

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

February 7, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 7, 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; and Lauren M. Graessle, Deputy 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 9:12 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: February is dedicated to Black History Month. We will take time this month to recognize and highlight a few of the countless inventions, scientific advancements, contributions in art and culture, and other achievements African Americans have made to this great country, as well as some of the endless struggles they have endured due to racism and oppression. Today, our guest is historian Rita Fuller-Yates, who will start us off with an overview of some of the civil rights struggles waged here in Franklin County. And she will also share some rarely publicized history about the plights of African Americans during those times. Ms. Fuller-Yates, the microphone is yours.

Rita Fuller-Yates, Historian: Even when just talking about the city of Columbus, the topic of Civil Rights is pretty broad. In the interest of sharing the history and providing a good understanding of the civil unrest at the time, I am going to use an institution that we are familiar with: The Ohio State University. In 1870, the school was established. It would be ten years before they would allow an African American to attend the school. The first African American to attend was Fred Patterson. He did not graduate, but soon after, in 1892, Mr. Sherman Gus graduated from The Ohio State University, making him the first African American graduate. In 1905, Jessie Frances Stephens became the first African American woman to graduate from Ohio State. She grew up in the Bronzeville community on the east side of Columbus.

Ms. Fuller-Yates (cont.): In the 1920s, African Americans realized the importance of creating their own civil rights fraternities and sororities. This brought about Alpha Phi Alpha, and Delta Sigma Theta. Those were organizations that helped to provide African American students with a sense of community and sense of civil rights for themselves. African Americans could not live on the Ohio State University campus until after the 1940s, and African American studies were not offered until the 1960s and 1970s. The African American Studies department was not established until 1972. This is a good snapshot of what that institution was experiencing during this period of history. Although we recognize that African Americans were introduced to Ohio State at an early and unique time compared to other white universities, they still struggled with segregation, much like the city did. In the 1970s, a man by the name of Charles Ross came to Columbus from Chicago, and he became the head of the Department of African American Studies at The Ohio State University. Mr. Ross not only played a role in the civil rights of the students, but he became a liable source for the city. He helped people understand what police brutality was. He taught about injustice and inequality. He was the Martin Luther King, Jr. of Columbus. There are many stories about Mr. Ross, but I will just tell one. In 1971, the Black students at Linden High School decided to take the American flag down from the pole in front of the school, and they replaced it with an African flag, which was green, black, and red. That action caused some civil unrest, and the administrators contacted the police. When the police came, they began harassing the students. Mr. Ross showed up, and they told him that he had five minutes to leave the area, or he would be arrested. Mr. Ross wanted to defend the students, so he sent them home, and Mr. Ross was arrested. He went to court and ended up in county jail for thirty days. A unique result of this story is that Charles Ross's wife obtained her law degree because, for thirty days, the community did not have representation while Mr. Ross was in jail. They understood the value of representation, and they knew that every time Mr. Ross went away, it would be a cost to the community. The legacy of the Ross family remains in the city today with their son, Marcus Ross.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you for that rendition of Central Ohio history. I am so glad that you picked Mr. Ross to highlight. There are dozens of stories like the one you just told about him, in which people have impacted Central Ohio in a unique and special way, and that really makes the history of Central Ohio what it is today. For those of you listening, if you do not know the following names, you should do some research because these are people whose existence made Central Ohio what it is today: Poindexter, Hale, Hammond, Rosemont, Robinson, and so many others. I want to encourage everyone to come back and join us each week in February for some rendition of not just Central Ohio African American history, but the rich legacy that African American history has in these great United States of America. Thank you, Ms. Fuller-Yates, for joining us today.

Commissioner Crawley: I would also like to say thank you for that history. As someone who is not from Central Ohio and who has only been living here for nine years, I am inspired as I continue to learn of the rich history that Black and Brown Americans have made in this city, county, and region. And thank you, Commissioner Boyce, for those additional names. I think it is important for folks to know all of the contributions that have been made.

Commissioner O'Grady: Ms. Fuller-Yates, thank you for being with us this morning. I wrote down the names that Commissioner Boyce just mentioned.

Commissioner O'Grady (cont.): Having grown up here and lived here almost my entire life, those are names that I am familiar with. Those names are the fabric of this community and of our lives.

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Commissioner O'Grady: February is also American Heart Month. Those of you who know me know that this is a big deal for me. It is a time when we recommit and remind all Franklin County residents to focus on their cardiovascular health. Here to share the importance of preventive care and reaffirm our commitment to fight heart disease are Franklin County Public Health Commissioner Joe Mazzola and American Heart Association of Central Ohio's Executive Director Nancy Tobbe. Welcome, and thank you for joining us this morning.

