

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

October 4, 2022

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

Present were: Erica C. Crawley, President  
Kevin L. Boyce, 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 9:14 A.M.

Commissioner Crawley: October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Unfortunately, ten million Americans are victims of domestic violence each year, and in Ohio, 38% of women and 33% of men will experience some sort of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner at some time in their life. Pregnant women in the United States die by homicide more often than they die of pregnancy-related causes — and they're frequently killed by a partner. The presence of a gun in the home increases the risk of homicide by 500%; in 2020, 109 Ohioans, including four children, were victims of domestic violence homicide. Here in Franklin County, residents pay a small fee whenever they get married, divorced, or have their marriage annulled, and we are pleased to provide the funds raised from those fees to CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, which is one of the oldest and largest domestic violence shelters in Ohio. Later this month, we'll have a representative from CHOICES at General Session to accept those funds and talk more about the services they provide. In the meantime, if you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, you can reach the CHOICES crisis hotline 24 hours a day at 614-224-HOME. As a reminder, last month, my colleagues and I passed a Resolution regarding gun violence being a public health crisis. This Resolution noted how often pregnant people die at the hands of gun violence. We continue to recognize the loss of life due to gun violence and continue to put into place programs and services to help those who are survivors of domestic violence, in addition to funding organizations dedicated to this cause.

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Commissioner Crawley: October is also National Crime Prevention Month. Franklin County has had more than 1,000 gun deaths in the last five years. This year Mayor Ginther declared gun violence a public health crisis. As I just mentioned, the County recently approved a resolution regarding gun violence to help provide a safer environment for our community. As many of you know, almost 60% of our General Fund budget goes to Public Safety, funding the Sheriff's Office, the County Prosecutor, our 911 call center, the courts, and youth programs to give kids an alternative to violence. It also supports our Office of Justice Policy and Programs and other smart justice and criminal justice reform initiatives. The National Crime Prevention Council will be live streaming its National Fentanyl Summit on October 19th. You can learn more about that at [NCPC.org](https://www.ncpc.org) or visit the Core Principles page of the Commissioners' website to learn about our commitment to Community Safety, Security, and Effective Justice. National Crime Prevention Council uses this month to provide education and crime prevention strategies on everything from avoiding scams to spotting counterfeit consumer products and combatting the drug epidemic.

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Commissioner Crawley: Next, this is Digital Inclusion Week, a time to talk about online equity and what we can do to help ensure that all our residents have access to the internet and the tools and education to take advantage of it. This issue came to the forefront during the pandemic when many of us suddenly found ourselves working or learning from home, but the more than 10% of Franklin County households without an internet subscription simply couldn't make that transition. For Digital Inclusion Week, the Board of Commissioners has signed on as a partner with the National Digital Inclusion Alliance to help spread the word about helping people get connected online, and here to tell us more is Adam Frumkin, CIO of Franklin County's Data Center.

Adam Frumkin, Chief Information Officer, Data Center: At the onset of the pandemic, a group of partners across Franklin County came together to understand the realities of the digital divide that we have, thus creating the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition. This group is made up of Franklin County, the City of Columbus, and a large group of local non-profit organizations who felt it was important to respond to the crisis in real-time to help our residents obtain what they need to live, work, and thrive in an online world. This is something that has been a problem for many years, as the world has continued to become more virtual. Access to broadband and the internet is an essential part of our daily life and survival. In most cases, simply applying for a job can now only be done online. Based on the data, Franklin County has approximately 88,000 households that do not have a home internet connection, and over 110,000 Franklin County households, or 13.7%, are without a connected device beyond a smartphone. Of these, over 48,000 do not have any computing device, including a smartphone. One hundred percent of households without internet and adequate devices face adoption barriers, including a lack of comfort with digital tools and language, which interferes with their ability to accomplish what they need and want to do online. There is a basic inequity in our county. Black and Brown families are more than two times as likely to be without a computer or internet subscription than white families. This week, the National Digital Inclusion Alliance is hosting its annual Digital Inclusion Week from October 3 through October 7. This is an annual week of awareness, recognition, and celebration. Organizations across the country will hold special events and campaigns to promote digital equity in their communities.

Mr. Frumkin (cont.): This year's theme, "Turning Our Moment Into Movement," calls for action and prompts a critical turning point in the digital inclusion movement, with a specific focus on solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, local technology training, and support programs. As we embark upon this year's Digital Inclusion Week, I challenge you to think about what digital empowerment means to you. The Digital Empowerment Foundation defines this term as a person's ability to effectively use digital technologies to form life skills that reinforce his or her ability in the digital world. As a community, Franklin County, along with the City of Columbus, and others, is dedicated to creating change by finding ways to ensure that under resourced residents have access to residential internet, devices, and skills training opportunities at an equitable level of quality and at an affordable and sustainable price point for low-income households. To apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), you can call 1-877-384-2575, or visit [fcc.gov/acp](http://fcc.gov/acp). There is a two-step process to enroll. You may submit your application online or print it and contact your local participating provider to select a plan and have your discount applied to your bill. The ACP website also has a list of available local program providers that you can be connected to.

