

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

August 15, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, August 15, 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; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, 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 O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:17 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: First up this morning, we have a special presentation from the County Auditor, Michael Stinziano. As you all may know, the Auditor's Office is responsible for determining property values for every property in Franklin County. The new 2023 valuations have been announced, and Auditor Stinziano is here to let us know a little bit about that process and how homeowners can learn more about their property value and how to appeal it if they feel it is incorrect.

Michael Stinziano, Auditor, Auditor's Office: We are required by Ohio law to review all properties across Franklin County, which the office has done. A week ago, we made these valuations available on the Auditor's website, where we have a one-stop shop forum called the Know Your Home Value Forum. Every property owner can look there to see the Auditor's tentative value. Please visit the website to learn about that tentative value. When you receive that tentative value, it is a reflection of recent sales and other factors and components in your neighborhood. When property owners reflect on that value, we ask that they think about if they were to see their property today, is this the value they would sell it for? If it is, you do not need to do anything further. That tentative value will carry forward in December and become the final value. The Treasurer will use that when she sends out the property tax bills.

Mr. Stinziano (cont.): If you are a property owner who feels the value is inaccurate, you have options. Currently, you can schedule an in-person or virtual property value review meeting. We will have 11 sites with 21 meeting times in September for any property owner to provide information, including photos, third-party appraisals, and other sales happening in the neighborhood, to educate and work with our office to ensure that we have the accurate value. If you do not want to have a meeting, you can also submit this documentation to our office for review. We do not give a final determination for any document submissions or any property value review meetings at that time, but we will work with the Ohio Department of Taxation so that we can contact the property owners in December and tell them the final determination. Again, that is what the Treasurer will use when she sends out her property tax bill. In addition to the information available online, you should receive a physical copy of the Auditor's tentative value for your property in the mail. The mailer has a lot of great information about how we establish the value and the steps to move forward if you disagree with the value. We encourage all property owners to understand that this is an important process. When you go to the Know Your Home Value website, we have a tax calculator that provides a range of your estimated property value taxes because we do not know the final values at this time. A caveat is that that is a reflection of where we are right now in the property owner's taxing district. We cannot foresee the future and are unsure of what will and will not pass on the November ballot that could have implications and impacts on property taxes. The website also lets you see what your neighbors' tentative values are. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this update on this important process that is impacting all property owners. Joining me today is our Special Project Coordinator, Nate Shipman, who is working on all things related to the mass reappraisal. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Commissioner Boyce: What is the average increase? What does our region look like compared to other regions in terms of values?

Mr. Stinziano: On average, property values are increasing 41% across the county. Some communities, such as Whitehall, will see a larger increase, and some communities, such as Grandview, will see a smaller increase. What is important is not just the value increase, but also what is going on in terms of the real estate market in those communities. Whitehall continues to be a very competitive and very attractive area in which those who have bought properties in the last three years will see a great return on investment if they were to sell. Their median sale is still less than \$200,000.00. We want to be able to tell that complete story. Outside of Franklin County and all across the state of Ohio, all County Auditors are seeing historic increases in property values. This is reflective of the perfect storm that we are seeing with historic population growth, great economic opportunities, and lack of housing.

Commissioner O'Grady: Is this just residential properties? Are commercial properties included?

Mr. Stinziano: These are all properties.

Commissioner O'Grady: So, a business owner can follow all of the same advice you have provided?

Mr. Stinziano: Correct. We actually have a dedicated commercial spot at the King Art Complex for business owners to ask questions and have meetings. The residential property values are the ones increasing by an average of 41%; the residential values are increasing at a lower percentage. Commercial properties are very unique; no commercial property is similar. We always encourage and appreciate the engagement from business owners to offer advice on what we do not know when we are establishing their property values.

Commissioner Crawley: I know you have been out in the community a lot, trying to educate our neighbors about the changes in the values, so I really appreciate that.

Commissioner O'Grady: This certainly is not something to be fearful of. If your property value is increased, that can be a very good thing. Go online and learn about your property value and the property values of the homes around you.

Mr. Stinziano: We look forward to hearing from property owners, and they can always email me at [auditorstinziano@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:auditorstinziano@franklincountyohio.gov), or call the dedicated line for the mass reappraisal at 614-525-3388.

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Commissioner O'Grady: We also have a special guest this morning to talk about the fact that August is National Black Business Month. It's never easy to start or operate one's own business, and minority-owned businesses face additional challenges due to hundreds of years of historical inequities. Nationwide, about 10% of all businesses are Black-owned, and here in Franklin County, we work hard to support them and other small and emerging business enterprises by making sure that the companies that we do business with as a county with reflect the diversity of our community. Here to tell us a little more about National Black Business Month is Ronda Barber, Publisher of OhioMBE, and the Chief Executive Officer for the Ohio Business Development Center.

Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion: We appreciate Ms. Barber being here to highlight National Black Business Month. The Commissioners have ensured that Black businesses have opportunities in the construction academy and procurement opportunities for contracting and funding. OhioMBE has been an excellent partner for Franklin County, so we are glad to have Ms. Barber here today.

