

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

April 25, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

Present were: John O'Grady, President  
Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner  
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; and Lauren M. Graessle, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

*Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom conferencing, by dialing (929) 436-2866, Meeting ID:978 8790 2896; Passcode: 628826, or by joining at: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/97887902896>*

Commissioner Boyce called the meeting to order at 9:14 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: Each week, we have been highlighting that April is National County Government Month, and this week, we are particularly excited to be releasing our annual State of the County Report. The report will be released tomorrow, so please keep an eye out for it on social media or our website. Last week was also National County Health Day, and we're very proud to have been named one of the Healthiest Employers in Ohio for our size in 2022; to have received a gold-level award from the Healthy Business Council of Ohio; and also to have received an honorable mention for Mental Health in the Workplace from Johns Hopkins University and the LUVU Project. It's something we take very seriously because we know that our great team of people is one of Franklin County's greatest assets. I do not want to gloss over this. It is important for our employees to be encouraged to live healthy lives, both physically and mentally, and to have access to resources that are preventive. This makes it easier to project that onto our residents, as well. I have worked for the City on City Council, and I have worked for the State as a Legislator, and the County does it better than everyone when it comes to health; it is not even close. That is important because we are in a competitive market for employees, and that element is what separates us from our competitors. We may not be able to pay what the private sector pays, or even what the City pays, but when you couple the salary with a healthy lifestyle, it is something that is valuable, and I am glad that we have been recognized for this. It is something that we take seriously and work hard for.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): I want to recognize our County Administrator, Kenneth Wilson, who has been committed to this cause on a level I have not seen in any of the other government entities I have worked for. This is something that you should personally be proud of.

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Commissioner Boyce: Last week was also the 53rd annual Earth Day, and as I hope you all know, a commitment to Good Stewardship of Natural Resources, Environmental Sustainability, and Civic Engagement is one of our core principles of good governance here at Franklin County. The official theme for this year's Earth Day and Earth Week is Invest In Our Planet. Here to tell us a little bit about that and how you can get involved in conservation locally is Jennifer Fish, Director of the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jennifer Fish, Director, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District: Before I begin, I just want to say that I can definitely attest to the fact that the Franklin County benefits are awesome. It does help retain staff, and our staff uses all of the services you provide through our health plan. I will use that to segway to talking about a healthy planet. Our health is also dependent upon the landscape around us. Franklin Soil and Water is the hub of natural resource conservation in Franklin County. We provide technical assistance, education programs, and natural resource information, which is all targeted to work with educators, residents, businesses, non-profits, and local governments to keep our communities sustainable and our water clean. Thank you, Commissioners, for giving me the time today to recognize that last Saturday was Earth Day, this Friday is Arbor Day, and this April is Ohio Native Plant Month. With the County Commissioners' support, Franklin Soil and Water is actively promoting and supporting native plants, with 20,000 plants distributed at this year's tree seedling sale. Additionally, our Community Backyards program just opened up. Through this program, residents can take an online course and quiz, or attend an in-person workshop, to receive a \$50.00 rebate for native plants or qualify for a \$250.00 cost-share for a rain garden. This is important because bird populations in North America have dropped by 30% since 1970, and insect populations are declining at about 2% per year globally due to habitat loss and pesticide use. Now, these already stressed-out populations are facing hotter and more extreme weather. We depend on these species for the pollination of our crops, distribution of seeds, and so much more. In Central Ohio, the human population is on pace to increase by another 730,000 residents by 2050. This will require more development, resulting in habitat loss, stormwater runoff, and flooding in our communities. Climate change is already bringing warmer weather and more extreme weather events, resulting in more heat waves, floods, and property damage. Native plants are very important to the sustainability of our animal and human populations. This is because native plants are the best plants for supporting insects, and those insects support our songbirds. Native plants also improve soil and water quality. Just as plants have evolved alongside insects and pollinators above ground, they have also built relationships with fungi and bacteria in the soil. These subterranean interactions between plant roots and other living things in the soil provide many benefits, including absorbing carbon and pollution and increasing the soil's water retention capacity. The roots of native plants also plunge deep into the soil, improving water infiltration.

Ms. Fish (cont.): Large native plants can reduce standing water and flooding. Increasing native tree canopies in urban areas can help mitigate warmer summer weather. As you enjoy the spring weather, I encourage you to look around your landscape and think about the opportunities to plant more native plants and trees. For more information, you can visit [CommunityBackyards.org](http://CommunityBackyards.org) or [FranklinSWCD.org](http://FranklinSWCD.org).

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you, Ms. Fish. That is helpful information. Central Ohio is growing at a good pace, and more of us are apartment dwellers, like myself and Commissioner Crawley. Could you provide some tips for those of us who live in apartments? We can't plant trees or have rain gardens, so what can we do to contribute to a better Earth?

Ms. Fish: There is plenty you can do. We do have some organizations, such as Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries, Friends of the Olentangy Watershed, Franklin Soil and Water, and Green Columbus, which always have events. I am amazed by their many events over the weekends for tree planting, invasive plant removals, and native plant plantings. If you want to get involved in the landscape in Franklin County, you can do that. I also think we need to do a better job talking to our landlords and homeowners associations and asking them to use native plants in their landscaping and plant more trees.

