

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

September 13, 2022

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

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

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; 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 9:12 A.M.

Commissioner Crawley: I want to take a moment to reflect on the anniversary of the deadliest terror attack on US soil. While families of 9/11 victims gathered on Sunday to commemorate their loved ones, I was reminded of our duty to educate new generations on the impacts and sacrifices of that day. May we never forget what transpired: an inhumane attack that resulted in the loss of 2,977 lives and 6,000 injuries; it prompted entry into a new war; transformed our national security, transportation, and government defense; and deeply affected all Americans in profound and far-reaching ways. As Americans, Ohioans, and residents of Franklin County it is our obligation to recall the shared sacrifices of so many, then and now – and to honor their memory in the work we do. We are a resilient nation when we are united, and it's up to every American who gets up each day and lives our lives – without fear and in pursuit of justice, equality, and liberty – to remember those who rushed into danger 21 years ago. How we conduct ourselves as individuals, as a community, and as a nation, is an opportunity to live up to the sacrifice of all the heroes that were lost that day. I usually speak on every anniversary of 9/11 at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum and at the Statehouse. This year, I was unable to go to the Veterans Memorial due to a conflict. I talk about being on active duty in the Navy that day. What called me to serve in the first place was a terrorist attack that occurred in October of 2000 in Yemen. Two people in a little boat came up to the USS Cole and blew a hole in the side of the ship, and we lost Sailors that day. I enlisted in the Navy in October and left for basic training in December of 2000. On September 11, 2001, I had just gotten off of watch at 5:00 A.M., and I was drinking my coffee and watching the news like I do every morning, and I witnessed the breaking news that the first plane had hit one of the Twin Towers.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): Like all of us, what I was doing on that day and at that time will forever be etched into my memory. I remember going back to watch that day. I was supporting all communication assets for the whole Atlantic Fleet, and I was proud of the work that my fellow Sailors and others did to move ships out of port and into the water within just a couple of hours, which was a Herculean effort. As I am proud to have been a service member at that time and then later for going into war for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, I also think about the people who rushed into danger on that day. I think about those first responders who went to the buildings to try to save as many lives as possible. I think about the heroes who were on the plane and tried to take back their plane, which ultimately went down in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. I think about the people we lost in the Pentagon, but also the folks who just got up like any other normal day to go to work or to travel and would never come home again. I will never forget, and I know my colleagues on this Board will never forget, and we will always honor the lives of those who left us that day. One final thing that I would like to say is that during that time after 9/11, we absolutely did come together as a country. It wasn't Republicans and Democrats; it wasn't red and blue; it was one nation. I would love to see that unity again without tragedy. I think that it is needed today. At that time, we looked at our country, and we were vulnerable, and there was a threat to our liberty and our freedom, and we are having those same conversations today. It is my hope for the future of this country that we can come together with one shared vision without needing to have a tragedy first.

Commissioner O'Grady: When 9/11 happened, I was here at the courthouse. I was the Clerk of Courts, and we were in our Senior Staff meeting that morning in a conference room with no windows. A knock came at the door, and we were told about the first plane that hit the first tower. When we heard that the second plane had struck the other tower, we knew something was seriously wrong. We immediately left the meeting and jumped into action to figure out how to address this as administrators. We began working with County Administration and the Commissioners. I thought the County handled the situation very well. We went to skeleton staff so that the majority of the staff could go home and be with their families. People were very worried because the plane that ended up crashing in Shanksville was near Cleveland, and there was concern over what the target of that plane was. I make sure to have a conversation with my kids every year about 9/11 because they were either too young to remember what happened that day, or they were not born yet. We talk about the importance of remembering the day. I was really proud to be an elected official and a member of the County team back then because everyone jumped into action. We were able to keep the office open so that we could serve the County, but we were also able to allow folks to be with their families. It is just another example of Franklin County Government responding and dealing with something that nobody had ever dealt with before, just like over the last few years, when we have been responding to and dealing with the pandemic.