Ronda Barber, Publisher of OhioMBE, and Chief Executive Officer, Ohio Business Development Center: OhioMBE is the state's largest Black-owned business newspaper. We provide access to contracting opportunities, particularly for Black-owned businesses. I am also the Founder of the Ohio Business Development Center, where we offer professional business services to small businesses in Central Ohio. We are really excited about Black Business Month, which acknowledges Black-owned businesses and their contributions to our community, particularly the economic empowerment that Black businesses bring.

Ms. Barber (cont.): As we celebrate Black Business Month, I would like to publicly thank the Franklin County Commissioners and Administrator Wilson for their intentional support of Black businesses. The work and the legislation you have passed make a difference for Black-owned businesses. This support is life-changing; it is helping to create wealth, creating jobs, and helping to grow and foster dreams. I want to thank you on behalf of the Black businesses that I support and humbly serve. Black people have always been entrepreneurial. E.E. Ward Moving and Storage is the oldest Black-owned business in America, and they were started right here in Columbus in 1881 as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Black people have always been engaged in commerce. According to the SBA, black businesses generate \$141 billion each year in annual sales. That is a lot of money, and that is a lot of power. As we recognize Black Business Month, I encourage everyone to utilize Black businesses regularly. We do everything. From healthcare, social work, repairs, and personal and beauty care to eateries, Black businesses can serve your needs. I encourage everyone to promote Black businesses. Give a positive review and share your good experiences on social media. Make a recommendation to your fraternity, sorority, church, or place of employment to actively engage Black businesses in your purchasing scheme. Show grace for some Black businesses. For many microenterprises, this is their first go-around at starting a business. They have not had the legacy and apprenticeship of running a business, where the Ohio Business Development Center jumps in to help. Put your money in our Black bank and support one another because economic empowerment is really important for our community. I have a mission to wake up every morning and figure out how to foster a good climate for Black businesses to work and engage here in Central Ohio, and I take that very seriously.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you for being an advocate for Black businesses. As a business owner, myself, I know the value of community engagement and working together. For many businesses, it is not just because they are Black, but they often have talents, resources, and skills that other companies may not have. You just have to give them a chance and consideration. Your collaborative efforts to bring folks together are critical. With my own company, we have been working nationally with a group in New York on a few things. Through this process, I have noticed that in places with a local convener such as yourself, Black businesses typically do the best. Keep up the great work. We value and appreciate your leadership.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for being here and always supporting and advocating for Black people and businesses. I am lucky to serve on this Board with two colleagues who understand the impact of the pandemic on Black businesses. Historically, Black businesses and entrepreneurs often do not have the same access to resources as our counterparts. When it comes to getting business loans, the interest rates are higher for Black people, and there are a lot of hurdles. At the height of the George Floyd uprisings, people learned about how deep racism is in this country. People learned about the Black businesses that burned down in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and what that meant. Generational wealth went along with those businesses. Even now, we see that there are survivors of that time who have lawsuits pending in those places to be made whole. The Mayor is opposed to settling with those families. You can see how his political career, his father's political career, his grandfather's political career, and so on, as well as the fact that he is a business owner, has impacted his ability to be where he is, but you see an opposite and negative impact for those businesses that were impacted in the same place.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): When we talk about generational wealth, being able to provide, and moving up an economic mobility ladder, having access to resources and supporting and sustaining Black businesses has to be a priority. I am happy to continue to support Black businesses, not just this month but every month. Thank you for your support, and my colleagues and administration for always supporting small and minority businesses, especially Black businesses.

Commissioner O'Grady: Those of us who are from Columbus like to brag about Columbus and Franklin County and talk about how great this place is, but we also have to remember that if we are going to be as great as we want to be, we have to think about all of Columbus, all of Franklin County, and all of Central Ohio. We cannot be a great example unless we include everybody. We cannot be the most prosperous community in the country unless everyone is prosperous. We cannot just create wealth for some people; we have to create wealth for everyone. I want to thank you for the work that you are doing because it is really important. We appreciate you being a great partner of ours.

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**Resolution No. 0611-23**, authorizing the State Fiscal Year 2024 Juvenile Court Grant Agreement and Funding Application with the State of Ohio, Department of Youth Services (\$4,597,129.36) (Domestic Relations), presented by Barb Reeves, Deputy Director, Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0611-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0612-23**, authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation in the Special Food Fund to support program operations (Domestic Relations), presented by Barb Reeves, Deputy Director, Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0612-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0613-23**, authorizing the acceptance of a Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant "Franklin Cty. Forensic Science Improvement" to purchase laboratory supplies, offset increased opioid-related testing costs, reduce the forensic toxicology backlog, and expand the

testing scope (\$45,145.49) (Coroner), presented by Dan Baker, Chief Toxicologist, Coroner's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0613-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0614-23**, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing detailed engineering services for the Leppert Road 1.48 Shared-Use Path Bridge over Hayden Run, Norwich Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$174,362.00) (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 0614-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0615-23**, awarding contract and approving contract bond to CAP-STONE & Associates, Inc. for the Elmore Avenue Sidewalk Improvements (\$565,546.00) (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 0615-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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**Resolution No. 0618-23**, authorizing a Real Estate Purchase Agreement between the Board of Commissioners and the Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Board (Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Board), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0618-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0619-23**, authorizing a transfer of fund for the procurement of an upgrade of the IBM iSeries platform (\$729,460.00) (Franklin County Data Center), presented by Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Data Center.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0619-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0620-23**, authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant Extension with Franklin County Public Health to address health disparities and advance adoption of the Health and Equity in All Policies policy (\$250,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships, and Joe Mazzola, Health Commissioner, Franklin County Public Health.

