

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

December 5, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 5, 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 Long, Deputy County Administrator; Joy Bivens, 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 9:16 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: For those of you who may not know, the Columbus Crew won the Eastern Conference, beating Cincinnati. It was a great game! If you weren't watching, we were down 2-0 at halftime, and we came back to win 3-2 in stoppage time. This Saturday, we play LAFC at Lower.com Field. This morning, we have Josh Glessing from the Crew with us to celebrate the Crew being the Eastern Conference Champions, and to cheer them on to victory on Saturday against LAFC. It has been a fun team to watch this year. I have been a season ticket holder for the past fifteen years, and everyone has been fighting over our tickets.

Joshua Glessing, Chief of Strategy and Development, Hasalm Sports Group: Thank you so much for having me. It is a true pleasure and honor that I am able to bring the Eastern Conference Championship trophy here today. This trophy is here today because of all of our great partners in the County, the City, and the State, as well as our local supporters. If all those people had not come together four years ago, this trophy would be in Austin, Texas. I want to thank everyone, including the County, for all the work that was done to save the Crew, to build Lower.com Field, and to enable all of the development that is happening across Aster Park. One thing that gets me excited about Saturday is that there will be a national spotlight on Columbus.

Mr. Glessing (cont.): There will be aerial views that show the brand-new office buildings that are being built directly adjacent to Lower.com Field, as well as other real estate, mixed-use development, and residential structures that are being built. Five years ago, that was a barren wasteland at a dead-end road. This trophy reflects great success on the pitch, but it is here because of so much more than that. So, again, I want to thank all of you. Saturday night was incredible. Fortunately, we went down to Cincinnati, which is only 90 minutes away, so our players' families could also be there. Our supporters showed up in Atlanta, Orlando, and Cincinnati, and because of that, they will be able to show up at Lower.com Field this Saturday. We are going to bring home a much bigger trophy this weekend. This was all a part of the plan. This trophy did not come as a surprise to us. At Haslam Sports Group, we have a vision for the Crew and rely on three pillars. We want to win on the pitch, we want to give back to our community, and we want to give back to our fans. The goal has always been to bring trophies to Columbus, which will continue to be our goal. A friend of mine at the league office told me that everyone is rooting against us because they do not want Columbus to host an MLS Cup and an MLS All-Star Game within eight months of each other. They want to spread the wealth. I have zero interest in spreading the wealth as it relates to major tentpole events here in Columbus, Ohio. This Saturday's match and the All-Star Game next summer are both a part of that. We have hosted the US Men's National Team and the US Women's National Team, and we are going to continue to host global events right here in Columbus. We are leveraging soccer as a catalyst for major economic impacts, and we are going to continue to shine a spotlight on the city of Columbus and Franklin County.

Commissioner Boyce: I was thinking about growing up in Columbus. I remember two sporting events from my childhood: Ohio State football games and Columbus Clippers games. Both were a big deal for a kid from the east side of Columbus. I actually worked at Ohio Stadium selling Coca-Cola. The Clippers would give free tickets to Columbus City Schools, and we would get to go sometimes. Now, as adults, experiences like going to Huntington Park, Lower.com Field, Ohio Stadium, and Nationwide Arena have really changed the landscape for Central Ohio. This is not because we have a winning sports team, but because it is something we all embrace together. It has come to define us in many ways. I live right by Lower.com Field, and when there is a Crew game, you know it is happening because people come from all over and walk to the stadium with their family and friends and have a good time. It is a healthy environment that makes me proud to be a part of Central Ohio. Then, when you win, you create a spirit about this community that we can all get behind. When you are going through tough things like we all are, the Crew gives people something to look forward to. They put a smile on folks' faces, and all of the hard work that the coaches and players put into this makes it more than a soccer game. The Crew is representative of this community as a family. We are with you 100% of the way. Congratulations! Thank you for bringing in the trophy and sharing that with us. We will look forward to you bringing us another trophy next week. Keep up the great work. We are part of the Crew family.

Mr. Glessing: Thank you. We all know that in a polarizing world, nothing can be as galvanizing as sports, especially local sports. Everyone I have spoken to is excited for the Columbus Crew and the MLS Cup to be hosted here. Sports are a powerful tool, and when we use them for good, we can do really cool things. We are excited to have the entire city behind us.

Commissioner Crawley: Congratulations! Sports act as a tie that binds us in difficult times. I hope our community sees why investing in sports is important for the City, the County, and the State. No matter what is going on, we tend to put our differences aside and come together to root for our home team. I am proud to represent a county that invests in our teams, and we have some really great teams. The Crew and your success are other reasons Columbus is so special; it continues to put us on the map. Good luck this weekend, and we are looking forward to seeing the other trophy here.