Commissioner Boyce: I think that is really good advice. With all of the developers we interact with, maybe we can push them to use native plants and other environmentally friendly landscapes. I know many of them work to provide landscapes in their development projects that are as low maintenance as possible, but maybe this is something that we can encourage.

Ms. Fish: We are researching on our end this year to determine how we can better get this message to that audience.

Commissioner Crawley: In addition to speaking to developers about having green space at the top of buildings and collecting water, as well as solar panels, we should also be talking about other ways that we can help the environment, such as with native plant plantings.

Commissioner Boyce: Director Schimmer, I would even be open to using some of the Magnet Funds as we work with developers to help offset those costs or direct the funds toward that type of landscape management. It is not mandatory, but it is worthy of a conversation as we are working with them about funding and different opportunities to help sustain the environment.

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Approval of the minutes for the April 11, 2023, General Session; and the April 6, and April 20, 2023, Briefing Sessions. Commissioner Crawley moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0304-23**, authorizing submission and approval of the Pre-Award Condition Forms in order to submit for the 2022 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program by the Franklin County Forensic Science Center, Office of the Coroner (Coroner), presented by Amanda Alvarez Wright, Director of Operations, Coroner’s Office.

Ms. Alvarez Wright reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0304-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0305-23**, establishing, altering, and widening of Innis Road, County Road No. 171, from Cleveland Avenue, County Road No. 75, to Westerville Road (SR3), Clinton Township and Mifflin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer’s Office.

Mr. Soulas reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0305-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0306-23**, establishing, altering, and widening of Elmore Avenue, Township Road No. 1057, from Karl Road, County Road No. 76, to Cleveland Avenue, County Road No. 75, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer’s Office.

Mr. Soulas reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0306-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Establishing, altering, and widening of the Cosgray Road and Faust Ditch Drainage Improvement project, Washington Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans as necessary.

Commissioner Boyce: I would like to open the Public Hearing. Would anyone like to speak regarding this Public Hearing? Seeing none, I will close the Public Hearing and have the Deputy Clerk read the resolution into the record.

**Resolution No. 0307-23**, establishing, altering, and widening of the Cosgray Road and Faust Ditch Drainage Improvement project, Washington Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer

to file plans as necessary (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Soulas reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0307-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0308-23**, plans approved for the rehabilitation of the structure on Reese Road over Big Walnut Creek (FRA-CR131-0.23), Hamilton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Soulas reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0308-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0309-23**, authorizing a contract with American Structurepoint, Inc., consultants, to provide construction administration and inspection services for the Rohr Road at London-Groveport Road (SR317) roundabout project, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$189,168.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Operations Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Foster reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0309-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0310-23**, authorizing a contract with Affiliated Resource Group, Inc., consultants, to provide expert knowledge and services to support multiple information system initiatives (\$69,825.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Operations Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Foster reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0310-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0311-23**, granting approval to declare equipment obsolete and no longer needed for Franklin County use, and authorizing sale of said equipment (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Operations Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Foster reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0311-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0312-23**, approval of the Replat of the Scenic Preserve for Lot 62 of the Windrush Creek, Section No. 2 subdivision, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Operations Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Foster reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0312-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0313-23**, authorizing a contract with Staccato 2011, LLC for the supply and delivery of firearms and accessories (\$88,695.36) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Smith reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0313-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0314-23**, authorizing a contract to Swan Super Cleaners, Inc. dba Swan Cleaners for Sheriff's Uniform and Garment Cleaning Services (\$141,360.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Smith reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0314-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0315-23**, authorizing an agreement with LexisNexis Risk Solutions for Accurint Virtual Crime Center software (\$36,986.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Smith reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0315-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0316-23**, authorizing an agreement with Vanguard Blue, LCC to provide a real-time secure streaming video feed for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Unmanned Aircraft System Unit (\$7,500.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Smith reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0316-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0317-23**, authorizing a maintenance agreement with Sadler-NeCamp Financial Services, Inc. dba Proware for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Integrated Civil Processing and Real Estate Software System (\$210,500.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Smith reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0317-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0318-23**, authorizing a grant agreement with Upper Arlington Commission on Aging to provide services and programming that will facilitate and enhance the neighborhood and built environment for seniors in Franklin County (\$10,000.00) (Office on Aging), presented by Chanda Wingo, Director, Office on Aging.

Ms. Wingo reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0318-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0319-23**, authorizing COVID-19 Recovery Grants with African American Alzheimer's and Wellness Association, Central Community House and National Center for Urban Solutions TEC to address health and digital inequity among vulnerable seniors in Franklin County (\$430,000.00) (Office on Aging), presented by Chanda Wingo, Director, Office on Aging.

