

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

May 30, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 30, 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; Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator; Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Amy Hiers, Deputy Chief Counsel and Director of Litigation, Civil Division, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; and Brittany A. Razek, 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 Crawley called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M.

Commissioner Crawley: I have the privilege of introducing one of the greatest marketing minds of our region this morning. Here to give us an overview of this year's Classic for Columbus is President & CEO, John Pace. For our listening audience, please introduce yourself, tell us about Classic for Columbus, and what we can expect at next year's event.

John Pace, President and Chief Executive Officer, Classic for Columbus: It is my honor to be here today to represent the Board of Trustees and the entire family at Classic for Columbus. Classic for Columbus is entering its third year of being a part of the fabric of Columbus, and we are very excited. Our mission is to promote education, economic development, and diversity while we raise funds for institutions of higher learning and scholarships. Since our inception in 2021, we have contributed over \$500,000.00 to scholarships here in Columbus. We are very proud of what we are doing, and I want to thank the Commissioners. We truly would not be in business if it were not for you, and I want you to know that we appreciate your support. The Classic for Columbus is a week-long celebration of educational, multicultural, and entertainment festivities that complement an All-Star Game. The All-Star Game features the top players from HBCUs around the country versus some of the top players from colleges across Ohio.

Mr. Pace (cont.): We are proud to announce today that eight of the players from last year's All-Star Game are now playing professional basketball, and we expect the same this year. Part of our objective is to give young men who play at HBCUs, who may go unnoticed, an opportunity to play in front of professional scouts and further their careers. What can you expect from Classic for Columbus moving forward? We want to be a part of your workforce development initiative. Working in conjunction with The Ohio State University, we have created a curriculum-based program called CFC Academy. Through that academy, high school students will have an opportunity to gain real-life experience. The curriculum covers three areas: major event management, sports and entertainment marketing, and hospitality. We will be talking with you more about this in the future, but we wanted to announce it here. Over the three years since we started Classic for Columbus, we have received a 97% fan satisfaction rating and a 95% sponsorship rating. That evaluation was done independently by a team from Anheuser-Busch, and we are really happy about that. I spoke before about our contributions to scholarships. We have also connected over 5,000 students with scholarships, college enrollment opportunities, internships, and job opportunities. We have brought together over 40,000 African Americans with the rest of the community in harmony and unity to celebrate and showcase Black excellence and culture. We have provided three news cycles of great publicity for Columbus to brand this city as a great place to visit, live, and work. Those news cycles were national, regional, and local. Again, thank you so much. We could not have done this without the support of the Commissioners. We would like to present you with the official shirt of the Classic and Ambassador medallions. We have gone all across the country talking about Columbus, Ohio, and it has been well-received. Over time, you will see more and more people from across the country come in for Classic for Columbus events.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you, Mr. Pace. As you know, I was happy to participate and do a video for the game this year. We will talk more offline. I know you reached out to my office about me and my staff being unable to meet with attendees and talk to guests while we were there. As a major sponsor of this event, we are looking forward to working out all of those details for next year so that we do not have the same issues. It is wonderful that so many people came to Franklin County for the Classic and engaged in many of the different activities provided. I wanted to be able to thank them for coming to Columbus and Franklin County.

Commissioner Boyce: I apologize for not being able to make it to the Classic this past year; I believe I was traveling unexpectedly at the time. Sports are a way of showing young people another pathway. They show them what it takes to work hard and what it means to achieve something, and moreover, they can use those skills in life, whether they are in professional sports or working somewhere in Central Ohio. I am a fan of the process and the program. Athletics are not just for the championships and trophies but for the experience and the type of people they build. I know some of the African American Male Wellness Agency team is here. Whether you are exercising for health and wellness or competing, we understand and value that here in Central Ohio.

