

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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White House Climate Task Force Member Paula Brooks to Meet with, Seek Input from Cuyahoga County Preparedness and Resilience Experts Monday

COLUMBUS, Ohio – As Ohio’s appointee to the bipartisan White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks will travel to Cuyahoga County next week, fulfilling her duty to gather input from across the Buckeye State to help communities better prepare for climate impacts.

The commissioner will travel to Cleveland Monday, June 23, to meet with business leaders, public officials and academic experts to seek out recommendations to provide to the President to help communities build resilience and prepare for increasingly frequent and severe climate impacts. The day of high-level briefings will culminate at 4 p.m. with the first Roundtable on Resilience in the Face of Climate Impacts, held in conjunction with Cleveland State University’s Levin College of Urban Affairs.

“Climate impacts are a global issue. However it is crucial to recognize that impacts vary from region to region, and even community to community,” Commissioner Brooks said. “Cuyahoga County, just as my home Franklin County, has been an early leader in addressing the issue of climate impacts. Situated on the coast of one of our nation’s greatest natural resources and economic assets, Lake Erie, I view it as essential that Northeast Ohio has a voice in this process.”

Monday morning, Commissioner Brooks will meet with the director of the Cleveland Clinic’s Office for a Healthy Environment Jon Utech to discuss the program’s advancements in the sustainability field. Later that morning, she will join Emerald Cities Cleveland-Cuyahoga County for the launch of Retrofits for ENergy Efficiency Works (RENEW), a \$2 million energy upgrade project for the City of Seven Hills.

“I am excited and honored to join Emerald Cities and take part in the launch of the RENEW program,” Commissioner Brooks said. “Back in 2009, Franklin County underwent a similar green retrofit on our county campus, which will generate upwards of \$55 million in energy efficiency savings. I am happy to lend my experience and support to the City of Seven Hills in this vital endeavor.”

Later in the afternoon, Commissioner Brooks will join staff from the City of Cleveland’s Office of Sustainability for a brown bag luncheon, where she will hear their priorities to prepare and increase resilience to climate impacts. The listening tour will close with the first Roundtable on Resilience in the Face of Climate Impacts, which will be held at Roberta Steinbacher Atrium. There, she will meet with CSU Provost Dr. Deirdre Mageean and Levin College Dean Dr. Ned Hill, as well as moderate a panel of resilience experts and take comments from the public.

“Cleveland and Cleveland State University are joined at the hip,” Dr. Mageean said. “We share critical responsibility for Lake Erie. Together we are stewards of the nation’s water.”

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Commissioner Brooks will be available to brief the media on the day’s events as well and provide an update on the progress of the Task Force at 2 p.m. at the Sustainable Cleveland Center, following the brown bag lunch.

WHO: Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks

WHEN: Monday, June 23 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Sustainable Cleveland Center

230 W. Huron Rd., Suite 100.31
Cleveland, OH 44113

For more information or an itinerary of the day's events, please contact Policy Manager Brook Kohn (brookkohn@franklincountyohio.gov) or Community Relations Manager Bart Logan (bart.logan@franklincountyohio.gov).