Ms. Wingo reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0319-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0320-23**, authorizing a one-year grant agreement with the Greater Columbus Arts Council in support of Franklin County artists, arts organizations, and cultural facilities, and to assist with the Public Art Master Plan for Columbus and Franklin County (\$4,250,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

Mr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Tom Katzenmeyer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Columbus Arts Council: On behalf of our trustees, my staff, and the entire arts community, I want to say thank you. Because of your stable funding to GCAC, we were able to get through the COVID period without cutting grants to arts organizations and artists, and that was very significant. This happened during a period of time when our other two funding sources were in a somewhat dramatic decline, so we appreciate the stability of the County. Before I get started, I want to introduce my hard-working grant staff, which I have with me today. I am very proud of this team. This year, they will oversee \$15.2 million in grant-making and community engagement, \$4 million of that coming from your grant today. Join me in welcoming Alison Barret, Vice President of Grants and Community Engagement; McKenzi Swinehart, Director of Grants and Community Engagement; Kimberly Cole, Manager of Grants and Community Engagement; and Dayvon Nichols, Grants and Community Engagement Associate. I am very proud of all of them and their work. We just issued our report to the county online, but we printed a few copies to give to you because I think it is very beautiful. Last year, we had record operating support grant levels for the second year in a row. We provided nearly \$8 million to our twenty-two operating support organizations. That program is run by Alison, and it is about to kick off again. Monday, May 1, 2023, at 5:00 P.M., is the deadline to apply for that program. The general support program funded fifteen organizations for just under \$700,000.00, and we supported forty-eight other projects that included events and community gatherings of all kinds. We are particularly proud of the growth of support we have provided for the artists in Franklin County. Your funding is a critical part of that. Last year, we funded 656 artists, who are all listed in the report we provided you, to the tune of \$785,000.00. This is a program that Dayvon runs. He reviews all of these grant applications, which is a Herculean effort. I think we got more than 700 applications for the first round this year.



Mr. Katzenmeyer (cont.): We have three rounds of this funding, and in 2023, to date, we have already distributed \$945,000.00 to artists in the county in all disciplines for everything from supplies to marketing to professional development to technology. More than 51% of those awards went to new applicants. This is a historic level of funding for us, and it is somewhat rare across the country that a local arts organization provides grants directly to artists. We also do a lot of resource work for artists. We have YouTube workshops and a new Navigator program, which McKenzi oversees. We have eighteen artists to whom we pay a stipend of \$2,500.00, representing us in the community. It is a richly diverse group of people, and we have trained them in all of our programs. They are out in the community representing us and are featured on our landing page on our website right now. They speak eight languages and represent all artistic disciplines. We also just awarded thirty-six project support grants in a program that Kimberly runs; fourteen of those awards went to first-time applicants. We are out there trying to get ourselves in front of new audiences. We did so much more last year that I am particularly proud of. We created the “Art | Activism | Action” book, which we produced with Warhol & WALL ST. Commissioner Crawley has taken that overseas with her. We had our first Arts Festival after the pandemic last year, and we added a fresh, vibrant look to the GCAC logo and branding. How do we top all of that? This year is our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and we are going to provide historic levels of financial support to arts organizations, projects, and artists in this community. We are also leading the effort on Columbus and Franklin County’s first comprehensive Public Art Master Plan, and we would appreciate your vote and support for the funding for that today. The City is matching that grant. We are having a kick-off meeting for that project this afternoon. Mr. Brown will be representing you on that committee as we meet over the course of the next year. I want to wrap up with two things. The first is an invitation to the Arts Festival, which will be held on the riverfront on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. We are having the opening night party at the Junto Hotel on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, and I hope you can join us. The festival will have 225+ artists, food trucks, entertainment on the Rich and Main Street bridges, and a selection of Ohio beverages. Finally, I want to provide you with a save-the-date for an upcoming event. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Southern Theatre and the Westin Hotel, we will celebrate our artists and community again with the second Big Arts Night. Commissioner Crawley represented the Board on stage at that event last year, and Commissioner O’Grady and his wife were in the audience. We will be awarding \$118,000.00 to artists and arts organizations that evening, over half of which will come from our endowments at the Columbus Foundation. Thank you again for your investment in the arts.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you so much for your leadership with the arts. I spent the weekend with my son, a second-year student at Arts Center in Pasadena. He is studying graphic arts. There was a graduation taking place over the weekend, and they had a substantial exhibition that the seniors had organized. What struck me the most was the number of recruiters from companies like Samsung, Sony, Mitsubishi, Apple, and more. I was telling my son that this is where the rubber meets the road in terms of our battle for the creative economy. You made reference to the Public Art Master Plan that you are implementing in Central Ohio, and I hope that it will include a serious strategy for the retention of artists and recruitment of artists.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): Given the rate at which we are growing in Central Ohio, I think the creative economy should be at the core of our strategy. If we undervalue and overlook this, we will have missed an entire segment of growth for our economy over the next twenty years, and we will not be able to go back and undo that. We take this very seriously, and I hope you stay engaged with us throughout this process because we would like to be in tune with this project along the way. The report that you provided us is outstanding, by the way. It is one of the best I have seen, and it covers what is happening in the arts community. You have a big lift ahead of you, and we want to ensure we are helping so that it comes out right.