Commissioner Crawley: I would also like to shout out Brown Girls Mentoring and Rickenbacker Woods, who brought almost thirty kids to the Classic and had a great time.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: I am a huge supporter of HBCUs, and both of my children have attended and graduated from HBCUs. Thank you for the work that you are doing. We have a Men's Unit that we are developing here in Franklin County. We understand men have challenges navigating the health services ecosystem for several reasons, so we want to send them to places and spaces where they can be supported. We believe this workforce development project would be essential in providing them with a resource. I want to connect you with a team member to discuss this.

Mr. Pace: We will make sure to connect with him. Commissioner Crawley, please accept my apology. I have never been so embarrassed about the experience that you had. We spent two hours working through it, and I guarantee it will never happen again to any leaders who come to participate in and support this event. I trust that you will give us a second chance, and we will make you proud.

Commissioner Crawley: I appreciate that; thank you.

//

**Resolution No. 0429-23**, authorizing the County Administrator on behalf of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas and Franklin County Sheriff's Office related to the FY 24/25 Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison grant program (\$4,500,000.00) (Court of Common Pleas), presented by Kimberly Canada, Director of Finance, Court of Common Pleas, General Division.

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

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: Is this grant amount equal to the current fiscal year?

Ms. Canada: Yes, it is a continuation of funding.

Mr. Wilson: Thank you. How many FTEs are supported by this grant?

Ms. Canada: From the Probation Department within the Common Pleas Court, it is about twelve FTEs.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0429-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0430-23**, Arcadis U.S., Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Drainage Engineer by providing detailed engineering services and construction plans for

the Cosgray Road and Faust Ditch Drainage Improvement project, Washington Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$321,300.00) (Drainage 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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0430-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0431-23**, Michael Baker International, consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing preliminary engineering services for the Gender Road 5.39 over Pickering Creek bridge project, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$116,056.00) (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0431-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0432-23**, requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Harrisburg & London Road, County Road No. 288, Pleasant 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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0432-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0433-23**, authorizing a non-general fund supplemental appropriation related to Homeland Security and Regional Communications (Emergency Management Agency), presented by Jeffrey J. Young, Director, Emergency Management Agency.

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

Commissioner Boyce: I have been following the debt ceiling discussion at the federal level. Embedded in their agreement are a number of changes and cuts to federal programs. When I read through the list of all the things that are being cut, which is quite substantial, I saw a number of line items around homeland security.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): But I do not think there are any implications in this instance.

Mr. Young: your thought process is on point regarding homeland security and FEMA grant funding. We are watching that intently. I have not received any notice that anything is currently jeopardized, but it is fluid and coming together quickly. I appreciate the thought.

Commissioner Boyce: I am glad you said that because I have closely tracked it. In order for them to make this deal, we will feel an impact one way or another. The residents of Franklin County will feel that impact. To the Administration, I want to encourage us to be watching that closely because I saw a number of line items that will have a direct impact, from SNAP and TANF resources to homeland security to transportation and infrastructure funds. It is all over the place, and it is significant.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: I have been having the same thoughts while looking at this deal. Over the weekend, the text of the bill was released. The homeland security and defense provisions and new work requirements for SNAP recipients will definitely impact our Health and Human Services agencies. We will have to create infrastructure to support those mandates. Of particular concern are the details around unspent COVID-19 dollars. We have been very effective in this community in spending those dollars, but it all depends on what is defined as “unspent.” We will need to look at guidance as it comes out from the U.S. Treasury if this deal is codified. I have been trying to determine how we may react to this. Commissioner Boyce is correct; Franklin County will be impacted. We will try to be as resilient as possible in anticipation of these changes coming from both the federal and state governments.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0433-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0434-23**, authorizing a contract with Lorraine Surgical Supply Company, Inc. dba Shield Healthcare OH, Inc. for Nutritional Supplements (\$1,888,447.35) (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: I had a question since you said that this was competitively bid. Who is the supplier currently?

Ms. Wingo: The supplier is Shield. Lorraine is the Parent Company.

Commissioner Crawley: This is a new contract, right?

Ms. Wingo: It is a renewal.

