

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

October 11, 2022

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

Present were: Erica C. Crawley, President
John O'Grady, Commissioner
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 9:15 A.M.

Commissioner Crawley: This week, I'm pleased to recognize several important efforts that are especially close to my heart. The first is that October is Head Start Awareness Month. Across the country, Head Start provides comprehensive early education services to millions of young children from low-income families aged 3-to-5. This includes support for their social, emotional, psychological, nutritional, and health needs so that they are prepared for success in the classroom when they begin kindergarten. The program began in 1965, and nearly 3,000 kiddos benefit from it each year at more than 60 provider locations in Franklin County. There's even an Early Head Start program for pregnant people and infants. As many of you know, issues of maternal health and childhood development are important to me. It's the space where my professional journey began, and I can tell you that Head Start is a fantastic program. Evidence shows that Head Start students show significantly better social-emotional, language, and cognitive development and are more ready for kindergarten than others. They also display stronger social skills, impulse control, and have healthier Body Mass Index scores. Even as adults, people who participated in Head Start when they were young are more likely to graduate from high school and go on to college. So, there's no doubt that Head Start is a wonderful investment in our residents and their future, and I'm proud to support it here in our community. You can learn more about Head Start in Franklin County at CDCHeadStart.org.

Commissioner Boyce: I did not go to Head Start, but I know that it is programs like Head Start that truly give a head start to our young people when they are coming from communities or home environments that have other challenges that impact cognitive and learning processes. Head Start can be a catalyst that impacts the trajectory of their futures. I am happy to be recognizing this; I know many families and children that were able to use Head Start as a catalyst for a number of things in their lives.

Commissioner Crawley: Head Start is not just about the education that our children get, but it also provides resources to families. When I worked in an Early Head Start program, I started out as a Partnership Coordinator, and my responsibility was to bring families into the program and connect families to resources. I want to highlight that component because it is very much needed in this community.

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Commissioner Crawley: October is also Tackling Hunger Month, and you may recall that September was Hunger Action Month. Unfortunately, this is still an issue in America in 2022, but the fact is that one-in-six Americans, including 9 million children do not know where their next meal will come from. In recent years, this Board of Commissioners has provided more than \$14 million of support to the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, including \$2 million for emergency food purchases just last month. A request has also been made to the State for American Rescue Plan funding to help combat hunger across Ohio, and so I urge anyone watching this morning to reach out to your State Representative and State Senator and tell them that this is an issue that is important to you and ask them to put some of that Federal ARPA funding to use for hungry Ohioans. In the meantime, to find out how your own family can get nutritional support, visit MOFC.org.

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Commissioner Crawley: This is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the Breast Cancer Foundation theme for the year is Together We RISE, stressing that cancer is a community issue and not something that anyone should have to face alone. About one-in-eight U.S. women will develop breast cancer at some time in their lives, and more than 43,000 Americans die of it each year. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world, and 85% of those cancers occur in people with no family history of it. Black women under 45 are more likely to be diagnosed than their White counterparts, and overall, Black women are more likely to die of breast cancer than women of other races. Fortunately, breast cancer rates have been decreasing and it can be a very treatable cancer when diagnosed early. So, I urge everyone to get their routine cancer screenings and mammograms. I know that the Columbus Cancer Clinic provides free and low-cost screenings, and you can reach them online or at 614-263-5006.

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Approval of the minutes for the September 27 and October 4, 2022, General Sessions; the October 6, 2022, Briefing Session; and the June 29, 2022, Administrative Briefing Session. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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Commissioner Crawley: First on the agenda we have the Board of Commissioners Resolution No. 0749-22 recognizing National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Before the Clerk reads the resolution, we want to recognize that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Unfortunately, an average of 20 people are physically abused by intimate partners every minute. This equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually. Here in Franklin County, residents pay a small fee when 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. With us today to help raise awareness of the growing plight of domestic violence in our community is Dr. Maria Houston, Executive Director of Lutheran Social Services, CHOICES. Welcome and thank you for joining us this morning, Dr. Houston.