Mr. Katzenmeyer: I will make it my singular purpose to convince your son to return to Columbus and Franklin County because it is a great place to be an artist. With his work, Dayvon was just able to put \$945,000.00 into artists' hands, and that was just the first round for this year. We have two more rounds of that program, and the deadlines are June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>. When I started at GCAC ten years ago, that number was \$100,000.00, so we are thrilled about that progress. This Public Art Master Plan is really going to help guide us. We are going to take our time doing it, and we want to do it right. We are at a point of inflection right now. The public funding part is stable and fixed, so now we can turn our attention to these other things, such as public art, facilities, affordable living and work spaces for artists, and more. I appreciate your support and your comments.

Commissioner Crawley: I echo everything Commissioner Boyce said. I want to add that I was very happy and honored to be included in Big Arts Night as I stood in for Mayor Coleman. At Big Arts Night, artists approached me, thanked me for our investment in art, and shared how grants helped save their businesses. We have received handwritten thank you cards stating that getting a grant helped turn businesses around. These are some of the reasons that when I went to Brazil, I wanted to take the "Art | Activism | Action" book and the Mayor there absolutely loved it. He loved everything we are doing here and said he wants to visit and see local artists and public art. To Commissioner Boyce's point, we have talked about the creative economy, and I do not think we have uplifted that enough when it comes to art or fashion. When people buy from local artists, it goes right back into our economy. I want to say thank you so much for all that you all continue to do to support our local artists. Your work is really impactful, and any time we have the opportunity to do your work, I want to do so.

Commissioner O'Grady: I do all of my work on my phone, so I appreciate the printed annual reports that you provided because it is hard to translate their beauty on such a small screen. Thank you for your work. We have been behind in this community in terms of public art and have wanted to do something about it for quite some time. The City has been a good partner in this effort, and you have been leading the charge. While we have a growing public art program in this community, we need to do a better job in Columbus and Franklin County. This comes at a great time because summer travel time is coming up. We are the fastest-growing region in the country and one of the fastest-growing counties in the state and this part of the country. We are a highly sought-after destination for companies, businesses, and employees.

Commissioner O'Grady (cont.): Since that is the case, we need to do what we have to continue attracting that kind of growth. We have to signal to companies that we are treating the least of us properly. We need to make sure we let people know that we are addressing poverty. We must also let those folks know that we are addressing the arts in this community. It is all a hand-in-glove approach to growth. We cannot be the most prosperous community in the United States without addressing poverty. We cannot be the most prosperous community in the country if we let our arts community flounder. That is one of the biggest reasons we partner with you on a regular basis. We really appreciate the partnership that we have with you and the work that you are doing.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0320-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0321-23**, authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant to Nationwide Children's Hospital in support of the Healthy Homes program to retain and expand affordable housing in the Linden neighborhood (\$15,500,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

Mr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Nicholas Jones, Vice President for Community Wellness, Nationwide Children's Hospital: We thank you for this opportunity to continue our work in the Linden community. We are excited to be a partner with the community organizations in the Linden community and provide affordable housing opportunities to those who live in Linden or hope to. We have three goals around this investment. The first is for Linden residents who currently rent or own to increase their ability to remain in their homes safely and affordably. This is very important to us. We want folks to be able to make their own decisions about where they live rather than having the market make those decisions for them. Secondly, we want to ensure that residents have expanded availability of affordable rental homes and homeownership. We will do that through the affordable rental project Administrator Brown mentioned, adding fifty-four new scattered-site housing units and low-income housing tax credit multi-family development. We will also provide homeownership opportunities in partnership with the Central Ohio Community Land Trust. Finally, we are excited to expand our parenting program called the Proud Linden Parenting program. It is based on the Chicago parenting program model. Dr. Whitney Raglin Bignall is on Zoom with us today if you have any questions about that program. It is designed to work with Linden parents and support them in showing improved knowledge of child development stages, parenting techniques, and experiences. The goal is to increase community connectedness.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0321-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

**Resolution No. 0322-23**, authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant to the YWCA to support emergency shelter programming at the Family Center (\$400,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