Laurice Cohens, Chief Financial Officer, Office on Aging: Shield was our previous provider for our previous contract for nutritional supplements. That contract was also competitively bid. There were some issues with this contract due to the pandemic. With the pandemic came price increases, and we are now announcing these increases. Shield was the only company to bid with the current contract, so they were awarded this contract. This contract allows for substitutions based on the availability of resources. For example, Ensure is currently on backorder, so this contract allows for substitutions. This is why you see a price hike in this contract.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0434-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0435-23**, authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant with The Center of Science and Industry to provide Learning Lunchboxes to Franklin County youth (\$650,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

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

Frederic Bertley, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, COSI: I would like to thank the Commissioners and County Administration for this opportunity to continue our partnership with Franklin County. We are so appreciative of your leadership to help serve every resident, every day. We began this program with you during the pandemic, and since then, we have inspired thousands of youths and families. Together, we build partnerships with NASA, Miss America, the Ohio State University, Harvard Business School, and even the White House to help support STEM learning and student engagement, and these efforts all go towards our efforts to combat poverty. We have built this program under the guiding philosophy of feeding hungry lives and hungry minds while supporting human services. This program was also made with the mission of supporting every resident, every day. This grant will enable us to impact even more families by providing hands-on and digital STEM resources, including supporting students with special needs and English language learners. As Marcus Garvey said, education is the cornerstone of a healthy community and prosperous society. In today's time, the diversification of STEM education offers a promise to uplift individuals, families, and communities. Please know that your timely and generous support is a catalyst for this effort throughout the county and region. We look forward to partnering with you and having you join us at some of our upcoming STEM engagement distribution events, such as our NASA and National Space Council event, or our event for the upcoming eclipse. We love having you there to support our youth and families. This year, COSI was ranked the number-one science museum in the nation for the fourth year in a row. We have won five Emmys for excellence in science education and communication. We won the Spirit of Columbus Award, and just last week, we won the Institute of Museum and Library Services Medal – the highest honor that the United States provides to a library or museum for national excellence and impact.

Dr. Bertley (cont.): This national medal will be conferred in July at the White House by the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden. Joining me at the White House ceremony will be my Board Chair, and most importantly, someone from the community who has been impacted by our programs. When I received the call from the White House appointee that COSI had won this national honor, he emphatically stated that the award was in part due to the power of our partnerships and community impact locally and globally. In fact, I am not there with you in person today because I am in Barbados with the Ministry of Education, planning our second STEM engagement around the Learning Lunchbox, the STEM ecosystem, and our distribution event. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners and County Administration was the first to support our COSI STEM Engagement program from the onset of the pandemic, and we have been able to grow the program and impact communities throughout this great county. These awards, honors, and accolades uplift Columbus and Franklin County and bring positive national attention to this great region. These honors are as much yours as they are COSI's. We could not have done this without your help, and we remain forever grateful for your support.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you, Dr. Bertley. When the pandemic started in 2020, we did not understand our direction on so many fronts. COSI was a great partner when we were trying to figure out how to keep our young people engaged, provide them with progress in their academic paths, and how to efficiently use our resources to impact as many residents as possible. It is great to see this continue because it is a bright spot in how we partner to address STEM. When I think about the process of evolution in technology and how we are transforming into an electric vehicle kind of society, that kind of thinking is seated with young people. We will need the next generation to help us convert and live a life of energy efficiency and eco-friendliness. We are just beginning this process in North America. Perhaps one kid who opened that Learning Lunchbox is the future inventor of a resource or product that takes us to the next level. Thank you for your partnership, and it is always a pleasure to work with you and your folks at COSI.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for being here, Dr. Bertley, and thank you for your partnership. As always, I rave about the Learning Lunchboxes. I want to give kudos to my colleagues on the previous Board before I got here for the investment that they made during the pandemic. I was in the legislature then, and I distributed over 1,100 lunchboxes with different schools in my district. Speaking of how Franklin County can impact the state, it was because of Franklin County's investment that a number of legislators could partner with COSI and do distributions in their districts. You also got an appropriation from the State based on the County's investment. I absolutely love the lunchboxes and am happy to support this resolution. I love these activities for teachers, kids, and parents. During the pandemic, kids were at home, and parents needed something to use to engage their kids, and this was really transformational. I am happy to see it continue, and thank you for all that you continue to do with COSI, and for putting Columbus and Franklin County on the map for innovation and transformation.

