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City Council Caucus Meeting

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

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Summary

- Nearly 1,000 city employees responded to a survey about the City of Cleveland's strategic plan.
- A component of the city's strategic plan includes improving its hiring processes and workplace culture.
- Starting Point presented the Lead Safe Child Care Program to council members.

Follow-Up Questions

- Can parents sue a daycare if the daycare is found to have lead and the child tests positive?
- Will additional surveys be sent to city employees to determine areas for reevaluation in the strategic plan during the 10-year implementation period?
- How many people does the City of Cleveland employ?
- How were the surveys distributed? Were seasonal employees contacted?
- What strategies exist to improve the city's hiring process?

Notes





The caucus meeting was called to order by Council President Blaine Griffin at 12:07 p.m. All council members attended with the exception of Jasmin Santana. There was standing room only in the conference room for the presentations scheduled. Representatives from Starting Point and the Mayor's Office gave presentations.

Presentation I

Nancy Mendez, president and CEO of [Starting Point](#), opened with an explanation of the [Lead Safe Child Care Program](#) that will start to identify daycare facilities (both home-based and centers) built before 1978 that are willing to voluntarily be evaluated for lead risks.

The program will be funded by the Cleveland Clinic with other partner agencies such as MetroHealth and Bright Beginnings to complete various aspects of the pilot. The program will last 18 months; 30 childcare centers will be recruited. The application process is expected to begin in February.

Michele King, the lead safe child care project manager with Starting Point, fielded questions from council members regarding the "Priority Neighborhoods" tier levels, mandatory lead testing requirements and the number of daycare centers in Cleveland.

Mendez and King said there are no mandatory lead testing laws established by the state. Children who receive a Medicaid benefit may be tested, but not necessarily.

Council Member Rebecca Maurer said there is no "universal testing" in the Cleveland public schools because students usually enter at an older age than is optimal for the Lead Safe Initiative, which is ages 12 to 24 months.

The presenters also answered questions about the number of daycare facilities located in Cleveland. It was reported that there are approximately 500 homes and centers with approximately 300 eligible to participate in the pilot program.

King said that the "Priority Neighborhoods" tier levels are based on the number of children who have been tested for lead poisoning. The centers selected will receive

remediation services to correct any issues identified, such as painting and possibly window replacement.

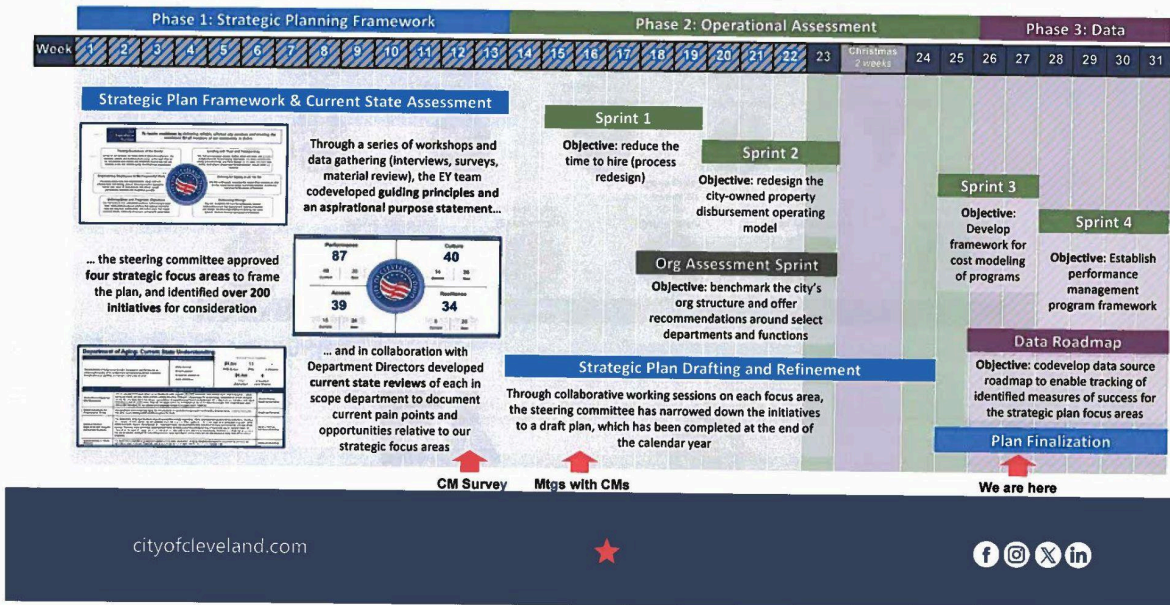
Maurer was assigned to work with the Lead Safe initiative on behalf of City Council.

Presentation II

Abbey Poeske, senior advisor to the mayor for strategy, gave an update on the strategic plan for the City of Cleveland.



The Strategic Plan and Assessment is on track to conclude Q1 2024



The “roll out” of the plan is scheduled for Feb. 23 at 11 a.m. in Music Hall. Council members identified a scheduling conflict with budget hearings. Poeske said that one-on-one meetings can be scheduled with council members.

Poeske said Ernst & Young and Compass Consulting are drafting the plan.

She also presented the staff assigned to the City Steering Committee and explained the process followed to draft the plan. The information was gathered through surveys, workshops, interviews and focus groups, etc. It was reported that approximately 965 surveys were returned by city employees. The initiatives are designed to be implemented over the next 10 years. The hiring process was identified as a priority, as well as opportunities to improve performance, access, culture and resilience of city employees.

Council Member Michael Polensek asked which groups of employees responded to the

surveys.

Council Member Joe Jones complemented the work, saying a plan of this nature had not been presented in the past 16 years.

The use of a consultant to do the strategic planning work was questioned by Council Member Richard Starr.

Some areas to secure the financial future of the city were identified, such as reducing the number of bank accounts held by the city and reducing the amount of city-owned property.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

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