Mr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Elizabeth C. Brown, President and Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Columbus: I am joined by our Chief Program Officer, Regina Clemons. Ms. Clemons oversees all of our housing and education programming, including the Family Center, which is one of our two housing programs. Before I talk more about what you are funding, I want to acknowledge what Commissioner Boyce said at the start of the meeting about the healthy workplace at the County. I want to emphasize the excellent caliber of the County staff. It is evident to all of us in the community when we work with the County that you offer great benefits and attract and retain great employees. We work with ease with your team, and it is an excellent experience of professionalism for all of us, which matters. The funding you provide today is critically important to our base operations at the Family Center. The Family Center has fifty individual rooms for families, and every day, we are in some level of in-house overflow. That means there are never enough rooms when a family comes to us. They often have to start on a cot or a mat on the floor in one of our neighborhoods, which is a community space, but a little set aside with dividers to try to provide dignity. I say the word “dignity” meaningfully; it is in our mission statement. Our daily goal is to provide dignity to the people we serve. It is a guiding principle for us in how we deliver those services to our families. Because we have those fifty rooms, we accept families of all shapes and sizes. Whoever was in the household when they were made homeless is who we serve and who can come to us. We serve hundreds of families every year. It is poetic that we come following the presentation before us because the families we serve are those whom the system has failed at the deepest level. An eviction, persistently low wages, a job loss, or even a flat tire can cause them to end up in our care in our facility. Our goal when we have those families is to deliver dignified care and help them reach a place of stability, starting with housing. We also have a Workforce Coordinator who helps to coordinate any employment opportunities. The cost of serving unhoused families only continues to grow in our community, so the County’s partnership in making these base operating dollars available for our Family Center in 2023 is hugely important. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Boyce: We do not take the term “dignity” lightly. Dignity is embedded in our work and our commitment to addressing poverty and racism. This is an investment that easily aligns with our core value set. The work that you all are doing is at the heart of addressing those things that will become a bigger challenge as we grow. For those of us who have grown up in Central Ohio, it is hard to explain the transformation that Columbus has gone through, even in the last fifteen years. I think explaining it fifteen years from now will be even harder. There is a saying that as the tide rises, all boats are lifted. That should be our mentality. We are focused on every resident, every day, and if our partners embrace that same value set, we have a chance that fifteen years from now, we will have minimized the negative aspects of growth to our best abilities.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): I love the term dignity because that is all we all really want. Everything we do, we want to be able to do it with dignity. As a child, I was in those situations where there was chaos, many unknowns, and a lot of fear and disruption in my life. Dignity is a word that even a child understands and struggles with. Because when kids end up in those family centers, they still have to go to school. People know about their situation, and it can be the most mentally devastating and disrupting thing that a child can face, and it almost never goes away. To your whole team, thank you for what you represent and what you do. Of all of the places I have worked, I believe the county invests the most resources in this space by far, and we are committed to it. But we have a serious challenge ahead of us as we grow and welcome more families into our community. I mentioned earlier that I was in Los Angeles, and every time I go there, I am reminded of the work that we need to do to prevent homelessness from taking over our city. And I do not mean that negatively; I mean that we need to help families and people when they are at their lowest point and really struggling. We need to find ways to be a resource to them. We do not want to be in a position where after all of our growth, we have to undo something we overlooked all along the way. I want to encourage you to be as engaged as possible with us in this conversation and push the county to do more, do better, and be more advanced in how we approach this issue. The Innovation Institute is something we can think about as the next layer of the impact we can have on the challenge of homelessness as we grow. Thank you for all you do; this is an easy resolution to support.

Ms. Brown: Thank you for mentioning growth. I want to say how important that is because I did not include it in my initial comments. The sad truth is that the conditions that create prosperity in a community also create poverty. That is the natural way of things. Wealth doesn't trickle down, which requires us to be innovative and intentional about poverty solutions as we prosper.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for being here today and for your commitment to families. We are at a pivotal point in time. We do not want to be a San Francisco, Los Angeles, or Sacramento. But I rarely hear who we do want to be. I think we will be judged on who we are by the families in the center or who are in the Linden area and cannot afford to keep a roof over their heads, the water running, and the lights on or get on a path to homeownership. With these two resolutions, we are at nearly \$16 million, trying to give people a hand up, not a handout. The people we are dealing with just in these two resolutions are surviving. We want people to thrive, not just survive. Both of these resolutions are easy to support. But we can do more and have to figure out what that looks like. It is important and incumbent upon us to define who we want to be and not have that narrative set for us by outside entities. The leaders in this community and our neighbors should be at the table, defining who we would like to be. We saw some of that in our Poverty Blueprint plan, which is our framework, but we need to continue to talk to our neighbors and lift up their voices and experiences to determine what more we can do. Again, thank you for all you are doing for our families, especially in your shelter. I know most of the women there look just like me, which is heartbreaking. But I know we can do something about that. It will take a collective effort and building coalitions as we have with the Y.

Commissioner O'Grady: Our goal is to become one of the most prosperous communities in the country, but we cannot do that if our poverty numbers are too high. We created our Poverty Blueprint a few years ago and have continued to work on it and report on it each week. This community continues to grow and thrive with new construction projects. As this community grows and we welcome more and more residents, our economy and budget also grow. The number of residents we serve is growing annually, and with that growth, the agencies we serve are growing. As our population increases over the next decade, we and our partners must do more. We appreciate all that you are doing and the partnership that we have with you.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0322-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: Yesterday, Commissioner Crawley and I were discussing that for us to win going forward, given all of the dynamics that are at play, economically and demographically, we are going to have to be innovative and even more strategic than ever. Just over the last year, this Board has allocated more than \$50 million for affordable housing to support the unhoused and struggling families that need to stay in their homes. We have been leveraging every dollar we can get in funding for emergency rental assistance through ARPA, but we have to think more strategically going forward. We all have to focus on this comprehensive community assessment of homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County that we are about to undertake. I will be representing this Board on the Community Steering Committee, consisting of public and private community stakeholders. It needs to be broad-based. That is one of the strengths of the Rise Together plan. We also need to have a very inclusive process that includes all stakeholders, especially those who have battled in a space where housing insecurity has been a constant in their lives. We also need to work with our partners, like YWCA, to do the best job that we can and come out of this assessment with some concrete actions that we can take to thrive forward as a community. We will be working with Focused Strategies, the selected consultant, to look at this comprehensively. We have to be innovative to deal with growing by a million people over the next seven years by 2030. Everyone is seeking greater mobility and greater opportunities, so to serve every resident, every day, it changes every day. I believe if any community can do it, we can do it. Thank you all for what you do.

