

# Documenters

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## City Council

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

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## Summary

- Safety and respect for all humanity were repeated concerns.
- A Cleveland resident was given the opportunity to address the assembly during the presentation to share health information.

## Follow-Up Questions

- Are Cleveland residents and business owners given priority over suburban residents for the opportunity to give public comment? *[Editor's note: The sign-up process for public comment is presented as first-come, first-serve, with the first 10 people to register [by the deadline](#) getting the opportunity to speak. Recently, some council members have said the rules for public comment [may need to be adjusted](#).]*

## Notes



The meeting opened at 7 p.m. with Kerry McCormack presiding as chair. Nine of the 17 council members were seated to establish a [quorum](#) at roll call. Fourteen total attended the meeting. Council President Blaine Griffin, along with Council Members Jenny Spencer and Richard Starr, were excused.

### **Public comment**

Ten residents gave public comments this week. All comments were regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict.

Dallas Eckman (Cleveland), Chance Zurub (Cleveland Heights), Shereen Naser (Ward 15), Riley Petro (Ward 17), Claire Lewis-Wright (Glenville), Cameran Branford (Ward 5), Dhoruba Balagoon (Glenville) and Nima Homami (Strongsville) spoke regarding the current events in Palestine ([Palestinian residents pack Cleveland City Council meeting](#)).

They collectively asked that Cleveland leaders retract statements supporting Israel. They also asked that financial support to Israel cease. Some gave examples of how the conflict abroad is affecting Palestinians living in the United States through violent attacks ([CAIR-Cleveland urges hate crime investigation into alleged hit-and-run in North Ridgeville on Sunday](#)).

Marc Ashed (Solon) and Adam Rosen (Ward 15) spoke in support of Israel. They said the Israeli people must defend themselves ([Israel's Ground War Against Hamas: What to Know](#)). They asked that Israel and Palestine both find a way to exist. They also said that the actions of Hamas should not be viewed as the actions of all Palestinians.

Proponents on both sides of the issue acknowledged the fatal stabbing of a 6-year-old Palestinian-American child near Chicago ([Murder of Palestinian child in Plainfield highlighting hate crimes](#)).

McCormack addressed the assembly with reminders of behavioral expectations.

### **Legislation for introduction and referral**

There were eight ordinances introduced [*Editor's note: A ninth, regarding an increase in contract amounts for the [city's Exterior Paint Program](#), is shown in the [meeting minutes](#) as introduced and referred. But the clerk of council did not read it at the meeting*]. These involved procedures for applying for grants for sewer projects, a grant to Urban Bridges to finance a vocational training center, the transfer of \$4.7 million from the Division of Airports to the Major Enterprise Fund, and moral claim payments. Also involved were the

contracting of consultants for travel, financial and mail services.

### **Legislation for introduction and passage**

There was [one ordinance](#) passed with 14 yeas regarding the union contract with the AFL-CIO electrical workers. There were two resolutions regarding liquor permits adopted with 14 yeas.

### **Second reading legislation**

There were 22 ordinances passed with 14 yeas. These included [amendments to legislation previously passed](#) for the Commission on Black Women and Girls, [Ordinance 1030-2023](#) for the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Workforce Development Area, and [Ordinance 1092-2023](#) for vacation leave. Other topics included fees for food shops, pool and spa licenses, contracts with Habitat for Humanity, Senior Transportation Connection and the Hispanic Police Officer Association.

There was one resolution passed to honor the rock band KISS. It passed with 13 yeas and 1 nay. Council Member Kris Harsh dissented.

### **Presentation**

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Council Member Kevin Conwell acknowledged participants in the Cleveland Clinic Cancer Symposium. [Kisha Nicole Foster](#) presented her poem, commissioned for the event, titled "Healing in the Cracks of City Sidewalks." The [poem](#) outlined issues with obtaining preventive care in impoverished communities.

### **Miscellaneous**

Council Member Michael Polensek requested that the rules regarding non-Cleveland residents giving public comment be reviewed.

Council Member Joe Jones spoke [about recent violent attacks](#) on youth in Ward 1. He said, "At the end of the day, our city is violent." He invited residents giving public comments to be engaged with the ongoing issues plaguing East Side Cleveland neighborhoods. He invited citizens to walk the streets with him, saying, "Don't come down here and speak and then I don't see you no more."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m.

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