

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

June 4, 2024

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, June 4, 2024.

Present were: Kevin L. Boyce, President  
John O'Grady, 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; Jesse Armstrong, Deputy Director, Business, Claims, and Real Estate, Prosecutor'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 Boyce convened the meeting at 9:02 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: Good morning, and welcome to our General Session meeting for June 4, 2024. Before we get into our regular agenda today, we've got some recognitions and special guests, beginning with a recognition of June as African American Music Appreciation Month. This is a time to celebrate and honor the rich contributions of African American musicians, composers, singers, and performers and the impact they've had on our nation and our community. To celebrate, please join our Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion tomorrow, June 5th, at noon for a Lunch-and-Learn presentation streamed live on the commissioners' Facebook page.

June is also Pride Month, honoring the Stonewall Uprising of 1969, a touchstone event in LGBTQ history. The bravery and resistance of those who took a stand against injustice during the Stonewall riots still inspire us today. June is a time to celebrate the many contributions of LGBTQIA+ individuals to history and culture worldwide. Here at Franklin County, we are committed to enacting equitable policies to uplift marginalized residents and to building a safe and diverse community free of any violence or other threats to [members of marginalized communities]. Today, we're proud to welcome, Densil Porteous, Executive Director of Stonewall Columbus, to give some remarks about Pride and this month's celebrations. Welcome, Mr. Porteous.

Mr. Porteous, Executive Director, Stonewall Columbus: Good morning. The last time I was with you, it was virtual, and I realized that I was coming to the building, and I am glad I made it in this morning. Thank you for making the space to celebrate and recognize Pride Month and it is truly

an important moment for all of us. As executive director of Stonewall Columbus, I am privileged to represent an organization that aims to stand at the forefront of advocacy and celebration for the LGBTQ+ community in Columbus and across Central Ohio. This year, our theme for Pride is “Live. Out. Loud.” It embodies our commitment to visibility, expression and advocacy, and encourages everyone in our community to embrace their identity fully and to celebrate the diversity that makes us strong. “Live. Out. Loud.” is not just a theme, it is a call to action and a reminder to share our stories, speak up against injustice, and stand together in solidarity. The Stonewall uprisings of 1969 ignited the global LGBTQ movement that we know today. We honor the legacy by living out loud and proud in everything that we do. In Central Ohio and across the Franklin County region, we continue to push boundaries, break barriers, and foster inclusive environments everywhere we can thrive. For over 35 years, the Stonewall organization has presented the Pride Festival and march, which has served as a testament to our progress in our ongoing journey. It is a place where advocacy and joy converge and a celebration of how far we have come, and yet a reminder of what lies ahead. This June, I ask that we commit ourselves to principles of equality, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Let’s remember this work extends beyond Pride Month. Each day offers a new opportunity to educate, support, and advocate for each other. With the continued support of our community leaders, like the Franklin County Commissioners, and our dedicated community, we can ensure that every voice is heard, and every story is valued. Thank you again for your participation and acknowledgment of Pride Month and your support for standing with us on this journey to a more inclusive society. Together, we will live out loud and move forward with pride. Thank you.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you, Densil.

Commissioner O’Grady: Thank you for being here. We celebrate Pride Month in June, but in Franklin County, we celebrate Pride 365 days a year. We appreciate you being here to remind us, and the public that June is Pride Month. This is a subject that is near and dear to my heart. We have friends and family members who are grateful for the advocacy, help, and inclusion of so many. We appreciate you being here to remind us of the hard work, effort, and dedication of a lot of people.

