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City Council

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

Date: Oct. 2, 2023

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Summary

- Public speakers shared the importance of standing together and their intolerance of the anti-semitic and anti-LGBTQ+ comments made the previous week. The speakers said the comments did not represent the diversity and inclusion that Cleveland is working toward building within its communities.
- A public speaker also spoke on the impact of improving transportation in the city. While some strides have been made in this regard, including the [Superior Midway project](#) and the [Memorial Bridges Loop project](#), there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done, she said.
- The youth curfew law was also discussed with great passion as it relates to minors being out extremely late and the curfew law is not being enforced to address this concern or to hold adults responsible/accountable, according to Council Member Mike Polensek. *[Editor's note: Without any opposing votes, council approved increased punishment for parents and guardians of kids who break curfew. [Jail time is possible.](#)]*

Follow-Up Questions

- When did the curfew law stop being enforced? Who dropped the ball on enforcing and taking responsibility for minors being out past curfew?
- Could there be an alternative to public comment within the meetings that will allow freedom of speech but also protect the rights of protected classes within the City of Cleveland and our communities. What does this alternative look like (i.e absentee comments, screened comments, etc.)?

Notes

The meeting started at 7:04 p.m. and ended at 7:55 p.m. Everyone appeared cooperative and considerate of others as they were speaking. Public speakers were enthusiastic and passionate about the issues they were addressing. Council publicly recognized and

thanked the public for speaking up about the issues discussed. Council Member Joseph Jones also recognized the council for taking action on the vacant lots in the City of Cleveland.

Council members in attendance:

Blaine A. Griffin, council president
Kevin Bishop
Kevin Conwell
Deborah Gray
Anthony Hairston
Kris Harsh
Stephanie Howse-Jones
Joseph Jones
Danny Kelly
Rebecca Maurer
Kerry McCormack
Michael Polensek
Jasmin Santana
Charles Slife
Jenny Spencer
Richard Starr

Absent council member:

Brian Kazy

Public commenters were announced by Griffin in the following order:

Adam Rosen, from Ward 15, an [attorney](#) and a member of the Cleveland Jewish Federation Committee.

Jenna Thomas, from Ward 16, policy and advocacy manager of [Bike Cleveland](#) and a Cleveland Documenter.

Rabbi Scott Roland, from Beachwood, spiritual leader of [Shaarey Tikvah](#).

Phyllis Harris, executive director of the [LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland](#).

[Watch or read transcripts of their public comments here.](#)

Other members of the public who did not speak but were acknowledged by Griffin included:

Marc Ashed, [Jewish Federation of Cleveland](#), assistant vice president/external affairs

Condolence resolutions

- Council Member Santana remembered a 3-year-old that was killed in Ward 14.
- Griffin remembered Freddie Shute, the father of Angela Shute-Woodson, director of Community Relations for the city.
- Council Member Hairston remembered Martha Smith.

First reading [emergency ordinances](#) passed included:

[1142-2023](#) (Sponsors Michael Polensek, Blaine Griffin and by department request)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Public Safety to enter into one or more contracts without competitive bidding with MD Helicopters, LLC for the purchase of labor and materials needed to convert two helicopters, for the Division of Police, Department of Public Safety.

15 yays, 1 no, from Council member Charles Slife

First reading [emergency resolutions](#) adopted included:

[1144-2023](#) (Sponsor: Kris Harsh)

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION objecting to a New C1 Liquor Permit at 5603 Memphis Ave.

16 yays

[1145-2023](#) (Sponsor: Jenny Spencer)

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION Objecting to a New C1 Liquor Permit at 8404 Madison Ave.

16 yays

Second reading emergency ordinances that passed included:

[583-2023](#) (Sponsors: Brian Kazy, Anthony Hairston, Blaine Griffin and by departmental request)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a development agreement with SiFi Networks Cleveland LLC, or its designee, successors and assignees, to install, operate and maintain a citywide fiber optic network system in the city's public right-of-way, for a period of 30 years, with five 10-year automatic renewals.

15 yays

1 no - Jasmin Santana

[892-2023](#) (Sponsors: Kerry McCormack, Kevin Bishop, Blaine Griffin and by departmental request)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE To amend Sections 517.02 and 517.08 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as amended by Ordinance No. 396-2020, passed June 3, 2020, and Ordinance No. 464-2019, passed June 3, 2019, relating to shared mobility device and bicycle vendor permit applications.

16 Yays

[908-2023](#) (Sponsors: Michael Polensek, Blaine Griffin and by departmental request)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the director of Public Safety to renew Lease Agreement No. LS 2018-24 with Cuyahoga County for the lease of certain space located on various floors of the Justice Center, for a term of one year, beginning Oct. 2, 2023.

14 Yays

2 Nos – Stephanie Howse-Jones and Charles Slife

[Editor's note: The city used to own the space it now leases from the county for its police headquarters. It [sold the space](#) in 2018 for about \$9.25 million and has been renting since. It is [making progress](#) toward a new police headquarters.]

Check out the [meeting minutes](#) to see what else council referred to committees or passed.

Introductions included:

A few residents, Kathy McDonald and her son Ed McDonald, from ward 12, as well as some neighbors and Slavic Village leaders from ward 5, were recognized.

Tom McNair was recognized as the city's new Economic Development director

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