Commissioner Boyce: When I go out west, I am always struck by their homelessness situation, and I am always grateful when I come back to Central Ohio for what we do to not get where they are. I hope that the committee takes the time to travel and see what it looks like in other places and get some ideas and approaches for prevention. There is no easy answer. This is something that we are going to have to reimagine and approach differently. And we are going to have to commit to preventing that byproduct of growth.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): I am the chair of NACo's Affordable Housing committee, and maybe this is something NACo or LUCC can take on as a steering committee. Everyone faces this issue at different levels, but everyone faces an affordable housing crunch, which will have an impact.

Commissioner O'Grady: We have been talking about affordable housing for quite some time. I will certainly raise the issue of homelessness at LUCC; however, I am only the chair for two more months. But I believe we have a meeting coming up shortly, and I will raise this issue.

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**Resolution No. 0323-23**, authorizing the County Administrator to execute an agreement with The State of Ohio Collective to support the Ohio Black Expo (\$75,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

Ms. Bumper reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Sherri Hamilton, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ohio Black Expo: I want to thank you for the opportunity to partner with you to take a stab at eradicating poverty in the state of Ohio, specifically in Franklin County. I am a Columbus native, and we are happy to have Central Ohio as the permanent home of the Black Expo. It moved around a bit in the 1990s, and we are happy to bring it back here and reestablish the annual event. I am happy to see Columbus as the place to be in Ohio, because that was not always the case. We are really excited about what we are doing with youth. We did not have the ability to do a lot for our youth last year during Expo week, but this year, we have an Empowerment Summit with HBCUs and employment opportunities. We want to give them a safe space to celebrate the end of the school year, enjoy themselves, and leave feeling empowered and ready to make smart decisions this summer. We also have a youth kick-off parade with over 300 participants, including the East High School band, Linden McKinley and Columbus Afrocentric Early College students, and other youth and community groups. We look forward to providing a family-friendly, multi-generational opportunity for African Americans to celebrate our culture. We did that last year very successfully; we had over ten thousand attendees and over one hundred vendors who reported sales of about a quarter of a million dollars over those two days. With your support, we look forward to expanding and allowing more vendors this year, and we expect more attendees. We expect the economic impact on our business to be even greater. We have had vendors report that they also grew their customer base due to the Expo last year. There are many ways we impact the economy here and raise the profile of Franklin County as a great place to be. We partner with the State of Ohio Collective and the Ohio Conference of the NAACP, which will have events at our convention. About half of our attendees last year were Franklin County residents, and the other half traveled outside Central Ohio for the event. Again, thank you very much.

Tiffany Edwards, Founder and Chief Strategy Officer, The State of Ohio Collective: The State of Ohio Collective is a 501(c)(3), volunteer-led think tank. When we think about the Poverty Blueprint and the transformational work you are doing here in Franklin County, it sets the stage for the rest of the state. We work in Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Youngstown, Toledo, Dayton, and Cincinnati. The partnership of the Ohio Black Expo and the work being done in Franklin County greatly impact the state and the nation. We estimate that 30,000 individuals will attend this year, which will be a great economic driver. We know that addressing institutional, structural, and systemic racism is a large part of your Poverty Blueprint, and we are able to leverage that through our event. We do this by engaging the entire community across the state, predominantly individuals from Franklin County. We bring them to address those issues in education, economic development, health, tech, and the arts. We bring in experts and develop a comprehensive plan for the community so that we can provide long-lasting solutions. That plan is fifty years in the making and part of the intergenerational model that we continue to steward across the state. We are hopeful for your support so that we will not only be able to continue the work that we do within the Expo, but the other work that we do. We are hopeful for your participation in the event. And we are most hopeful when we think about the brain gain that can be achieved in Franklin County through these events and the efforts we take to retain Black talent in our community.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0323-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0324-23**, recognizing the 2023-2024 Racial Equity Council members (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by LeAndra Trikouros, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

Ms. Trikouros reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0324-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0325-23**, authorizing an Economic Development Agreement with One Columbus to conduct economic development activities on behalf of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners (\$1,000,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.



Mark Patton, Vice President and General Manager, One Columbus/Columbus Partnership: Last year was a record year for all metrics. Intel gets a lot of credit, but even if you back those numbers out, we still had a record year. We created 8,700 jobs in the region last year, attracting \$21 billion in capital investment and \$804 million in new payroll. Of course, most of that is yet to come because those were project announcements, and those jobs have yet to land. We would like to thank the Commissioners, County Administration, and Director Schimmer for all of their support, and we are looking forward to another great year.

Commissioner O'Grady: We appreciate the partnership and all of the work we have done together over the years. We look forward to more success in the future.