Commissioner Boyce: Densil, thank you so much for your leadership. Live. Out. Loud. is not just for the LGBTQ+ community; it really is for all of us to think about how we live and the values we all share. Martin King Jr. said it best when he said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” That is a philosophy we all should embrace and a value set that I think, as a county, we have embraced in my seven years here. The Pride parade and march is nice and probably the largest event that we do as a collective community. What I like most about it, it really is reflective of a value set in the region. As a person who grew up in Central Ohio, I have seen the Pride parade and have been a part of it most of my adult years, and my family and children have been a part of it. I think it is demonstrative of our growth. I think the county has stepped up its game every year to be a part of it, and it becomes more detailed and fun every year. It is more like a moving festival,

and moreover, it is a celebration for people to live out loud and the rest of us to support that idea and be a part of that, and let you know we are neighbors, friends, colleagues, and family members. Together, this is a demonstration of our value set as a community, and I love it. Thank you for what you represent and what you do.

Mr. Porteous: We want to see you all there and as you have said, it really is about seeing community members and people that support us and are in the community with us. We will be excited to receive you.

Commissioner Boyce: I know if Commissioner Crawley was here, she would say the same thing, and she is a supporter, and I know she would be out there.

Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator: I want to acknowledge the thoughtfulness and intentionality of the commissioners themselves, as a lesbian myself, it makes a big difference to be in a workforce and workplace that includes everyone. That comes from the top, but it also must come from the ground up. It matters for staff who are looking for a place to work and remain, and it also matters in the policies we have, so that every resident, every day, from the beginning of the time that they call a hotline or in line to work, they can bring their whole selves to our county whether it is through Job and Family Services, courts, whatever it is, you need to be able to bring your full self, and I would say the Pride parade is a joyous occasion, but sometimes it is the only place people can be themselves in that one moment, in that one space during the year while they are struggling in other aspects of their lives. It is joyous but also very meaningful, so thank you. Thank you, commissioners, for your ongoing commitment to making sure this is a space for everyone. It matters.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: I appreciate and am so excited about this month for several reasons. One of the things you think about “Live. Out. Loud.” and Commissioner Boyce touched on it, it is all of us to empower our friends so they can live out loud. If I can put out an extra challenge for those of you to go to lunch with someone who is part of the LGBTQI community, you can understand. We assume things about each other but this is an opportunity to have shared experiences or stories and really stand beside our friends so they can live out loud. I want to thank my colleague, Kris Long, publicly. The time when the county commissioners challenged us during Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was a yearlong exploration, and it was painful because I assumed, and I was wrong. There were things she taught me that I did not realize, and I ask each one of you to do the same.

Commissioner Boyce: Please join us at the dais to present a ceremonial resolution and some pictures.

Commissioner Boyce: Next, we’re proud to welcome Toni Cunningham, the President and CEO of Godman Guild, to help us recognize Godman’s 125th anniversary. Godman Guild provides programs that enhance social and economic mobility for our residents, including as a premier

provider of workforce development to help workers into thriving careers so that their families can climb the economic ladder. Welcome, Ms. Cunningham.