//

Commissioner Crawley: Anyone that knows me knows that I take every opportunity to be a passionate advocate for better mental health care. And with that in mind, September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Too often, residents are experiencing a suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress without the proper care and support they need.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): Sadly, the pandemic made a bad situation worse when it came to mental wellness. There are numerous urgent realities driving the need for mental crisis intervention, but with the launch of a new, easy-to-remember suicide lifeline available 24/7/365, there is hope. As of this summer, if you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, in a substance use crisis, or experiencing emotional distress, help is available from a trained counselor by calling or texting 988 or chatting at 988lifeline.org. 988 serves as a universal point of entry so that no matter where you live in the United States, you can reach a crisis professional. Studies show that most callers feel significantly less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more optimistic after speaking with a mental health counselor. It is my goal to ensure that every resident has access to the resources and help they need to not just survive but mentally succeed and thrive. So please remember 988 when you or a loved one is in need of mental health support. For more information about this and other mental health support resources visit the National Alliance on Mental Illness website at nami.org. We also have our CredibleMind platform, which is always a resource. I just want to underscore that we do not always know what it looks like when someone is struggling with suicidal thoughts and ideations. Someone could be smiling, laughing, and joking, or they could be sad and depressed. You never know, so I always ask people to be kind to others and to give grace. It is okay to not be okay, but please seek help if you need it.

//

Commissioner Crawley: Also, this morning, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and mark the contributions of our more than 75,000 Franklin County Hispanic friends and neighbors. Our residents represent a growing population of individuals; 5% in Ohio and 17% of the country identify with their Spanish-speaking heritage. Starting September 15th and running through October 15th, we recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month by highlighting the impact our Hispanic communities have on the history, culture, and traditions of our country. This month marks a time the people and businesses of this community are encouraged to celebrate their roots and origins. To learn more about how you can participate and celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month in Central Ohio, go to the Ohio Hispanic Coalition's webpage at www.ohiohispaniccoalition.org. The Ohio Hispanic Coalition, located at 1535 Bethel Road in Columbus, was a recipient of the Franklin County Community Funding Initiative for 2022. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners proudly recognizes the unity of all Hispanic people and their contributions to this great country on the eve of Hispanic Heritage Month. I wish everyone a joyful celebration.

//

Commissioner Crawley: Last but not least, for our recognitions, we have National Service Dog Month. National Service Dog Month is celebrated every September and takes place to show appreciation for our four-legged friends who play an important and significant role in the lives of our friends and neighbors.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): Service dogs are more than just pets since they have been trained to take care of humans suffering from certain ailments, disabilities, or mental health issues. Their sole purpose is to aid their companion and make their lives easier and more accessible. This is why it is important to honor these hard-working pups by recognizing and acknowledging their immeasurable contributions. Here to help show our appreciation for service dogs in Franklin County is Auditor Stinziano's, Director of Consumer Services, Malika Bartlett. Thanks for being with us this morning, Malika. Please join us at the podium if you'd like to share anything further about National Service Dog Month.

Malika Bartlett, Director of Consumer Services, Auditor's Office: Thank you for allowing me to represent Auditor Stinziano. September is Service Dog Awareness Month, and these dogs do good things for great people. The things that they do are incredible, and I can only imagine how special it would be to receive one of these dogs if I needed one. The dogs are trained for months on end, and not all dogs make the cut. Sometimes, a dog is just a pet, and other times, it is a superhero. On behalf of the Auditor's Office, I thank you for your time.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for the work that you all do and for recognizing service animals. They are literally life-saving. We would like to present you and your office with a resolution from my colleagues and me and get a photo with you and the others here from the Auditor's team.

