



**April 28, 2025**

Cleveland City Council  
601 Lakeside Ave, Room 220  
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Members of the Cuyahoga County Council,

We, the undersigned members of Cleveland City Council, write to express our concerns regarding the proposed discontinuation of Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department patrols in our Downtown neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio. While we understand the need for careful resource allocation at both the county and city levels, Downtown is the largest job center and busiest area of Cuyahoga County. We believe that maintaining a visible and active presence of sheriff's deputies in our Downtown neighborhood is essential for the following reasons:

- 1. Enhanced Public Safety:** The Sheriff's Department plays a vital role in maintaining order in Downtown Cleveland, a hub of commerce, tourism, and community life. The visibility of sheriff's deputies serves as a strong deterrent to crime and contributes meaningfully to the safety of residents, workers, and visitors.
- 2. Effective Interagency Collaboration:** The longstanding partnership between the Cleveland Police Department and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department has been instrumental in addressing crime, particularly complex challenges like gang activity and drug trafficking. This collaboration strengthens public safety not just in our Downtown neighborhood, but across the entire county.
- 3. Specialized Training and Capabilities:** Sheriff's deputies bring unique training and expertise in areas such as crowd control, emergency response, and event security. Their contributions are especially valuable during large-scale events and in situations that require rapid and coordinated action.
- 4. Efficient Resource Sharing:** Joint patrols and shared responsibilities between departments enhance the efficiency of law enforcement operations, enabling broader coverage and quicker response times, benefiting all Cuyahoga County residents, including those in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 5. Community Engagement:** The Sheriff's Department has established strong, positive relationships with businesses, organizations, and residents in our Downtown neighborhood. Their community-oriented approach helps foster trust and supports a welcoming, secure environment for all.

As a major urban center, Cleveland hosts a wide array of events year-round, drawing large crowds from across the county and beyond. These include:

- Cleveland Guardians games at Progressive Field
- Cleveland Cavaliers games at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse
- Cleveland Browns games at Huntington Bank Field
- Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
- Performances at Playhouse Square



- Cleveland International Film Festival
- Cleveland Marathon
- Tri-C Jazz Fest
- Cleveland National Air Show
- Cleveland Auto Show
- Concerts at the House of Blues, and Agora Theater

These events bring life to our Downtown neighborhood and significantly support our local economy. Ensuring a safe and well-managed environment during such gatherings is crucial.

We acknowledge the importance of fiscal responsibility and the need to evaluate public safety priorities. However, we respectfully urge you as members of Cuyahoga County Council to reconsider discontinuing the Sheriff's Department's Downtown patrols. We are also open to working collaboratively to identify alternative approaches that balance both safety and budgetary needs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We welcome the opportunity to work together to preserve and enhance public safety for all who live, work, and visit Downtown in Cleveland, Ohio and community within Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Yours in Service and Partnership,

Councilman Kerry McCormack, Ward 3

Councilman Richard Starr, Ward 5

Councilwoman Stephanie Howse-Jones, Ward 7