Ms. Cunningham, President and CEO, Godman Guild: Thank you, for having us and we appreciate the recognition. First, I would like to say that I have with me a team. You cannot do it alone, and we have been here for 125 years, including many people who have poured their lives into the organization. I want to recognize who I have with me today. I have my Chair and Vice-Chair of our board, John Kelly, and David White; I also have my senior leadership team with me today if you would stand, and then I invited our long-serving President and CEO, Miss Ellen Moss, and if you would stand and be recognized. We have been around 125 years and started in 1898 and the needs that were present then are still present today. We are excited as an organization that we have evolved to meet those needs, and I am proud to say that Franklin County has been with us most of that time over the last 40 years or so. You have been supportive of our organization, and we want to say thank you. More specifically, to the Department of Job and Family Services, who have been there for us. There are about 300 kids about to be on the campground at Camp Mary Orton in about 7 days, and you are a big part in ensuring that happens. We have workforce services and adult basic education, and we can come and be served with dignity and respect. We also support our new American community with services for ESOL [English for Speakers of Other Languages] and help people who come to our community to work, live, play, and have thriving careers. We are grateful for the support, and I must call out Justice Policy and Programs for supporting our youth. We aim to ensure the youth have healthy ways to reach goals, keep them alive, and keep them safe. We can do that through our teen program. They can come and learn in the summer and can have support year-round with schooling and choosing a patch, whether it is college or going into the workforce. We can guide them through that, and we appreciate that. It has been 100 years, and I am proud to say my grandmother received services at Godman Guild when she was a little girl and grew up in Fly Town. It is amazing for me now to lead this historic organization. A little bit about the future: We are a settlement house evolved, and we are still part of the settlement house community. Our values are rooted in settlement houses; however, we know that education and training are the pathway out of poverty, and we must be serious about that. We must go deep into that, and that is what we have chosen to do. In our next era, our goal is to ensure that individuals have all the tools they need to participate in the prosperity of our region. Economic independence, ability to raise families, have safe and secure housing. We want to be a part of helping them create that economic mobility and thriving careers. I tell people I want to help people get from livable wages to livable, thriving wages. We can be part of that entire journey and start at kindergarten. Kindergarten to career. We have programs and initiatives that, while they are educationally focused on our young people, are also talking to them about what they want to be when they grow up and helping them become the strong community members, we know they can be. We want to say thank you. We have one goal at our organization, and that is impact. We appreciate your support and the resources you provide to help us have a greater impact in Franklin County.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you, and congratulations. I want to thank you for the impact you have on families that are often on the ground floor of life, struggling to find a way. For myself, in my earlier years, we had a very difficult environment, and it was agencies like the Private Industry Council that provided me with my very first job and gave me both the soft skills as well as hard skills of being a part of the workforce. I think it holds true today. I was reminded of the impact of that when I saw what happened in Akron, Ohio, where 26 people were shot. I am not saying young

people are out there in that type of situation. However, I think often, a lack of resources that provide options and opportunities to grow in life sometimes are absent, maybe amplifying that type of life or situation. When you talk about what we are doing at Camp Mary Orton, that is important to families and kids who do not have all the resources to attend camps that cost more. I want to say to all of you, that you are on the ground floor of strengthening Central Ohio in a way that cannot be replaced. We are grateful for the partnership and investment, but more importantly, it is the young people and families that you provide resources to that make the difference. I did not want to overlook what this type of investment and partnership really means to families. I know Commissioner Crawley, if she was here, would be all over this too, and Commissioner O'Grady is passionate about these agencies. This is why I love my job as Franklin County Commissioner, because of these relationships. Thank you, Toni. Please join us at the dais to present a ceremonial resolution and some pictures.

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**Resolution No. 0460-24**, approving a contract with iLumia Innovations, LLC to provide implicit bias training for Court staff (Common Pleas Court – General Division) (\$35,000.00) (Court of Common Pleas), presented by Kimberly Canada, Director of Finance, Clerk of Common Pleas.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0460-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0461-24**, establishing, altering, and widening of Fisher Road, County Road No. 22, from Wilson Road, County Road No. 25 to Hague Avenue, County Road No. 66, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0461-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0462-24**, a preliminary allocation and final encumbrance of County Motor Vehicle License Fee (\$5) Funds for the City of Dublin (\$1,300,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0462-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0463-24**, requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Lockbourne Road, County Road No. 13, Hamilton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0463-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0464-24**, awarding contract and approving contract bond to The Shelly Company, for the 2024 Franklin County Township Resurfacing Program (\$5,304,206.76) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0464-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0465-24**, authorizing a supplemental appropriation within the Training Fund for the purchase of IT equipment for the Training Academy (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 O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0465-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0466-24**, authorizing a transfer of appropriations and a purchase order for the return of prisoners (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 O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0466-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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**Resolution No. 0449-24**, authorizing an agreement with Logicalis for the procurement of Cisco Webex Video Conferencing and Collaboration Phone Solution (\$46,345.04) (Franklin County Data Center), presented by Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Data Center.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0449-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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**Resolution No. 0467-24**, authorizing a non-general fund supplemental appropriation for expenditures to address issues related to digital equity and social isolation. (Office on Aging), presented by Laurice Cohens, Chief Financial Officer, Office on Aging.