Sean Grant, Chief Financial Officer, One Columbus/Columbus Partnership: I want to echo Mr. Patton's comments regarding your support for our organization over the years. Being one of the most prosperous regions in the country is a great aspiration, but we will be defined by the folks we help on the lower end of the economic ladder. Even though we want to focus on becoming the most prosperous region, how we raise the floor is really going to help us get there rather than raising the ceiling. Thank you for your support. Even as we are focused on economic growth in this community, we know the importance of the other side of that economic ladder.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0325-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

**Resolution No. 0326-23**, authorizing the First Amendment to Loan Agreement adopted by Resolution No. 0398-22 from the Franklin County Infrastructure Bank to the City of Whitehall for the Woodcliff Redevelopment Project (\$2,000,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0326-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0327-23**, review of the petition to annex 0.1 +/- acres from Sharon Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-11-23 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Schimmer reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0327-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0328-23**, review of petition to annex 0.1 +/- acres from Sharon Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-12-23 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Schimmer reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0328-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0329-23**, review of petition to annex 62.6 +/- acres from Plain Township to the City of New Albany Case #ANX-17-23 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Schimmer reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0329-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0330-23**, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached "Discharge of MORTGAGE" instrument for Susan E. Crocker at 1161 Richter Road, Township of Franklin, Ohio 43223 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

Ms. Tiruchelvam reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0330-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0331-23**, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached "Discharge of MORTGAGE" instrument for Rebecca L. Lucas at 7292 Sabre Avenue, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

Ms. Tiruchelvam reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0331-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0332-23**, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached “Discharge of MORTGAGE” instrument for Elma Schott at 3553 Brookside Boulevard, Township of Franklin, Ohio 43204 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

Ms. Tiruchelvam reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0332-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0333-23**, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached “Discharge of MORTGAGE” instrument for James Woodgeard at 3849 Armuth Avenue, Township of Mifflin, OH 43219 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

Ms. Tiruchelvam reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0333-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0334-23**, authorizing the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services Director to enter into an agreement with the United Way of Central Ohio to provide online procurement support through the e-CImpact Platform (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Turner reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0334-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0335-23**, approving a service agreement extension with CredibleMind, Inc. for a digital behavioral health platform that connects residents to online mental health and wellness information and resources (\$43,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Turner reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0335-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0336-23**, approving a COVID-19 Recovery Grant subaward agreement with Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services for family and school engagement services (\$80,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Turner reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0336-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0337-23**, approving a contract between the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services and LexisNexis, a division of RELX Inc. (\$10,524.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Turner reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0337-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0338-23**, authorizing a subgrant award with the TAPP Ohio to provide community-based services for individuals diverted from the prison system and/or at high risk for future criminal justice involvement through the FY 2022-2023 Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP) grant program (\$50,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Courtney Benner, Grant Specialist, Justice Policy and Programs.

Ms. Benner reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0338-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0339-23**, authorizing a contract renewal with Virtual Case Manager for web-based case management software licensure (\$1,900.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Courtney Benner, Grant Specialist, Justice Policy and Programs.

Ms. Benner reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0339-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0340-23**, authorizing a Supplemental Contract with Garland/DBS, Incorporated for the provision of roofing material and services for the Franklin County Sheriff's Substation (\$477,232.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Vivian Alexander, Chief Operating Officer, Public Facilities Management.

Ms. Alexander reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0340-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0341-23**, authorizing execution of a Parking Agreement with Capitol South Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation for leased parking spaces in a parking facility located at 55 East Rich Street in support of the operation of county elected offices and agencies (\$5,774,000.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management.

Ms. Reardon reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0341-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0342-23**, authorizing an agreement with The Ohio State University to provide the Mobile Mammography Unit and offer scheduled services at various employment locations within the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program (Human Resources), presented by Jodi Leis, Assistant Director, Benefits and Wellness, Human Resources.

Ms. Leis reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley: It is still National Minority Health Month, so if you have not done so already, please schedule your physicals and screenings, such as a mammogram. Thank you for providing this service to our folks.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0342-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0343-23**, authorizing a contract extension with the Columbus Running Company, LLC (CRC), for event management services for the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program (Cooperative) (\$14,600.00) (Human Resources), presented by Jodi Leis, Assistant Director, Benefits and Wellness, Human Resources.

Ms. Leis reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0343-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0344-23**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$4,419,402.62) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

Ms. Perry-Balonier: Before we begin, I would like to introduce our newest Purchasing team member, Joe Gregory. He is serving in a new position as a Compliance Program Manager, and he will be responsible for managing internal controls and procedures related to procurement activities and programs.

Joe Gregory, Compliance Program Manager, Purchasing: I appreciate the Commissioners and Administration allowing me to speak today. With decades of experience in operational excellence, contingency planning, and records management, compliance is a natural fit for me. I look forward to working with the team and making some adjustments as needed.