Commissioner Crawley: I think that during the pandemic, this was an area in which we got to see that there is not an urban and rural divide. The connectivity, internet access, and infrastructure issues that our residents in rural Ohio deal with are the same issues that we see in urban communities. We have residents that live in very old housing, which makes it difficult to have fiber connectivity. There is also an issue with affordability. When we think about digital inclusion and digital equity, we have to talk about it from an infrastructure standpoint, but also an affordability standpoint. Thank you, Mr. Frumkin, for all that you do for the County in this area. I know that Administrator Wilson has had many conversations with you during the pandemic to educate myself and my colleagues about how to invest funds to ensure that every resident, every day, has connectivity, especially for our youth who are in school.

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Commissioner Crawley: Before we move on, I would also like to acknowledge that October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We will have more information about that later on in the month.

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Approval of the minutes for the September 22, 2022, Briefing Session. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0723-22**, authoring an agreement with Forensic Pathology Services, LLC, for professional consulting services (\$115,500.00) (Coroner), presented by Amanda Alvarez Wright, Director of Operations, Coroner's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce: Where is this company located?

Ms. Alvarez Wright: Las Vegas.

Commissioner Boyce: And what is the reasoning behind that? Are there no companies in Ohio that offer these services?

Ms. Alvarez Wright: The vendor that went through the Request for Proposal (RFP) did not meet our operational requirements in the scope of work. When we asked them if they could be in the morgue to watch the staff as they worked in the autopsy suites, they declined, stating that they were incapable to do that.

Commissioner Boyce: The company from Las Vegas is able to do that?

Ms. Alvarez Wright: Yes, because they have forensic pathologists and subject matter experts that are able to perform these functions. The vendor that originally applied for the RFP did not have those subject matter experts.

*Sean L. Walton, Esq., Partner, Walton + Brown, LLP., 395 E. Broad St. Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43215, spoke in support of the proposed resolution. For a full recount of the speaker's statements, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3ryR5cb>*

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0723-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0724-22**, authoring a Second Contract Extension to Storer Mortuary Transport of Columbus, LLC. for Body Transport Services (\$500,000.00) (Coroner), presented by Amanda Alvarez Wright, Director of Operations, Coroner's Office.

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

*Sean L. Walton, Esq., Partner, Walton + Brown, LLP., 395 E. Broad St. Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43215, spoke in support of the proposed resolution. For a full recount of the speaker's statements, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3ryR5cb>*

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0724-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0725-22**, Gannett Fleming Engineers and Architects, P.C., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in performing a feasibility study for the Clark State Road, County Road No. 95, at Waggoner Road, County Road No. 106, Improvement project, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$72,916.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0725-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0726-22**, Prime AE Group, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer with construction inspection services for the Sunbury Road 0.02 over Argyle-Woodland Run and Winchester Pike 0.87 over Georges Creek bridge projects (\$300,171.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0726-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0727-22**, authorizing the Franklin County Engineer to enter into a contract modification with J&J Schlaegel, Inc. for 2020-2021 General Drainage Investigation and Repair Services, (an increase of \$406,355.44) for a revised contract amount of \$2,449,936.44 (\$2,449,936.44) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0727-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0728-22**, authorizing a maintenance agreement with Metals Treatment Technologies, LLC, for bullet trap cleaning and lead abatement at the Sheriff's Office firing range (\$36,500.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce: Do we recover some of the funds from recycling this material, or is this just a way to dispose of the lead?

Mr. Smith: I believe that there is a portion that we get back as a credit, but recycling the lead that is taken from the bullet traps is the main goal.

*Sean L. Walton, Esq., Partner, Walton + Brown, LLP., 395 E. Broad St. Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43215, spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution. For a full recount of the speaker's statements, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3ryR5cb>*

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0728-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0729-22**, authorizing a contract with Tetra Tech Inc. for the delivery of services updating the Franklin County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (\$101,505.00) (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0729-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0730-22**, review of petition to annex 166.2 +/- acres from Prairie Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-32-22 (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.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0730-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0731-22**, approving subaward agreements with multiple community agencies for Franklin County Out-of-School Time youth programming (\$7,735,113.30) (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.