Commissioner O'Grady: For those of you who haven't watched, this is such an exciting team with an exciting style of play. They are on the attack the whole game. Even when we were down 2-0 at halftime this past Saturday, we knew it would be a great game. LAFC has to know they will be in trouble on Saturday because our offense is smothering. It is fun to watch.

Mr. Glessing: Even in the 70th minute, down 2-0, you could feel our first goal coming. We scored the first goal, and the building was quiet. Cincinnati was up 2-1 in the Eastern Conference Final, and you could feel our second goal coming. We got the second one, and it felt like it was just a matter of time before the third one came, and it did. LAFC plays in a similar style to Cincinnati, but I think they execute at a slightly better level. We have all of the tools to beat them. We have an incredible roster and a strategy that has been executed flawlessly so far in these playoffs. I would not bet against the Crew. Another cool thing about what soccer has become in America is the platform it has taken. Although we will be rooting against them, Magic Johnson, Will Ferrell, Mia Hamm, and Nomar Garciaparra are part-owners of LAFC and are all on the attendee list for the game this Saturday. Being able to showcase our stadium to those people and having them stay here for a few days is really exciting and cool.

Commissioner Boyce: I just want to bring up one more thing because you mentioned the financing of Lower.com Field. The public may be wondering how the County plays a role in sports teams, and they may be questioning the decisions we make as an institution. When there was a possibility that the Crew would be moving to Austin, the political resources, coupled with the corporate and business community and the private community, laid the gauntlet down for this community to make a place for the Crew to stay here. The underlying factor often overlooked when discussing sports is the economic development that has occurred in the area since we built Lower.com Field. It is a fabulous venue and experience. Truly one of the best. The economic development can be seen in the jobs that are created, the sales tax and bed tax that is generated, and the commerce that takes place. Sometimes, the public just sees us celebrating the win and the trophy, but embedded in that is a contribution to the quality of life in Central Ohio, which will only get better over the next decade based on what we are projecting to happen in this corridor. Before Huntington Park and Lower.com Field, there was not much there and look at it now. It makes all of the difference. We allocate funds to stadiums for this reason; the economic case is better than you know. We make decisions as an institution that are fiduciary-oriented with the best interest of this community in mind. I did not want to lose that point in the hype and celebration of the game on Saturday.

Commissioner O'Grady: With our investments in sports, the return on investment continues to fund and fuel all of the work we do here.

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Approval of the minutes for the September 26, 2023, General Session; the September 28, 2023, Briefing Session; and the November 29, 2023, Administrative Briefing Session. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0934-23, authoring an agreement with FlowPartner LLC, a communications and personnel consulting firm, for internal communications and team building services for the Franklin County Forensic Science Center, Office of the Coroner (\$20,000.00) (Coroner), presented by Patrick McLean, Chief of Staff, Coroner's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0934-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Plans approved for the improvement of Chambers Road, from Kenny Road to Hess Boulevard, Clinton Township, and for the improvement of all streets within the Westbrook Subdivision, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio.

Commissioner O'Grady opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak. Seeing and hearing none, Commissioner O'Grady closed the public hearing, and the resolution was read into the record.

Resolution No. 0935-23, plans approved for the improvement of Chambers Road, from Kenny Road to Hess Boulevard, Clinton Township, and for the improvement of all streets within the Westbrook Subdivision, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0935-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0936-23, approving a contract modification with J & J Schlaegel, Inc. for the Elliott Road and Hayden Run Road Drainage Improvement Project, an increase of \$234,150.30, for a revised contract amount of \$3,180,675.18 (\$234,150.30) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0936-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0937-23, approving a contract modification with Decker Construction Company for the Improvements of Fisher Road, an increase of \$125,202.52, for a revised contract amount of \$1,521,135.27 (\$125,202.52) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0937-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0938-23, approving a contract modification with Double Z Construction Company for the 2023 General Bridge Maintenance project, an increase of \$215,000.00, for a revised contract amount of \$789,481.80 (\$215,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0938-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0939-23, granting approval to declare equipment obsolete and no longer needed for Franklin County use, and authorizing sale of said equipment (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0939-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0940-23, requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Rohr Road, County Road No. 235, Hamilton Township, City of Obetz, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0940-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0941-23, report (2nd) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Cleveland Avenue from Huy Road to Cooke Road Improvement project, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$2,834.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0941-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0942-23, authorizing a consultant contract with The Ohio State University for crime research services (\$50,000.00) (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0942-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0943-23, authorizing an agreement with Ralph Andersen & Associates for recruitment services for the position of Public Defender (\$49,750.00) (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 0943-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0944-23, authorizing the Franklin County Administrator and the Director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security to execute an FY2023 State Homeland Security Program grant and authorizing the Director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security to be the designated Agent for administration purposes

(\$333,300.00) (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 0944-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Resolving Adverse Effects to the Historic Woodyard East Chapel Funeral Directors building located at 2300 E. Livingston Avenue, Bexley, Ohio 43209, by the Bexley Apartments-Livingston Project Undertaking.

