oct. 13: Hispanic Heritage Month closing gala
  - The gala will include music, food, and an award ceremony for community leaders
- October 14, 2023: [Severance Music Center](#) is hosting a free community concert
  - Featuring artist Sammy DeLeon y su Orquesta

## **VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

Council Member Conwell was recognized for receiving the Judge Larry A. Jones Drug Court Award.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

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