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

*A discussion ensued regarding the specific changes that will be made as a result of the Health and Equity in All Policies policy. The link between this resolution and Franklin County's adverse childhood events (ACEs) work was also discussed. Commissioner Crawley asked for a list of organizations that had received mini-grants at the ACEs Summit to illustrate how different streams of funding are connected to achieve the goals of the county. Administrator Wilson asked if a portion of these funds would be allocated to fund the position of Associate Director of Equity and Inclusion at Franklin County Public Health, to which Mr. Mazzola replied in the affirmative. Mr. Mazzola noted that two of the priorities of the Community Health Improvement Plan are racial equity and maternal and infant health.*

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0620-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0621-23**, authorizing a one-year grant agreement with the Center for Healthy Families in support of Day of the Girl (\$175,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships, and Toshia Safford, President and Chief Executive Officer, Center for Healthy Families.

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

*Three members of the Black Girls' and Young Women's Collective Summer 2023 Intern program offered brief remarks. Ms. Safford highlighted some of the details of the internship program. The Commissioners and Administrator Wilson offered brief remarks.*

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0621-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0622-23**, authorizing a funding agreement with the Ohio Department of Health to support a tuberculosis detection and treatment program and administer medically approved courses of treatment in the management of individuals diagnosed with tuberculosis (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0622-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0623-23**, adopting the 2023 Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Annual Action Plan (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Carolyn Thurman, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

*Commissioner Crawley asked if the Annual Action Plan required the allowance for public comment, to which Ms. Thurman responded in the affirmative and stated that public meetings had already taken place. Genee' Cosby, Community Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning, noted that community engagement and attendance at these meetings was lower than they wished to see at this point. Commissioner Crawley asked if there was a plan to engage the community to receive more feedback. Ms. Thurman stated that future public meetings are scheduled to receive community feedback.*

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0623-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0624-23**, authorizing the acceptance of an administrative amendment to an Award and Acceptance Form in receipt of the FY 2023 Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) grant from the Ohio Attorney General's Office (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0624-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.



**Resolution No. 0625-23**, authorizing a subgrant award with For My W.I.S.H. Foundation for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programming under the FY 2020 Title V Community Prevention Block Grant (\$70,000.00) (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0625-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0626-23**, authorizing professional service contract agreements with Joshua Wiseman, Ryann Bethel and Lisa Burgess for peer support and case management services for justice involved residents served through the Franklin County Rapid Resource Center and Pre-Release MAT Programs (\$120,000.00) (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0626-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0627-23**, authorizing the County Administrator to execute a modification to the contract agreement with ESI, Inc. to perform additional electrical activities associated with the construction of the Franklin County Corrections Center Continuation Phase 2A in the amount of the contract not to exceed \$517,026.00 and authorizing the County Administrator to approve and execute additional minor modifications to the contract agreement (\$13,035,606.00) (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 0627-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0628-23**, modifying the current Contract with Standard Insurance Company and authorizing the County Administrator to execute administrative documents related to the life insurance program (Human Resources), presented by Laura Repasky, Director, Human Resources.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0628-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0629-23**, authorizing an Agreement with the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University for graduate student assistantships (\$132,705.00) (Human Resources), presented by Laura Repasky, Director, Human Resources.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0629-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0630-23**, authorizing contracts with four (4) Staff Uniform providers for use by any Franklin County agency, court, Board or Commission (\$380,000.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0630-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0631-23**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies. (\$7,179,651.85) (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0631-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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**Resolution No. 0616-23**, authorizing execution of a 60-month lease agreement with CSC ServiceWorks, Inc. for laundry equipment at the James A. Karnes Corrections Center (\$84,026.40) (Sheriff), presented by David M. Masterson, Director, Administrative Services, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0616-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0617-23**, authorizing a maintenance agreement with Metals Treatment Technologies, LLC for bullet trap cleaning and lead abatement at the Sheriff's Office firing range (\$38,545.00) (Sheriff), presented by David M. Masterson, Director, Administrative Services, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0617-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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**Resolution No. 0632-23**, authorizing a Maternal Health Symposium in Franklin County on August 23, 2023 to raise awareness of increasingly poor maternal health outcomes and the disparities in outcomes that exist among White, Black, and other women of color (Board of Commissioners), presented by Tyler Lowry, Director, Public Affairs.

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

*Commissioner Crawley provided brief comments about maternal mortality and morbidity and encouraged everyone to attend the symposium.*

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0632-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0633-23**, authorizing Franklin County to participate as a Tech Hubs Consortium Member in support of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Organization's application to the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for the Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hubs) Program (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 0633-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 A.M.

**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 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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