Joe Mazzola, Commissioner, Franklin County Public Health: I really appreciate the opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the American Heart Association of Central Ohio. As you mentioned, we are joined by Nancy Tobbe, the Executive Director. I am fortunate enough to serve on their Board of Directors. I want to take a minute to thank them for their outstanding work in our community. Franklin County Public Health is privileged to co-serve with them in leading the Franklin County Hypertension Network. We have a continued commitment to addressing heart disease in our community.

Nancy Tobbe, Executive Director, American Heart Association of Central Ohio: On behalf of the American Heart Association, I would like to thank Health Commissioner Mazzola for the opportunity to be here. Thank you to the Board of Commissioners for passing the resolution to name February American Heart Month. Statistics came out in late January, and heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death in the U.S. and worldwide. In addition, this update reports the largest increase in the number of deaths from cardiovascular disease in the U.S. in years. The largest increases are being seen among the Asian, Black, and Hispanic populations right now. Our numbers are not trending in the right direction. This increase represents the largest increase in a single year since 2015. This report also highlights the impact COVID-19 had on our cardiovascular health and underscores the need to call attention to the inequities that persist and the need to address the systemic factors causing health disparities across our community. While deaths from heart disease are rising, we know many continue to be unaware of the signs, symptoms, and risks of heart disease. Most cardiac and stroke deaths can be prevented by healthy lifestyle choices. I know our work together remains incredibly important. We are continuing to work alongside Franklin County Public Health to raise awareness, provide education, and advocate for change in our community. We continue to elevate the focus on life's essential core health behaviors and health factors to help individuals achieve ideal cardiovascular health. We are proud to continue the great work that we are doing on improving blood pressure control across the region. We are continuing to help people create healthier habits that give them the best chance at life. As a direct result of our collaboration, hundreds have been impacted by our sustainable population-level changes. During American Heart Month, we will continue our efforts to advance cardiovascular health for all and remove barriers to healthcare access.

Ms. Tobbe (cont.): Our theme this month is “Be the Beat,” and with recent events with Damar Hamlin and others, knowing CPR and hands-only CPR is so important. If you do not know CPR, we share in sixty seconds how you can learn the life-saving skill of hands-only CPR. If you do know how to perform this skill, help teach others in your circle and network how to perform hands-only CPR. We know that most cardiac arrests happen within or near the home.

Commissioner O’Grady: Keeping up with your doctors is an important thing to do. It is important to keep up with your medications. Stay current with your medications, and make sure that you take them as prescribed. Getting your blood pressure checked is always important, and you can get it checked at the pharmacy at the grocery store. You mentioned Damar Hamlin. I saw a woman on TV last week from the National American Heart Association doing a demonstration on how to do CPR. People expressed concern that they would hurt someone or break a rib by performing CPR on them. She stated that you might break a rib, but you are going to save a life, so don’t worry about breaking a rib. Learning to perform CPR is not a difficult thing to do, but it is very important. I just went yesterday to have my blood checked. I had my INR tested because I take a medication that thins my blood. I went through all of my medications with my nurse in my doctor’s office yesterday to make sure that everything was current and correct. Staying on top of these things is important because people get into trouble when they let these things slide.

Commissioner Crawley: American Heart Month is important to my family and me for personal reasons. My grandmother suffered from congestive heart failure and died of a heart attack. My mother also suffers from congestive heart failure, has had a heart attack, has had open heart surgery, and has stents in her heart. So, I understand that I am predisposed to cardiovascular issues, but I also understand the impact of healthy living, including exercise and diet. Checking your blood pressure and keeping up with physicals are important. Just because that has been my grandmother’s story and my mother’s story doesn’t mean that it has to be my story. It is also important to know CPR and know where defibrillators are located in the building. It is important to understand the signs and symptoms of heart attack, especially for women, because they often have different symptoms than are experienced by men. Do not put off anything if you do not feel well – go get it checked out right away because it really could be something a little more serious. Thank you to your team, the Heart Association, and Commissioner Mazzola for your continued support.

Commissioner Boyce: Being that it is Black History Month, I wanted to add to my colleagues’ comments. African Americans are at a higher risk for heart disease than other ethnic groups. Nearly 48% of African American women and 44% of African American men have some form of heart disease. That suggests some elements are preventable, and we can manage them ourselves. I know that Commissioner Crawley is training for her first 5k, and it is that type of energy and effort that leads to a healthy lifestyle. Better lifestyle choices can lead to better outcomes. This is why, in Franklin County, we have invested so much in wellness efforts. We want to ensure that our employees have access to all of the healthy lifestyle resources that they can so that they can live the best life possible. I want to encourage you to take on whatever fits your lifestyle and tackle some of the health-related challenges we all face. Thank you all for what you do and for being here to share with us today.