Commissioner Boyce: Within the resolution, there is a list of agencies that are receiving the funds. There is one called "Always Together Charities" that I am unfamiliar with.

Ms. Turner: Yes, Godman Guild is the fiduciary agency for that new group. The Always Together Charities provide services and after-school programming in the Groveport-Madison school district and the Reynoldsburg school district.

Commissioner Boyce: Okay, I am unfamiliar with that organization, so if you could, please send us some more information on that group.

Ms. Turner: Absolutely, we can provide any information that you need. The Godman Guild has its own after-school program and they also serve as the fiduciary agency for Always Together Charities.

Commissioner Boyce: So, they are a new organization?

Ms. Turner: Yes, they are fairly new. Godman Guild has been the fiduciary agency for them for the last three to four years. Some new organizations present themselves to us for potential funding, and they have a strong program, but they are new to our funding structure. As you know, the Federal funding criteria can be quite stringent, so oftentimes, we will pair a new community partner with one of our existing community partners to help them learn the process of managing TANF dollars and Federal funds. So, Always Together Charities was one of the agencies that had a strong program, but we felt needed a partnership, and it has been a positive partnership. They came in probably mid-year of the first year, and by next year, they will likely be on their own.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: Godman Guild is serving ninety kids in after-school programs and one hundred-twenty kids under their association. We had a conversation last week regarding the Community Information Exchange. When that is built, we can have some of our smaller or emerging non-profit agencies participate, because for 501(c)(3) organizations, in the beginning, it is difficult to have the bandwidth to meet their accounting requirements, especially when you talk about TANF funding and other funding streams. For that reason, some organizations have worked with the United Way as a fiscal agent, and other organizations have stepped up to try to help some of the new non-profits that are serving areas of the county that have previously gone unserved. This is not that uncommon, and it is a lower-risk way of allowing us to work with newer non-profits.

Commissioner Crawley: Absolutely, I love that idea. We know that, historically, smaller non-profits miss out on funding because they do not have the infrastructure in place for reporting or going after grants. It is great for them to partner with established organizations, but in the case of Always Together Charities, they have been with Godman Guild for four years. We want them to get that mentorship and then be able to stand on their own. As we work with smaller non-profits, we should be more diligent to ensure that they can stand on their own maybe within two to three years, so that they do not have to rely on the larger non-profits for an extended period of time.

Ms. Turner: Always Together Charities will be releasing a new RFP at the beginning of 2023, and at that time, the mentorship will end and they will be applying on their own.

Commissioner Boyce moved to table Resolution 0731-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was tabled until Tuesday, October 11, 2022, by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0732-22**, approving a subaward agreement with Partners Achieving Community Transformation for youth enrichment programming (\$80,000.00) (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.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0732-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0733-22**, approving subaward agreements with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, Inc. and NAMI Franklin County, Inc. for youth mentoring and enrichment programming (\$239,510.47) (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.

*Sean L. Walton, Esq., Partner, Walton + Brown, LLP., 395 E. Broad St. Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43215, spoke in support of the proposed resolution. For a full recount of the speaker's statements, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3ryR5cb>*

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0733-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0734-22**, approving a subaward agreement with City Year Columbus for youth educational support programming (\$142,322.41) (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.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0734-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0735-22**, authorizing acceptance of a Year 3 Supplemental Extension subgrant award from Franklin County Public Health's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Overdose Data to Action grant for the enhancement and coordination of project strategies

(\$335,508.59) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Chief Operating Officer, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0735-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0736-22**, authorizing two professional service contract agreements with Savana Sprague and Tonia Mendenhall for peer support and case management services for residents served via SAFER Station (\$70,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Chief Operating Officer, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0736-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0737-22**, authorizing the County Administrator to execute a modification to the contract agreement with Wanner Metal Worx, Inc. to perform additional miscellaneous steel activities associated with the construction of the Franklin County Corrections Center Continuation Phase 2A in the amount of the contract not to exceed \$316,711.00 and authorizing the County Administrator to approve and execute additional minor modifications to the contract agreement (\$2,767,128.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0737-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0739-22**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$1,313,163.00) (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0739-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read one (1) journalization into the record:

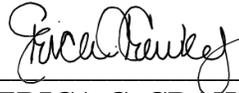
The Franklin County Board of Commissioners has received a proposal from the Franklin County Recorder's Office for funding the Recorder's Technology Fund. The Board of Commissioners will hold an administrative session mandated by section 317.321(D) of the Revised Code to discuss the proposal on Thursday, October 13, 2022, following Briefing.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 A.M.

**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.



ERICA C. CRAWLEY, PRESIDENT



JOHN O'GRADY



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

Submitted by:



Lauren M. Graessle

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