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

*Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator, commended the Office on Aging for its innovative leadership in assisting the senior population and connecting seniors to what they need to give them happiness and not feel alone and isolated.*

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0467-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0468-24**, authorizing a grant agreement with Columbus Council on World Affairs for the youth empowerment within Franklin County through the Global Scholars Diploma Program (\$48,054.42) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Damika Withers, Director, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion, and Hannah Meyer, Vice-President, and Jessica Flowers, Director of Education, Columbus Council on World Affairs.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0468-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0469-24**, authorizing a Subrecipient Agreement with RAP Management LLC to partially fund the acquisition of a Recycling Equipment System (\$200,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0469-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0470-24**, authorizing a Grant Agreement with Short North Alliance, Inc. to support catalytic creative placemaking, programming, and storytelling initiatives (\$200,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning, and Betsy A. Pandora, Executive Director, Short North Alliance.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0470-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0471-24**, approving a contract with Advocacy and Communications Solutions, LLC for consultation services to support the integration of Board of Commissioners Health and Human Services agencies (\$394,800.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services, and Scarlett Boudier, President and Co-Founder, Advocacy and Communication Solutions, LLC.

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

*Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, thanked the commissioners and noted this was the people's plan and this one-door alignment for residents and noted they would start on an Aging Blueprint Plan.*

*Commissioner O'Grady noted that this discussion has panned several years, and it has been a team effort.*

*Commissioner Boyce discussed how the conversation about poverty and racism has not been a phase for the commissioners but an investment. He noted the need for patience as there are many pieces of the puzzle, and they are really trying to create an environment where people thrive, and expressed how great the work is and will continue to invest in this program.*



Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0471-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0472-24**, approving a subaward agreement with Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands, Inc. for college and career preparation programming (\$150,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services, and Melanie Cage, Executive Director, Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0472-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0473-24**, authorizing a subgrant award with Ours Brothers Keepers for community-based services for individuals diverted from the prison system and/or at high risk for future criminal justice involvement under the FY 2024 Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP) grant program. (\$75,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Deputy Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0473-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0474-24**, authorizing a professional service contract agreement with Dennis Sumlin for peer support and case management services for justice involved residents served through the Franklin County Rapid Resource Center (\$30,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Deputy Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0474-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 475-24**, authorizing three contracts with Guard & Associates, Denise Jones, and Aequitas for the purposes of training preparation, facilitation, and travel to provide a two-day training on Evidence-Based Prosecution in Domestic Violence and Strangulation cases with three subject matter experts in connection with the Blueprint for Safety Initiative (\$7,817.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Deputy Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0475-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0476-24**, authorizing supplemental appropriations for the support of grants for the prevention, treatment, and recovery from addiction utilizing funding from the OneOhio Opioid Settlement. (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Deputy Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0476-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 477-24**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$16,650,179.77) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Damika Withers, Director, Office of Diversity Equity Inclusion.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0477-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 478-24**, approving the First Addendum to the Tenant Improvement Agreement with REPSA, LLC and NMRD3 Limited, and Authorizing the County Administrator to take additional actions not inconsistent with this Resolution (\$2,203,783.51) (Board of Commissioners), presented by Jesse Armstrong, Deputy Director, Business, Claims, and Real Estate, Prosecutor's Office.

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

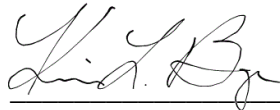
Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0478-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 A.M.

**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session for Tuesday, June 4, 2024.



9/24/2024

**KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT**



9/19/2024


**JOHN O'GRADY**



9/26/2024

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

Submitted by:



9/19/2024

**Brittany A. Razek,  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**

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