Dr. Maria Houston, Executive Director of Lutheran Social Services, CHOICES: CHOICES is the only domestic violence shelter in Franklin County, and we operate a 24-hour crisis hotline. We have seen upwards of 850 people annually at the shelter, with half of those individuals being children. Currently, we are seeing one in three women and one in four men coming to the shelter or receiving domestic violence services. I would like for people to be aware that domestic violence and intimate partner violence does not discriminate; it can impact anyone from any race, educational level, socioeconomic level, gender, and so on. Many of us know someone who has experienced it. It is important to make sure that we believe the survivor and let them know that there is hope. At CHOICES, we are very proud and privileged to be able to do this work so that we may instill hope back into the survivors.

Commissioner Boyce: Dr. Houston, it is nice to meet you, and I look forward to working with you. I think that a lot of people here have heard my own story about domestic violence, but I want to share it with you because this is an area that is very sensitive to me. I am glad that you mentioned that domestic violence does not discriminate. My father was murdered in a domestic violence situation when I was seven years old. He went to the assistance of a female cousin of his, and the person killed them both. When they were killed, there were kids around them. And then there are people like me, who are the children of victims. It is something that never goes away; it is ingrained in your life and how you do things forever. This conversation around domestic violence, who it impacts, and how it reverberates through our system and our community, is crucial. The work that you do at CHOICES is absolutely critical in stabilizing the volatile crises that families are facing. In all of my time in politics, there has been no entity that supports your work more than Franklin County. This is a portion of our funding that does not even require a discussion because we know the value and importance of the work. We are fighting poverty and racism, and embedded in that are domestic violence issues. We are here to support your work in every way that we can.

Commissioner Crawley: We have a ceremonial resolution that we would like to present to you, but first, I would like to mention that recently, \$1 million in funding came through our Office of Justice Policy and Programs for the expansion of the shelter. Thank you so much for the work that you all do; you do God's work. As Commissioner Boyce said, there is no question when it comes to our support for the work that you do.

Resolution No. 0749-22, authorizing CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, Inc. to receive the fees collected in 2023 for the support of shelters for victims of domestic violence (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0749-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0740-22, authorizing a one-year contract with Epoch Cleaning LLC, dba Stratus Building Solutions of Columbus to assist with cleaning at the Franklin County Engineer's facilities (\$19,620.00) (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 0740-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0741-22, approving street, storm sewer and water improvement plans for the Villages at Galloway, Phase 1, 2 & 3, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio (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 0741-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0742-22, authorizing a one-year contract Between the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, and the Franklin County Public Defender Commission (\$80,106.00) (Public Defender), presented by Christine Clarizio, Controller, Public Defender's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0742-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0743-22, authorizing a partnership with Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down and the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority in sponsoring the 2022 Annual Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down at the Greater Columbus Convention Center (Veterans Services), presented by Robert Bramlish, Executive Director, Veterans Services, and Dan Willis, Executive Director, Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down.

Mr. Bramlish and Mr. Willis reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for all that you do for our veterans. I am a veteran and I come from a military family. My father and brother served in the Army, and I served in the Navy. I think that there are a lot of misconceptions about veterans and their access to resources. There are a lot of barriers, and people do not know where all of the services are, and sometimes, they cannot afford them. I appreciate this effort to make things simple and streamlined for our veterans, and the effort to offer them free services.

Mr. Willis: I was speaking to a friend at the Pentagon, and he told me that it takes over a year to learn how to be a good soldier, but it only takes two weeks to learn how to be a civilian. There is something wrong there. That is where we come in to help fill that gap so that veterans do not get their mule in a ditch, as you say. We offer these free services to all veterans; we never turn down a veteran, even if they are from another county. When they walk through the door, we do not care how much money they have; they are a veteran of our country, and that is how they are treated.