//

Approval of the minutes for the August 30, 2022, General Session; and the September 1, 2022, Briefing Session. Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0656-22, authorizing contracts for attendance services with Canal Winchester, Gahanna-Jefferson, Groveport Madison, Hilliard, New Albany Plain Local, Reynoldsburg and South Western City Schools (\$220,598.00) (Domestic Relations), presented by Julie Troth, Supervisor, Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0656-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0657-22, report (12th) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Elliott Road and Hayden Run Road Drainage Improvement project, Brown Township and Washington Township, Franklin

County, Ohio (\$7,222.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0657-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0658-22, preliminary allocation of County Motor Vehicle License Fee (\$5) Funds for the City of Worthington (\$448,500.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0658-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0659-22, awarding contract and approving contract bond to Miller Bros. Const., Inc; for the Rohr Road at London-Groveport Road (SR-317) Roundabout (\$4,229,793.99) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0659-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0660-22, awarding contract and approving contract bond to Miller Cable Company; for the Traffic Signal Installation 2022 (\$670,250.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0660-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0661-22, authorizing a contract with Franklin County Children Services for police protection at its office locations within Franklin County (\$1,510,000.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0661-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0662-22, authorizing a one-year Software as a Service agreement with Cordico, Inc. (\$49,929.26) (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 O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0662-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0663-22, authorizing supplemental appropriations for election related expenses from the May and August Primaries (Board Of Elections), presented by Antone White, Director, Board of Elections.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0663-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0664-22, authorizing a contract with BOLDplanning, Inc. for the delivery of a Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) plan and plan software module (\$38,488.00) (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 O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0664-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0665-22, authorizing the execution of a subgrant agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to receive funds under a pass-through grant to enhance

visitation (parenting time) between children and non-custodial parents (\$45,000.00) (Child Support Enforcement), presented by Susan Brown, Director, Child Support Enforcement.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0665-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0666-22, authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant to the Affordable Housing Trust of Columbus and Franklin County to assist in establishing the Emerging Developers Accelerator Program (\$5,000,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Community Partnerships.

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

Lark T. Mallory, Esq., President and Chief Executive Officer, Affordable Housing Trust of Columbus and Franklin County: Commissioners, thank you for twenty years of partnership with us. As you know, during those twenty years, we have made loans in excess of \$26 million for over 200 projects, creating over 13,000 affordable housing units. While we all know that affordable housing is at the forefront of the conversation, we also know that there is a lack of diversity in the developer ranks. This program is specifically designed to provide education to women and people of color and also to provide access to capital. We expect that the grant from the County will be essentially run in the same way as your Capital Magnet Fund grants, but it will be focused on smaller developers of diverse backgrounds. We expect them to bring on more small units; we do not expect them to immediately build us a hundred units. But they will increase our density in the area, and we also know that that is a hindrance to the number of units we can bring online. The initial cohort has started, and we already have several projects from them under consideration for loans right now.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you, President Mallory. I am excited about the program, and I have supported it since its conception. Thank you for being bold enough to be innovative, especially in this space and at this point in time. I have two questions. How many people do you currently have in your initial cohort? How many cohorts are you anticipating over the years of the program?

Ms. Mallory: Our cohort is designed for fifteen people. Since this is our first, we only selected ten people. Part of the reason we want a smaller class is so that we can have a lot of one-on-one time with each individual in the cohort. We are supporting the educational aspects of the program with a grant from JPMorgan Chase. This grant from the County will be specifically for units. To answer your second question, we expect to have two cohorts per year.

Commissioner O'Grady: Thank you, President Mallory. As you said, we have had a partnership with the Affordable Housing Trust for twenty years. We appreciate this particular grant because while we have a large shortfall of affordable housing that we need to address, we also need to address the diversity issues. This is important, and I am glad we are getting this off the ground.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0666-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0667-22, authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant to Service! to assist low-income hospitality workers in Franklin County alleviate immediate financial burdens, provide training opportunities, and ensure sustainability and equity in the workplace (\$50,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Community Partnerships.

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

Matthew Heaggans, Co-Founder and Advisory Board Member, Service!: Thank you for your continued partnership and assistance. The work that we have been doing at the Café Overlook has been transformative for a lot of the people participating. We are excited to use this additional support to continue to move forward with our original mission of Service!, which is to provide emergency relief and professionalization of our industry.

Sangeeta Lakhani, Executive Director, Service!: We really appreciate this partnership. There are people outside of the people that we work with in this industry in Franklin County that have already been in the industry for years and that are lacking the support that they need. We see a lot of emergency hardships in this industry. If we can use this grant to raise funding for the existing workforce and give them the support that they need on an ongoing basis, that would be really helpful to shift this industry.