Commissioner O’Grady: We appreciate you being here and traveling to promote the Learning Lunchboxes. We love what COSI has done and continues to do to set your organization, Columbus, and Franklin County apart.

Commissioner Crawley: And it is always good when you mention every resident, every day, in your presentation. It lets us know that you are paying attention to our mission, vision, and values here at the County.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0435-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0436-23**, authorizing an extension of the Participation Agreement to obtain location information through West Publishing Corporation, through the Consolidated Lead Evaluation and Reporting database (CLEAR) (\$24,390.92) (Child Support Enforcement), presented by Susan Brown, Director, Child Support Enforcement.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0436-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0437-23**, authorizing a grant agreement with Stonewall Columbus to help fund their annual PRIDE Festival, March & Resource Fair which supports their community programs and annual operations that further their mission and vision to increase visibility, inclusion, and connection for the LGBTQIA+ community in Franklin County (\$20,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0437-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0438-23**, authorizing a grant agreement with the National African American Male Wellness Agency to support the African American Male Wellness Walk and the Uplift Her Wellness Day (\$250,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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



Pam Gregory, Chief Financial Officer, National Center for Urban Solutions, and Co-Founder, African American Male Wellness Agency: We are excited that this commemorates twenty years of serving our community residents in Franklin County every day as the African American Male Wellness Agency. While serving our Black men, we have heard from the wives, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, and daughters that their health matters, too. Uplift Her is truly about providing affordable access to healthcare for women of color in Franklin County. We know breast cancer has declined for women overall, but it has increased for women of color. Women of color are twenty percent more likely to die from disease. Lower Your Risk! addresses these issues. I have asked our Vice President, Natalie Donnally, to speak briefly about some screenings women will receive that day.

Natalie Donnally, Vice President, African American Male Wellness Agency: This event is very important to us here in Franklin County and Central Ohio. We collaborate with the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, James Comprehensive Cancer Center, OhioHealth, and Mount Carmel to provide quality health services such as mammograms, pap smears, and pulmonary function tests for lung cancer assessments. We provide resources for all of our healthcare organizations and community partners for maternal and infant health so that we can start decreasing infant mortality here in Central Ohio.

Kenny Hampton, President, African American Male Wellness Agency: I am proud to be here today to congratulate and thank the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for joining organizations such as Johnson & Johnson, CareSource, and Abbott, who have decided to sow substantial seeds in the work that we do. The African American Male Wellness Walk is more than a walk; it is the most fun you will ever have at a doctor's appointment. Where else can you see a doctor to get your numbers where there is also live music, entertainment, activities for kids and seniors, and more? We have a great partnership with the Office on Aging, and we want people to know that the lives of men and women matter, regardless of age. We are able to provide numbers on the spot that are ultimately going to save lives. We just learned that eighty-five percent of our male participants found out that they have elevated blood pressure. I was one of those individuals two years ago, so I had to make some adjustments. I had a conversation with my doctor to learn what I can do to live longer because we are trying to close the life expectancy gap. Right now, African American men are dying at 67 years old, on average. Our counterparts are dying at age 79, on average. That is a twelve-year age gap. But we are standing with organizations and community partners who are passionate and serious about having conversations about equity and investing in this work so that we can go into the community to close the gap. We are excited to be celebrating our twentieth year this year. Nineteen years ago, we had hundreds of people show up to the walk; in recent years, we have had tens of thousands of attendees. We want to encourage everyone to mark their calendars for August 12, 2023, at 7:00 A.M. to join us at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Male Wellness 5k Walk and Run.