Andy Biesterveld, P.E., Chief Engineer and Mechanical Officer, Central Ohio Transit Authority, and Executive Sponsor, Veterans ERG: Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) serves all of Franklin County and has about 150 veteran employees, which represents about 10% of COTA's workforce. This is significant compared to the national average, which is approximately 5-6% of the workforce being comprised of veterans. Providing tens of thousands of rides on a daily basis and providing critical, accessible mobility to some of those who are most in need, COTA is acutely aware of the challenges faced by some of our veterans in our community. I am pleased and honored to be able to report that COTA's Board of Trustees recently passed two resolutions relative to veterans' affairs. One is to allow all veterans to ride COTA at no cost on Veteran's Day, which is something that we have done for a number of years. The second resolution grants a permanent 50% discount to all veterans, regardless of age or ability. Veterans only need to document their veterans status one time at COTA's facilities, and then that benefit is available to them for life via COTA's traditional discount key card, some of our account-based cards, or the transit app.

Mr. Biesterveld (cont.): We look forward to promoting this discount at Stand Down, and COTA is proud to be a part of this event and to get the word out about some of our other mobility services. We provide travel training, which is an educational service to our veterans at Stand Down, and it teaches them how to access and utilize transit. We will also be sharing employment opportunities with veterans at the event.

Commissioner Boyce: Every time I have sent a veteran constituent to Veterans Services, you all have been amazing in helping them, and I want to thank you for that. It really helps us as Commissioners that we are able to give veterans a one-stop shop for their needs.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0743-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Commissioner Boyce moved to remove Resolution 0731-22 from the table, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously removed from the table 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, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to amend the resolution from “Godman Guild Association on behalf of Always Together Charities” to “Godman Guild Association on behalf of Always With Us Charities,” seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously amended by roll call vote.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve amended Resolution 0731-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The amended Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0744-22, approving a subaward agreement with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio for the Partnership for Success youth practitioner training services (\$305,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0744-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0745-22, approving a contract agreement with Dress for Success Columbus for workplace suiting services and programming (\$95,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0745-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0746-22, authorizing a professional service contract agreement with Nicole Hornbeck for community health worker services for residents served via SAFER Station (\$35,000.00) (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0746-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0738-22, authorizing a modification to the contract agreement with DLZ Architecture, Inc. to provide professional design services associated with the planning, design and construction of the Franklin County Corrections Center at an increase in the amount of the contract not to exceed \$794,730.00 (\$26,019,130.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0738-22, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0747-22, authorizing appropriation adjustments for General Fund operations and the Permanent Improvement Fund (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: What is the amount of the appropriation adjustments?

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: The total supplemental appropriation is \$1.6 million, which goes towards two projects. Fund 4041, the Permanent Improvement Fund, is \$1,118,506.00.

Commissioner Boyce: What kind of security features are they putting in?

Mr. Wilson: This will go toward camera enhancements and other improvements at the Board of Elections facility, but the bulk of this will go to the Franklin County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center. As you remember, during the power outages that occurred this past June, the redundancy system currently in place did not roll to the HVAC unit; it currently only supports the heating unit. So, I directed Public Facilities Management to take the steps necessary to have 100% redundancy so that the facility may operate in the event of a power outage in the future.

Commissioner Boyce: That is so crucial, and I am glad that it is in this resolution. I support this resolution, but I still think that this is a lot of money, and I would like to see the details of the improvements, particularly at the Board of Elections.

Mr. Wilson: As Director Reardon pointed out, these are in response to a directive from the Ohio Secretary of State's office, calling for additional security measures to be implemented by local Boards of Election.

A robust discussion ensued among the Commissioners; Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management; Antone White, Director, Board of Elections; and Adam Frumkin, Chief Information Officer, Data Center. For a full recount, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3D4Cn3j>

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0747-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0748-22, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$2,192,339.95) (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 0748-22, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously 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 following amendment to the contract correcting the name of the company due to a scrivener error in Resolution 0452-22 is hereby journalized to reflect “TranSystems Corporation of Ohio” instead of “TranSystems Inc.”

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 A.M.

(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 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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