Commissioner Crawley: Especially when it comes to Café Overlook, it has been a labor of love for you all. Deputy County Administrator Long has kept us all up to date on the successes, the challenges, and the continued conversation to ensure that the workers are supported and that you all are supported. I rave about the food, the customer service, and this workforce development program. I am excited that we have this partnership, and I am happy to continue to support you all, as well as the employees, who come from all different backgrounds and experience all kinds of challenges, just like our neighbors here that we try to support every day.

Commissioner O'Grady: I cannot say enough about Café Overlook. I do not say this often, but when I saw the request for \$50,000 for Service!, I thought you were not asking for enough money. So, when you come back next time, you need to ask for more.

Commissioner O'Grady (cont.): As a former restaurant owner, I pay very close attention to your industry, and I know what the pandemic has done to your industry. I know how much business owners and employees are hurting right now, and I understand the need in the community across the board. What you are doing with Service!, and this funding is tremendous and much-needed. We are rooting for you and hoping for your success.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: This is a transformational partnership. Even though we are only five months in, we have learned a lot of lessons. As County Administrator, this is one of the things that I am proud to have been a part of creating because it is really going to continue to bear fruit. The employees are learning skills that help with the community's economic growth, but also help them grow as individuals. The hospitality industry is a key industry in Franklin County. This weekend, we will be hosting over 4,000 guests for the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Conference. With the second Hilton tower opening, there will be hundreds of new hospitality workers needed. We have had at least one person that graduated from this program and will be working in one of the three new restaurants in the Hilton tower at 402 N. High Street. Any positive work is hard, so I appreciate the patience that you have had with County Administration as we ask questions and make suggestions.

Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator: We will be back in front of you soon with another Café Overlook-specific resolution. I just wanted to reiterate that while Service! is involved in both resolutions, this resolution that we are presenting today is for the underlying work that the hospitality workers are doing. I have learned through the process of working with Service! about the transformational work that Mr. Heaggans, Ms. Lakhani, and Ms. Pugh are trying to do to make the service industry survive and thrive. They are also working to educate all of us that it is not possible to get a really great burger for \$1.99 and have it be locally sourced and healthy. Thank you for your support for this labor of love.

Commissioner O'Grady: The work that you have been doing at Café Overlook, but particularly what you have been doing with Service! is crucial to the industry, and it is crucial that you are setting this example. Like many of the other things that we do in Franklin County government, we will be able to use this as a template to show others that this is something that can be done in other places, as well.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0667-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0668-22, authorizing a Grant Agreement with IMPACT Community Action to provide Rental and Utility Assistance to Residents in Franklin County (\$10,000,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Jenny Snapp, Chief Operating Officer, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Shameikia Smith, Vice President of Housing Programs, IMPACT Community Action: We have a great partner in Jenny Snapp. She is a true champion in the fight. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve our neighbors in Franklin County. IMPACT's mandate is to fight poverty. What we have seen throughout this pandemic is that our community neighbors and their families need assistance as they attempt to navigate the "new normal." Since March of 2020, we have had the privilege of serving 30,000 neighbors with Emergency Rental Assistance and utility assistance. The cost of everything around us has increased, including the cost of living, and Emergency Rental Assistance gives our neighbors the ease of returning to work and school, while also maintaining the necessity of housing. We want to see our neighbors not only survive this pandemic but also thrive. Every day in our offices, we see over eighty neighbors who are in need. Our neighbors deserve housing and opportunities that maintain stability and prevent homelessness. IMPACT Community Action stands ready to serve.