Mr. Hampton (cont.): As I mentioned before, we are more than a walk, so I have a couple more things I would like to share before I finish. On Saturday, June 10, 2023, at 12:00 P.M., we will be hanging out with our dads at CCAF. We are going to have a Proud Dad Cookout. Commissioner Boyce served as our Honorary Chair last year, and we appreciate all his work. Additionally, on July 13, 2023, we will be having our national discussion for our Real Men, Real Talk program. This is a mental wellness initiative, and we will feature Adam “Pac-Man” Jones, a former NFL player, at this year’s event. He is looking forward to coming to Columbus and helping our men understand that it is not okay to keep things within ourselves; it is okay to talk. Again, thank you for your partnership.

John Gregory, President, National Center for Urban Solutions, and Co-Founder, African American Male Wellness Agency: I want to say thank you. I want to go on the record to say that 100% of the funds you provide stay in Franklin County and go directly to the project. No one has their salary paid from those funds. This is a Franklin County project, and each city, such as Whitehall, Reynoldsburg, Gahanna, and Westerville, has its own ambassador going into the community door-to-door and asking folks to participate so that people can know their numbers. At the walk, five percent of the men who are screened are told not to walk and to have one of their friends or family members take them to the hospital immediately because of the results. Then, we have someone follow up with them to ensure they have gone. Ninety percent of the men participating in the walk have health insurance, so this is not about poverty. This is about individuals having awareness. When I got past 67 years old, I thought that now that I had hit the average, I had to get past the average. Everyone needs to make sure that they are visiting their doctors, especially men, and women of color. Disease is preventable, but it starts with awareness. Thank you for your participation; we appreciate you.

Commissioner Boyce: I want to thank all of you for coming here today. I will start with Uplift Her Wellness Day. It is so important that we come together as a community and demonstrate that we all matter. It benefits the entire community when those most challenged by health disparities are supported in their wellness. The work that you are doing is critical. I had the opportunity to speak with Houston’s Mayor Turner, and he was so pleased with their walk this year, which was their first African American Male Wellness Walk. If we can lead by example here in Franklin County and impact wellness all around this great country, then we can really move the needle in this conversation in a meaningful way. I just want to recognize you and thank you for your work. My doctor retired about a year ago, and it has taken me a year to find another doctor. I finally found one and had to schedule an appointment about four months out. I am at an age and a point in my life where these numbers start to really reconcile with you. You need to monitor things, even from a hereditary standpoint. That year off really offset my numbers, and now there are several areas I need to pay attention to. I think I live a fairly healthy life, but my doctor said a lot of it could be hereditary. The work that you do is not just a walk. It is really about awareness and building a psychology of regularly managing your lifestyle, being thoughtful about the content of the things you put into your body, and being thoughtful about the movement you make regularly.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): I believe in this deeply and take it very seriously. I have seen you all as partners since I started at the County. I am grateful to have colleagues like Commissioner Crawley and Commissioner O'Grady who buy into this mission as much as I do. This is one step together in a journey that is going to be a long haul for all of us to make that needle move. Thank you so much for your work.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you so much for being here this morning. Thank you for all that you do in our community to ensure that all our residents can thrive and not just survive. It breaks my heart that in some places in the county, the difference in life expectancy can be twenty years. It shouldn't matter what ZIP code you live in; that should not determine your life expectancy and outcomes. We see that with maternal mortality and morbidity. When we talk about maternal mortality, in the state of Ohio, Black women die at three times the rate of white women. Maternal morbidity is those near-misses, which happen much more often than a mortality event. If someone experiences gestational diabetes or hypertension during pregnancy, that does not always resolve when the pregnancy ends. Those things can continue and impact that person's life, health, and well-being. We should highlight morbidity just as much as we do mortality. There is also heart disease. I have spoken at this dias before about my mother's heart attack on Christmas Day in 2022. She did not have chest pains; she was clammy and had trouble breathing. She waited about two hours until we decided to go to the emergency room, and it turned out that she was having a heart attack and had to have surgery. Women need to understand what the symptoms of a heart attack look like because they look different than they do for men. Black women and women of color die at higher rates than our counterparts, as you pointed out with the breast cancer statistics. I love working in a county where we prioritize health and well-being for ourselves, our employees, and our residents. I am happy to support this resolution, and I am happy to be a part of Uplift Her. Thank you so much for including me. There is an Uplift Her event on June 22, 2023, and a morning networking event on June 15, 2023, at 7:30 A.M. Where will that take place?