Commissioner O’Grady: Thank you for being here today, Nancy Tobbe and Commissioner Mazzola, and thank you for everything you are doing in this fight. So many health causes seem to get more attention, and people raise money to fight, but this is the number one killer. Everyone knows someone with a heart condition. Everyone knows someone who has had a heart attack or heart problem. This is the number one killer, and it is something that we all need to pay attention to. It is really easy to pay attention and to do what needs to be done, and it is really easy to remind people to do what they need to do to stay on top of this.

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Approval of the minutes for the January 31, 2023, General Session; and the January 26, and February 2, 2023, Briefing Sessions. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0074-23**, authorizing a revised jury fee schedule (Court of Common Pleas), presented by Kimberly Canada, Director of Finance, Court of Common Pleas, General Division.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0074-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Plans approved for the 2023 Resurfacing Program for various Franklin County roads, Franklin County, Ohio.

Commissioner O’Grady: I would like to open the Public Hearing. Would anyone like to speak regarding this Public Hearing? Seeing none, I will close the Public Hearing and have the Clerk read the resolution into the record.

**Resolution No. 0075-23**, plans approved for the 2023 Resurfacing Program for various Franklin County roads, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

Mr. Robertson: Before I begin, and thinking of Black History Month, I would like to thank Garrett Morgan, who patented a three-position traffic signal in 1923, improving the safety of our transportation infrastructure, even today.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0075-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0076-23**, authorizing the County Engineer to apply for a Safe Routes to School project grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0076-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0077-23**, Morrison Farms East Section 6 accepted for public maintenance and shall become part of the Jefferson Township Road System, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0077-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0078-23**, authorizing a contract for Consulting Services with Clemans Nelson & Associates, Inc. for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (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 0078-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0079-23**, authorizing a Service Agreement with AT&T for fiber relocation at 2551 Fisher Rd. (\$15,000.00) (Franklin County Data Center), presented by Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Data Center.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0079-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0080-23**, authorizing a one-year extension to a consultant contract with TCK Consulting, LLC for professional services related to critical infrastructure protection and private/public partnerships (\$75,000.00) (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 0080-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0081-23**, authorizing the acceptance of National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Funding from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for support to the Franklin County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) (\$75,000.00) (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 0081-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0082-23**, authorizing an Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Agreement with the Greater Columbus Sports Commission to support economic equity in Columbus and Franklin County to encourage economic development and tourism through the attraction, retention, and promotion of sporting events on behalf of Franklin Board of Commissioners (\$185,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and Linda Logan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Columbus Sports Commission.

Ms. Bumper and Ms. Logan reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0082-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0083-23**, authorizing Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and related amendments and extensions with Reynoldsburg City Schools for on-site case management services (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 0083-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0084-23**, authorizing the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Columbus Department of Neighborhoods to support the My Brother's Keeper Village initiatives and services (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 0084-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0085-23**, approving a subaward agreement with Action for Children for closeout activities associated with the Journey Program (\$60,000.00) (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 0085-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0086-23**, authorizing the Franklin County Administrator to execute a Contract with the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Division of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch for the performance of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) guardian ad litem services for the Court (\$500,000.00) (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 0086-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0087-23**, authorizing the Franklin County Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Nationwide Children's Hospital's (NCH) On Our Sleeves and Franklin County Office of Justice Policy & Programs for the alliance as an education



partner (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 0087-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0088-23**, authorizing a modification to the contract agreement with ms consultants, inc. to provide professional civil engineering 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 \$46,300.00. (\$1,470,499.00) (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 0088-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0089-23**, authorizing recycling of information technology equipment declared obsolete by the Franklin County Automatic Data Processing Board (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 0089-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0090-23**, authorizing a Contract Modification between Franklin County and Sikich, LLC for general benefit administration system consulting and support services for the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program (Cooperative) (\$112,500.00) (Human Resources), presented by Jodi Leis, Assistant Director, Benefits and Wellness, Human Resources.

Ms. Leis: Before I present this resolution, I would like to recognize the Board's nod to the health and well-being of Franklin County employees, and give a little plug for ThriveOn. February is our kick-off month for the 2023 ThriveOn program. Communications dropped last week, inviting all Franklin County members to participate. Multiple opportunities exist to learn more about the 2023 ThriveOn program, including Town Hall meetings, one of which is being held at 10:30 A.M. today. There are also recorded presentations through the agency Wellness Champions and through our BeWell website.

Ms. Leis (cont.): Thank you to the Board for the commitment and support of ThriveOn.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0090-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0091-23**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$20,700,002.89) (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 0091-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0092-23**, of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of considering personnel matters (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0092-23, to convene into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote, and the Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 10:08 A.M.

At 11:27 A.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 11:27 A.M.

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**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.



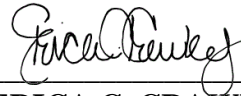
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**JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT**



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**KEVIN L. BOYCE**



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

Submitted by:



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Lauren M. Graessle

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