Commissioner O'Grady opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak. Seeing and hearing none, Commissioner O'Grady closed the public hearing. Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, explained that this public hearing is a requirement by federal law so that the public may provide input on this affordable housing project. Ms. Hummer noted that the location of this project is where there is a historic structure. This is the second public hearing to allow the public to speak on this matter, and this will conclude the public hearing process. Ms. Hummer stated that the next step is for the interested parties to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement, which the Commissioners have already approved in draft form. Commissioner Crawley asked if this was the same matter that had a public hearing last week, to which Ms. Hummer replied in the affirmative.

Resolution No. 0945-23, approving a sub-award agreement with the Columbus Urban League for the Journey to Wealth program (\$150,000.00) (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0945-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0946-23, approving subaward agreements with multiple community agencies for the Franklin County In-School Youth Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (\$5,599,999.99) (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 noted that he toured the Juvenile Detention Center yesterday, and he was reminded how much work still needs to be done for the young people in our community, particularly those who are minorities and whose families have been disrupted. He stated that there is a pipeline for these young people to be institutionalized, which has a dramatic and statistically significant negative impact on their lives. He noted how many Black boys were in the facility and how that would impact not only their lives, but the community. Commissioner Boyce stated that these funds are only a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed to move forward and improve. Commissioner Crawley agreed with Commissioner Boyce's statements and added that early investments can change the life course and trajectory of our youth. Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, noted that Commissioner O'Grady has been convening a group of representatives and stakeholders in the community to perform anti-violence work in this space.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0946-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0947-23, approving a COVID-19 Recovery Grant for the Franklin County RISE Initiative supporting Franklin County families & child care providers (\$11,500,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services, and Mario Basora, Chief Executive Officer, Future Ready 5.

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

Nana Watson, President, Columbus NAACP, PO Box 9463, Columbus, Ohio 43209, (614)636-2040, submitted a speaker slip in support of this resolution. A robust discussion ensued.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0947-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0948-23, approving agreements with the Community Mediation Services of Central Ohio and The Legal Aid Society of Columbus for housing stabilization services and legal assistance (\$440,000.00) (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 0948-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0949-23, approving subaward agreements with Asian American Community Services and The Salvation Army for the Franklin County Out-of-School Time youth programs (\$293,990.31) (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 0949-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0950-23, approving subaward agreements with multiple community agencies for the Franklin County Out-of-School Youth Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program services (\$4,337,999.72) (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 0950-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0951-23, authorizing Contract Extensions #2 with PSP Operations, Inc., dba Servpro of NE Columbus and Ohio Technical Services, Inc. to provide specialized cleaning services at designated Franklin County Facilities (\$300,000.00) (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 0951-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0952-23, approving one purchase order for the Franklin County Treasurer's Office for Huntington National Bank (\$5,000.00) (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 0952-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0953-23, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$4,090,025.98) (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0953-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0954-23, authorizing appropriation adjustments for the county's wellness incentive program, termination payouts, and to offset budgeted vacancy reductions (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 0954-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0955-23, authorizing supplemental appropriations within the Federal Emergency Management Agency Fund for the distribution of the grant awards from the Public Assistance Program with respect to COVID-19 (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 0955-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0956-23, authorizing the issuance, and repayment, and extension of various interfund loans (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 0956-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read four (4) journalizations into the record:

Case #ANX-43-23, a municipal annexation petition, ANX-43-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on November 22, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 4.821-acres from Hamilton Township to the Village of Obetz. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on December 12, 2023. Site: 1841 Lisle Avenue, PID #150-000023.

Case #ANX-51-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-51-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on November 22, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 0.479-acres from Franklin Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on January 2, 2024. Site: 4161 Ongaro Drive, PID #142-000020.

Case #ANX-52-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-52-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on November 28, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 8.938-acres from Hamilton Township to the City of Obetz. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on January 2, 2024. Site: 2695 Bixby Road, PID #150-000792; and 2715 Bixby Road, PID #150-000794.

Case #ANX-53-23, a municipal annexation petition, ANX-53-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on November 29, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 3.13-acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on December 12, 2023. Site: Harrisburg Pike, PID #160-001431; and Harrisburg Pike public right-of-way.

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Resolution No. 0957-23, of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of considering personnel matters and to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office concerning pending or imminent litigation (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0957-23, to convene into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official and to confer with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote, and the Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 11:13 A.M.

At 12:48 P.M., Commissioner Boyce moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Crawley, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. No substantive action was taken upon exiting Executive Session, and with no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 P.M.

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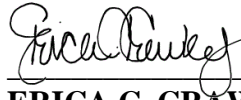
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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2023.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT

KEVIN L. BOYCE



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

Submitted by:



Lauren M. Graessle

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