Ms. Gregory: Bottoms Up Coffee House on West Broad in the Franklinton area.

Commissioner Crawley: The Uplift Her event is at Saint Charles Preparatory School.

Ms. Gregory: Yes, on Thursday, June 22, from 3:00 to 8:00 P.M. We have also added a youth component because we feel it is important that our young women really start taking ownership of their health. This will include young women between the ages of thirteen and seventeen.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you. I also want to talk about partnerships. I know you have the Proud Dad Cookout coming up. I am unsure if you already have a partnership with COSI, but I think there is an opportunity to have Learning Lunchboxes there for the kids who attend. If not, we will have our Community Partnerships team connect the two of you to set this up. Thank you for all you are doing in our community, and I am happy to be a partner.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: We are fortunate to have many valuable community partners in this community. Every time this organization comes up, I want to say that I appreciate having an organization like yours that has your values. I have worked with you on many different initiatives, and I can always count on you to uphold your end of the deal. Whether it is workforce development, fatherhood initiatives, or health and wellness initiatives, you are a valuable community partner, and I truly appreciate it. Our employee wellness program is a high priority at Franklin County, and things like this enhance our efforts. Some agencies have a healthy competition to see how many employees will attend the walk. Seeing people come out for the event always provides a sense of pride. I always walk at this event, but I have never run. I have to get better. I have had hypertension for several decades that I manage well, but I am still recovering from my days of playing football when running was never fun. That is probably why you see me walking at various 5k events. In all seriousness, we talk a lot about the principles of the Rise Together Poverty Blueprint, and everything we do has a lens of mobility and economic mobility. Health is our greatest wealth. Without it, you can't function and do the things you need to do for yourself, your family, and your community. Closing health disparities is a top priority of the Board, and they direct County Administration daily to come up with contracts with community partners to expend dollars to attack the social determinants of health and create economic mobility. I want to thank you all, and I look forward to continuing to see new extensions, like Uplift Her and the fatherhood initiatives. Those things strengthen the infrastructure of our community.

Commissioner O'Grady: We really appreciate you all being here. There is little left to say, but the one thing I would like to say is that the work that you are doing is saving lives. Don't let that be forgotten. We talk about wellness here all the time, and it is really important for a lot of reasons to be involved in wellness. We are all about enhancing lives and doing all we can to help people get from where they are to a better place. At the end of the day, nothing is better than helping people save their own lives, so thank you for everything you are doing.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0438-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0439-23**, authorizing a grant agreement with Hyatt Regency Columbus for the use of their facilities to host the first Franklin County Board of Commissioners Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference (\$45,085.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0439-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

//

Commissioner O'Grady: Chief Withers, these three Resolutions that you presented this morning were fantastic. We love supporting the Pride Festival and all things that are related to it on an annual basis. The Resolution for the African American Male Wellness Agency and their work is tremendous. And the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference is great. We really appreciate all that you and your staff are doing.