Commissioner O'Grady: We always appreciate the partnership with IMPACT. We have been partnering for quite some time, and over the last couple of years, it has continued to increase. We appreciate everything that you do.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for all that you continue to do. Thank you, Jenny, for always being a champion in this space. Commissioner O'Grady and I were at the White House last week talking about ARPA dollars. I had the opportunity to sit on a panel and discuss what we are doing here in Franklin County with ARPA dollars. One of the things that I got to highlight and have a conversation about is our Emergency Rental Assistance and how we are using it in multiple different ways, including Franklin County RISE and IMPACT. Originally, when ERA dollars were first available, the media was saying that folks could not get the funds out quickly enough and the money would have to be returned. We see how Franklin County, working with organizations like IMPACT, put the infrastructure in place to be able to support families. We did everything that needed to be done to get the dollars out to ensure that folks were not falling into homelessness. We know that sometimes families are just one flat tire or one health crisis away from spiraling and being unhoused. We thank the State for reallocating these dollars to us to be able to continue to support our neighbors and our families. "Every resident, every day" is on our wall, and we live by that. We make sure that our residents don't just survive, but absolutely thrive. Thank you for getting this money out to support our families and keep them in their homes.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: I would like to echo the comments made regarding the value of our partnership with IMPACT. The whole program has been a lifesaver for families. There are 2,600 families that have been served with ARPA dollars, and you are looking to double that with this reallocation of funds, so that over 5,000 families will ultimately be served, depending on the amount of each grant. Your efforts and impact do not end there.

Mr. Wilson (cont.): IMPACT is a partner in many other tremendous programs that give people living wage jobs and provide them with the infrastructure to thrive. We value this partnership and look forward to continuing to work with you all.

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0668-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0669-22, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached “Discharge of MORTGAGE” instrument for Adrian Mathew Dulin at 3021 Upton Road E, Columbus, OH 43232 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0669-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0670-22, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached “Discharge of MORTGAGE” instrument for Daniel Ghirmasion at 3033 Glenshaw Ave., Columbus, OH 43231 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0670-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0671-22, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached “Discharge of MORTGAGE” instrument for Sharon A. Rife at 4965 Astoria Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0671-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0672-22, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached “Discharge of MORTGAGE” instrument for Chad Anderson and Lauren M. Young aka Lauren Anderson at 4752 Glengate Drive, Columbus, OH 43232 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0672-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0673-22, approving a COVID-19 Recovery Grant with the City of Columbus, Office of the Mayor, CelebrateOne for the Health Equity Innovation and Birth Centers Initiative (\$121,008.11) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Whitney Gordon, Project Manager, CelebrateOne Health Equity Innovation and Birthing Centers: Birth centers are defined as a space and a model of care which typically extend across preconception, prenatal, labor, birth, postpartum, and newborn periods. Studies have found that birth center benefits include lower pre-term birth rates, lower C-section rates, higher birth rates, and higher breastfeeding rates. Additionally, regarding racial disparities, studies have found that birth center care is most associated with the reduction of negative outcomes and an increase in positive outcomes for Black mothers. To date, CelebrateOne has created an integrative review document of the most current medical literature on birth centers to share internally, as well as with our key partners, to increase collaborative learning. We have met with several birth center leaders across the country to better understand internal operations, outcomes, and client demographics, as well as to identify common threads in their successes and barriers. We share knowledge and initial plans with our key partners and stakeholders to obtain their feedback and help connect the dots. We are currently in the process of scheduling in-person site visits with exemplary birth center models in the Midwest region.

Ashon McKenzie, Director of Research, Policy, Strategy, and Planning, CelebrateOne Health Equity Innovation and Birthing Centers: We truly appreciate the support in this area, and I want to note a few of the other areas in which we have appreciated the County’s support. You have been supporting us in our Safe Sleep communication efforts, which has been vital in allowing us to share this information in a variety of ways. You support us in the distribution of cribs; we have distributed more than 1,100 cribs so far, and we are on track to distribute approximately 1,900 this year, which will be the greatest amount that we have ever distributed. We do that in partnership with Columbus Public Health.

Mr. McKenzie (cont.): Additionally, we have been able to train nearly 650 Safe Sleep Ambassadors, and we are on track to train around 1,000 this year, which will also be the largest number of ambassadors that we have trained. Finally, you support us in our Teen Reproductive Health Education efforts. We are currently in some Columbus City Schools, but with your continued support, we will be in all Columbus City Middle Schools. We recently got reports back from our peer reproductive health education program, and over the summer, that has provided more than 660 hours of comprehensive training to peers. The peers are largely high school students. In total, we have reached more than 21,000 people with the information they have received.