Ms. Perry-Balonier and Ms. Bumper reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0344-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0345-23**, authorizing receipt of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 Community Project Funding award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren Rummel, Director, Government Affairs and Ethics, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Rummel reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0345-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0346-23**, authorizing a Contribution and Cooperation Agreement with the Central Ohio Transit Authority for transit services supporting the Franklin County Correctional Centers (\$494,500.00) (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Long reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0346-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0347-23**, authorizing the County Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with MJ Martin, Inc., to provide ongoing training and additional services in conjunction with the new corrections center (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Long reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0347-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0348-23**, approving a settlement agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation, and approving the grant of three temporary construction easements to the Ohio Department of Transportation, related to the Interstate 70/71 construction project (Board of Commissioners), presented by Jesse Armstrong, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Mr. Armstrong reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0348-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0349-23**, authorizing the County Administrator to approve community grants and contracts for services, supplies, products, and goods for an amount not to exceed one million dollars (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Long reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce: Has this always been for community grants? I thought it was just contracts. If I remember correctly, I thought the purpose of this was if we needed to act quickly or move quickly on a contract, but I did not know community grants were a part of it.

Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office: To answer your first question regarding whether it has always included community grants, it has. This is just a renewal of the same Resolution that we passed previously. If you recall, the one time we ended up using this was for a community grant that needed an amendment for emergency funding. That was for the Community Shelter Board. It worked for this matter, which was very eminent and needed due to the issue with Sawyer Towers.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you for that clarification. I would like to add that I appreciate the Administrator using a high level of discretion when deploying that authority. As I have shared before, I generally am not enthusiastic about abdicating our authority as the Board of Commissioners; however, so that the public understands, there are scenarios, such as with Sawyer Towers, in which we need to act quickly. With the required public notice and all of the other things that we have to do to be responsive as a Board, sometimes this emergency authority is needed. I want to reiterate that this should be used as infrequently as possible, and I do not want ever to codify this. We happen to have an Administrator who uses a very high degree of discretion with this, but he will not always be here, and we do not want to give up that authority.

Ms. Hummer: We appreciate that. I would also like to add that this resolution has a sunset provision. I will attest to the Administrator's discretion because there have been times that we have reached out to him to request that he use his emergency authority based on the circumstances, and he has said no. He uses his discretion in a way that meets the Commissioners' objectives and goals. This is truly for emergency measures where there is no other choice.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: I do not see this authority as a convenience tool; I see this as a measure to extinguish something that is emergent and something that has to be dealt with so that the safety and welfare of individuals is not impacted. It is a blessing that we only had to use it once, which was an emergency. It happened during the middle of the holidays, outside of the normal course of business. I see this as a vital thing to have in place because we need to be responsive, and our county is growing in size and complexity. You can trust that if I use this authority, I will let you know; it is not something I take lightly. Again, this authority would sunset after December 3, 2024, and then it will be up for consideration again.

Ms. Hummer: I would like to add one more point. In the resolution, there is a reporting requirement. So, each and every time this authority is used, you will get a real-time notice of that from both the Prosecutor's Office and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Commissioner Crawley: I want to echo what Commissioner Boyce said and take it a step further. We take our position as elected officials very seriously, and we want the community to know that we are responsible for taxpayer dollars at the end of the day.



People are not coming to the County Administrator to ask questions about resolutions that are passed; they will be coming to the three Commissioners on this Board.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): To the extent that we can, we should be able to answer and account for every single dollar. I have said multiple times that I do not like abdicating some authority. I think it should always rest with us to the extent it can. I have a question about the sunset provision. We did this last year, so why is this sunsetting in 2024 versus 2023?

Ms. Hummer: We missed the opportunity in January because the County Administrator was gone, so I extended it to make up for the time. I am worried about missing it again, so we gave it a more extended period.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0349-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Lauren M. Graessle, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read five (5) journalizations into the record:

The 2023 committee assignments for the Board of Commissioners regarding Franklin County Emergency Management Agency and Franklin County Investment Advisory Board have been updated to assign County Administrator Wilson. The noted assignments will be filed with today's meeting minutes for the record and be distributed to our internal and external partners who may be impacted by these selections.

Case #ANX-18-23, a municipal annexation petition, ANX-18-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on April 13, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 0.40-acres from Truro Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on May 9, 2023. Site: Public Right-of-way along McNaughten Road, approximately 400 feet south of the intersection with E. Broad Street.

Case #ANX-19-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-19-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on April 13, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 0.918-acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on May 16, 2023. Site: 3972 Orders Road, PID #160-001872.

Case #ANX-20-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-20-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on April 13, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 0.768-acres from Jackson Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on May 16, 2023. Site: 1874 Demorest Road, PID #160-002099.

Case #ANX-21-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-21-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on April 20, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 1.94-acres from Madison Township to the City of Groveport. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on May 23, 2023. Site: 5600 Groveport Road, PID #180-000921.

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**Resolution No. 0350-23**, of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of considering personnel matters and to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office concerning pending or imminent litigation (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0350-23, to convene into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official to confer with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action., seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote, and the Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 11:42 A.M.

At 12:03 P.M., Commissioner Crawley moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Boyce, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. No substantive action was taken upon exiting Executive Session, and with no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 P.M.

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**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.



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**JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT**

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**KEVIN L. BOYCE**



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**ERICA C. CRAWLEY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:



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Lauren M. Graessle

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