

# Documenters

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## City Council

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

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## Summary

- Ward 11 residents support rezoning and revamping the area around 10022 Madison Ave.
- City of Cleveland employees will only be required to work a half day on Election Day.

## Follow-Up Questions

- How difficult is it to put in for public comment? Why would you have to wait?
- Who will the workforce be made up of with Axon? Years ago I believe they were supposed to use the local community for some parts of the workforce. Is that the case?

## Notes

Public comment:

Four residents from Wards 15 and 11 spoke in support of the [proposed rezoning of 10022 Madison Avenue](#) in Cleveland. The property is in council's Ward 11, but much of the neighborhood – Cudell – is in adjacent Ward 15. They spoke of the empty lots that they said could be thriving businesses if they were to get the rezoning. [It would pave the way for a new gas station at the site of a vacant CVS Pharmacy](#). Some of the four residents spoke of how distressed the neighborhood has been and said they would really like for the rezoning to happen.

Resident Tony Anderson spoke of his support for the rezoning and of [Issue 49 \(the CMSD school levy\)](#), which will be on the ballot in November.

Rev. Pamela Pinkney suggested changing the name of the Cleveland Browns to the Overcomers. She also invited council members and the public to join her in a [Women's](#)

[March](#) on Nov. 2 at Market Square at noon. Pinkney also asked if the community and police could have a conversation so that they could eliminate fear coming from either side, which led her to also request legislation to be put in writing to protect Black, brown and multiracial people who are being mistreated and killed by the police.

Brenda Bickerstaff, from Ward 9, representing [Citizens for a Safer Cleveland](#), started by saying she had “put in for a public comment” right when the registration window opened (noon on Wednesdays) for three consecutive weeks with resident and business owner Darrell Houston. But, for three straight weeks, Houston didn’t get one of the 10 speaker slots, which are selected on a first come first serve basis. Bickerstaff then suggested a solution for the homeless population: Instead of tearing down abandoned homes, renovate ones that don't cost too much to rehab. The city could get social workers and case managers to create group homes, Bickerstaff said. She said mental illness has a lot to do with the homeless population. Bickerstaff then stopped and offered the remainder of her time to Houston. Council President Blaine Griffin said that was not allowed and that if she would be yielding her time, council would move on to the next registered public commenter. Houston and Bickerstaff objected to that. Griffin said no again and asked that they remove themselves. Bickerstaff did leave the mic while saying she was very upset.

Shejuti Wahed, a student at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), also spoke. She first said the gas station owners were monopolizing the public comment time. She said she is the only one selected out of numerous CWRU students, New Era Cleveland supporters and Cudell residents who registered for public comment. Wahed also said Yousef Khalaf, a Palestinian student at CWRU, had been faced with intimidation from their university with repeated student conduct meetings, delays and [ultimately a suspension delaying his graduation](#) after his advocacy on campus for Palestinian liberation. Wahed also spoke about Antoine Tolbert, who goes by Chairman Fahiem and is the leader of New Era Cleveland. She said you can ask anyone about Tolbert and New Era’s success in deescalation and keeping youth safe. He is facing what she called false charges of [intimidation and extortion](#).

FIRST READING LEGISLATION *[Editor’s note: Find more details and individual links to the full legislation summarized below, as well as other items on the agenda, on [Legistar](#), council’s online legislation system.]*

[Emergency ordinances](#) passed

1082-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE To amend Section 171.30 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as amended by Ordinance No. 561-2021, passed

July 14, 2021, relating to holidays.

Sponsors: Council Members Blaine Griffin, Kevin Conwell, Anthony Hairston, Brian Kazy, Kerry McCormack, Michael Polensek, Jasmin Santana, Jenny Spencer and By Departmental Request

The legislation allows for full-time employees to get four paid hours off from work on Election Day.

Council Member Stephanie Howse-Jones requested to be added as a sponsor. The measure passed, with the lone no vote coming from Kevin Bishop.

Emergency [resolutions](#) adopted

1083-2024 AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION Supporting the Citizens Not Politicians-Citizens Redistricting Commission Initiative, which would transfer the power of drawing legislative and congressional maps from politicians and lobbyists to the citizens of Ohio; and urging Ohioans and Cleveland citizens to support this [Issue 1 citizen-lead ballot initiative](#) to end partisan gerrymandering in Ohio for a freer, more democratic state.

## SECOND READING LEGISLATION

Emergency Ordinances passed

934-2024 Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Director of Public Safety to enter into one or more agreements with the United States Navy, or its designee, to display two bells and any other memorabilia of the United States naval warship, the USS Cleveland, for a period or periods not to exceed a total of five years, with one or more options to renew not to exceed a total of ten years, exercisable by the Director of Public Safety.

Sponsors: Polensek, Griffin and By Departmental Request.

## 939-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

Authorizing the Director of Public Safety to enter into one or more contracts with the International Association of Chiefs of Police to conduct training through a Faculty Development Workshop and to provide mentoring and instruction through Leadership in Police Organization training, for the Division of Police, Department of Public Safety.

Sponsors: Polensek, Griffin and By Departmental Request

941-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the purchase by one or more requirement contracts of hazmat suits, for the Division of Emergency Medical Service, Department of Public Safety, for a term of one year, with two one-year options to renew, exercisable by the Director of Public Safety.

Sponsors: Polensek, Griffin and By Departmental Request

942-2024: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the purchase by one or more requirement contracts of medical stair chairs, for the Division of Emergency Medical Service, Department of Public Safety, for a term of one year, with two one-year options to renew, exercisable by the Director of Public Safety.

Sponsors: Polensek, Griffin and By Departmental Request

943-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE PASSED

Authorizing the purchase by one or more requirement contracts of patient ventilators, for the Division of Emergency Medical Service, Department of Public Safety, for a term of one year, with two one-year options to renew, exercisable by the Director of Public Safety.

Sponsors: Polensek, Griffin and By Departmental Request

945-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the purchase by one or more requirement contracts of turnout gear, for the Division of Fire, Department of Public Safety, for a term of one year, with two one-year options to renew, exercisable by the Director of Public Safety.

Sponsors: Polensek, Griffin and By Departmental Request

987-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE To amend various Sections of Chapter 396 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as enacted by Ordinance No. 2020-A-96, passed December 14, 1998, relating to notification, environmental abatement and securing of closed or vacated facilities.

Sponsors: Polensek, Griffin and By Departmental Request

1008-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE To amend Contract No. PS 2023-0119 with Axon Enterprise Inc. to consolidate various contracts with Axon for purchases and services for the various divisions of the Department of Public Safety.

Sponsors: Polensek, Griffin and By Departmental Request

Council Member Howse-Jones asked if Axon had provided its make-up of the workforce, which they were supposed to do by the end of last week. They did not, according to Polensek, who chairs council's Safety Committee. Howse-Jones requested to be marked as a no vote. Council passed the legislation with 16 yeas and 1 nay.

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