Commissioner Crawley: I do have a couple of questions. Ms. Gordon mentioned a report that was shared internally and with key stakeholders. Is the County a key stakeholder, and has that report been shared with us? I would love to see it.

Ms. Turner: We will make sure that that report gets to your office.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you. The other question that I have is about the Innovation HUB model and any partnership that you are having with the Ohio Office of Minority Health. The director has been all across the state in implementing the HUB model, and I am just wondering what that partnership looks like. I understand that she gets grants from the State to help locals with the HUB model.

Mr. McKenzie: The HUB that we are referring to is a little bit different from the Pathways Community HUB, which is supported by the Office of Minority Health. This model is actually a community engagement model for working to plan for a specific geographic area, and working with the residents of that neighborhood, other city and local government structures, and service providers, to ensure that all of the services and support are accessible to the folks within that community. It is a brand new approach that adds some innovative strategies to further support communities. Separately, we do work with a number of Pathways Community HUB providers in the community, and most heavily with Physicians Care Connection.

Commissioner Crawley: I am excited to learn more about this new model and how it impacts our families here. I am looking forward to continuing to support the work that you all do.

Commissioner O'Grady: As Chair of the Large Urban County Caucus for NACo, we have been focusing on the issue of infant mortality. When did we start all of this work with the Infant Mortality Task Force?

Mr. McKenzie: That was in 2014.

Commissioner O'Grady: Can we get an estimate of how much money the County has invested over the last several years towards this cause?

Ms. Turner: I believe we have invested somewhere around \$5 million.

Mr. Wilson: We joined this year after we had spent a five-year period in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital Better Birth Outcomes, and I believe that was a \$7 million investment.

Commissioner O'Grady: That was back in 2010 or 2011.

Mr. Wilson: Yes. So, this has probably been roughly a decade-long effort, at least. In total, a conservative estimate is around \$15 million dollars invested toward this cause through our various efforts. We have been investing on multiple levels. We had a comprehensive communications campaign over a number of years, which promoted Safe Sleep and other safe practices with the goal of getting each child to their first birthday. We have also looked at comprehensive efforts to improve maternal health within Columbus Neighborhood Health Center. That is in addition to the investments that we are talking about now. You all have been champions in funding these efforts.

Commissioner Crawley: I do have two calls to action for CelebrateOne. The first is for their continued advocacy for House Bill 142, which is Medicaid reimbursement for doulas. This passed the House earlier this year, so when the legislature comes back in session, we can get it over the finish line in the Senate, which would provide access to doulas. Medicaid pays for more than 51% of births in this state. With the work that they are doing at CelebrateOne and the work that we support and fund through CelebrateOne and Franklin County Public Health, this would definitely increase better birth outcomes and save lives. When General Assembly comes back together, I would love to have the support of Ms. Gordon and Mr. McKenzie to make sure that it gets over the finish line. My second request is for an updated Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PMR) Report. A new PMR Report is supposed to be published every two years, and we have not had one since 2018. This report tells us the direct and indirect causes of maternal deaths in this state and breaks this information down by region. It also includes recommendations about how to address those causes. We know that birth centers are one way to address this issue, which is why there is a birthing center in Cleveland that is coming online soon, which will reduce their infant mortality rate and save the lives of mothers. It is unacceptable that we have a state that has not recently reported on maternal deaths and their causes so that we can assess where we need to pivot or provide support. We are advocating for the State to get that report released from the Department of Health, and I want to ask CelebrateOne to also advocate for that because you need it, and we need it.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0673-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0674-22, authorizing Second Contract Modification and Extension with Leo Meyers, Inc. for Staff Uniforms (\$80,000.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0674-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0675-22, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$1,628,388.89) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0675-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0676-22, accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission for collection in calendar year 2023 and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0676-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

//

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 A.M.

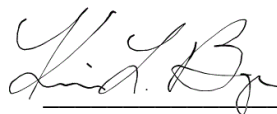
(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.



ERICA C. CRAWLEY, PRESIDENT

JOHN O'GRADY



**KEVIN L. BOYCE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:



Lauren M. Graessle

//bar