//

**Resolution No. 0440-23**, awarding a Service Agreement between the Board of Commissioners and the Community Shelter Board to develop and implement strategies that decrease homelessness in Franklin County (\$5,489,390.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Genee' Cosby, Community Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Shannon Isom, President and Chief Executive Officer, Community Shelter Board: I want to thank you for considering this annual support for our partner agencies that is so needed. It is not lost on me that the continued strategical action to care for our most vulnerable population relies upon a system that responds. The Community Shelter Board is in a position to respond. I know it is created to coordinate and have a comprehensive system focused on care. This county depends on it. I will bring these and other resources to bear from the business community and the philanthropic community to stand on an innovative, concrete structure. It has to be dynamic in response to human fragility but also to the business model, the market structures, and the forces that move us forward: development, planning, policies, and federal and state resources. This funding supports 15,000 men and over 5,000 children annually that move through our prevention, emergency, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing systems. This Community Shelter Board coordinates that system of care with sixteen partner agencies. I ask that we continue working on strategies together to do more, improve, and be more agile. I appreciate your consideration, and we will continue to respond accordingly.

Commissioner Crawley: Welcome! I think this is your first General Session since you became the new President and CEO of the Community Shelter Board. I am really excited about your leadership. I know you are coming in and trying to hit the ground running, and you already have. I know you have a community assessment underway in which you are trying to hear from partners. My colleagues and I have been unapologetic about ensuring that our residents who find themselves unhoused have the support they need. We want to meet people where they are and bring them out of poverty by finding innovative ways to eradicate homelessness.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): When you first came on board, you were receptive to that charge. We are not going just to continue to give these conveyance dollars without understanding the vision and mission or how we will address this in a real way. We always say we do not want to be like San Francisco, Austin, D.C., or Los Angeles, where street homelessness is a major problem. We also know that street homelessness is not the only type we see. It is also couch surfing or moving around a lot. We are trying to figure out how to address this and do something different so that we can stop saying who we don't want to be like, and we can define who we are and who we want to be in the future. I am really excited about working with you and seeing how we can continue to partner to support our residents, especially our veterans and our children. Thank you for being here today.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: As the Deputy County Administrator of Health and Human Services, I want you to know that your problems are our problems. We share in the work with you and look forward to locking arms with you. We would like to meet with you so that our strategies for emergency cash assistance for vulnerable residents align with your strategies.

Ms. Isom: When I was listening to you all talk about how health is wealth and supplemental nutrition, it was not lost on me that these are all things that are intertwined with housing. I appreciate your arduous task in allocating resources, and we are taking this equally as seriously.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0440-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0441-23**, authorizing a contract with DiPerna & Company, LLC. to provide financial consultant services for the Franklin County Infrastructure Bank program (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0441-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0442-23**, to adjust the boundaries between the City of Columbus and the City of Worthington Case #ANX-23-23 (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0442-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0443-23**, authorizing a non-general fund supplemental appropriation for the Justice Assistance Grant Fund (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ruchelle Pride, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0443-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0444-23**, approving a lease with Lee Smith Family Investments LLC dba Lee Smith Properties for the lease of office space at 55-57 East Main Street (\$19,007,820.00) (Public Facilities Management), 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: So, you said this is a ten-year lease with an optional five-year extension?

Mr. Armstrong: That is correct. And if we wanted to exercise that option, it would come back before the Board for additional approval.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0444-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner O'Grady abstaining.

**Resolution No. 0445-23**, authorizing contracts with forty (40) Temporary Staffing providers for use by any Franklin County agency, court, Board or Commission (\$5,000,000.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0445-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0446-23**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$3,057,549.01) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0446-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0447-23**, appointing Joy Bivens to the Creating Central Ohio Futures Board (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren Graessle, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0447-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0448-23**, appointing Charles Straley to the Creating Central Ohio Futures Board (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren Graessle, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0448-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0449-23**, appointing Lauren Rummel to the Columbus Sister Cities International Board of Trustees, Franklin County, Ohio (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren Graessle, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0449-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.



**Resolution No. 0450-23**, appointing members to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Board (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren Graessle, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Crawley: We only have four appointments on this new board. Will they all have the same term dates?

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: That is correct.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0450-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

//

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 A.M.

**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, May 30, 2023.



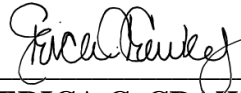
---

**JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT**



---

**KEVIN L. BOYCE**



---

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

Submitted by:



---

Lauren M. Graessle

//bar