

**Statement from Alyssa Hernandez on Exit from City Hall**

“After nearly four years leading the Department of Community Development, my tenure with the City of Cleveland has come to an end. One of the disappointments of such an abrupt transition is that I didn’t have the chance to properly thank or say goodbye to the women and men who showed up every single day with heart, grit, and dedication. They are the engine of Community Development, and the city is better because of them.

I leave this role profoundly proud of what my team and I accomplished together. We executed a comprehensive, budget-neutral reorganization of the entire department—one that strengthened operations and improved services while ensuring every staff member kept their job. We delivered millions of ARPA dollars to residents through housing development and home repair programs, putting federal resources to work where they were needed most. We leveraged public dollars strategically to attract private investment, helping to stand up the Cleveland Housing Investment Fund, a \$100 million public-private partnership with LISC Fund Management, LISC Cleveland, and KeyBank that will deliver community impacts for years to come.

We unapologetically supported emerging and minority developers by advancing community benefits agreements, expanding the Housing Trust Fund, and scaling programs that provide deep technical assistance to women and minority-owned development firms. And we fundamentally reshaped the city’s approach to home repair by adopting an implementation vendor model—an innovation rooted in my prior disaster-recovery work—that will enable faster and more efficient service for Clevelanders. These accomplishments represent real, structural change for residents, and I am honored to have led this work.

I also want to acknowledge my colleagues across the Mayor’s Cabinet. Their dedication, resilience, and commitment to the residents of Cleveland are unmatched, and I know the city is in capable hands under their continued leadership. Public service is demanding work, and they show up every day ready to meet those demands with integrity.

To the dozens of partners I had the privilege of working with—from CDCs, intermediaries, and community-based organizations to private and philanthropic collaborators—thank you. Your work in neighborhoods, with residents, and on the front lines of community change is essential to Cleveland’s future. I hope to remain your ally as we continue to fight the good fight and ensure residents’ voices remain centered.

And to my former team: I see you. I know how difficult this past year has been, with so much uncertainty and so many leadership transitions. I want you to know that I pray for you, I believe in you, and I will always be grateful for you. Your strength, dedication, and heart made me a better leader—stronger, more grounded, and more committed to the work than ever before. Please know how deeply proud I am of each of you.

I loved this work—even on the hardest days—and I gave it everything I had until my final one. I remain grateful for the opportunity to have served Cleveland and to have helped build a more equitable, sustainable foundation for its future.

As for what’s next: I am exploring executive-level opportunities where I can continue driving transformational impact, leading high-performing teams, and strengthening communities. I’m excited for the chapter ahead, and I look forward to bringing my experience, vision, and results-oriented leadership to an organization ready to take its work to the next level.

My commitment to public service has not changed—and neither has my capacity to deliver.”

Yours in Service and Solidarity,

Alyssa L Hernandez