

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

February 11, 2020

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 8:30 A.M. on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

Present were: John O'Grady, President
Marilyn Brown, Commissioner
Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Paul Thies, Assistant Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management & Budget; Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Keena Smith, Deputy County Administrator; and, Dean M. Hindenlang, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Boyce called the meeting to order at 8:31 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: In observation of Black History Month, today, we'd like to welcome Keisha Gibbs, who is the Manager of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. She is with us today to share some observance regarding Black History Month. So, welcome; it's good to see you again.

Ms. Keisha Gibbs, Manager, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, Columbus Metropolitan Library [1467 East Long Street, Columbus, Ohio 43203]: Good morning, Commissioners. How are you all doing? Thank you for having me back, today. As always, the library has been busy for Black History Month. We have a variety of programs going on, ranging from first person portrayals of historic characters, to artists and scientists. Last week we had a fun program with James Van Derzee, where the kids got to dress up and take photographs. It was super cute, but very educational for the kids, as well. We also have a program that's special coming up, on February 17 [2020], at the Martin Luther King Branch, at 5:30 p.m.; it's Uncovering the African Treasure Chest. I don't know if you know or not, but the display of art that's in the front of the building was donated from Friends of Art and Community Enrichment (FACE). It's a permanent display, and we're doing a grant with the Ohio Humanities Council, and we are working with a professor from Ohio State who is going to come and help us make new descriptions for all of the items. I brought one of the flyers here, and as you can see, the picture of the treasure chest, there was an artist, Rosanna Field, who hand painted the images that are on the treasure chest. That's something that is very special that will be going on as well.

Commissioner Brown: Would you be okay if we put that on our Portal, with all of the information on it, if we're able to get it onto our internal site?

Ms. Gibbs: We would love that. It's a special project that was meant to bring the history of Africa to the near east side. And, meant to educate the youth that are there. So, it's something that's a big focal point for our branch. We would love for people to come out and learn more about it as well. And as always, I want to make mention of our Columbus digital African American collection that we have, as well. I brought flyers about all of the programs that are going on during Black History Month that I will leave here. And, I also brought flyers about the African Treasure Chest. But, we always want to remember the digital collection. Did you [to Commissioner Boyce] finish cleaning out your garage for the things from your grandmother?

Commissioner Boyce: You didn't have to call me out like that in front of the whole world here.

(Laughter)

Ms. Gibbs: I just get so excited. I think that often, we forget, the things that are up in our attic, or in our garage, and they are things that may not seem important, but they are treasures to everyone. So, even if it is an old pamphlet from a school concert, or a picture from your family barbeque, they all have historic value in them. Just a little reminder, that we're here, and while it's during Black History Month. You can always stop by any of our locations, and we'll take it down to our local history and genealogy department. We also have genealogy classes, to come in and learn about the history; to celebrate the history of all of their families.

Commissioner Brown: If somebody has something that they would like to donate, how would they get in touch with you?

Ms. Gibbs: They can just stop by the library. We're at 1467 East Long Street. And, you can always go to the Main Library, or any of our branches. What we do is we scan the items and then we give them right back to you, so we take good care of them. So, there's actually a number of digital collections that are online, so you can go in and check them out, as well. It's really grown a lot.

Commissioner Brown: That's great.

Commissioner Boyce: I'll just say that I love history. And, I love Central Ohio history. And, I love African American, Black history, even more. I like those connections to Central Ohio, and it's so rich and enriching to learn and see the history of Mount Vernon Avenue, and Long Street, and its evolution from then until today. I do want to take time to mention that the very first known African American citizen of Columbus, is a gentleman by the name of Arthur Boke. And, it's that kind of history, to never let that die. That's what makes history, history. So, I really appreciate what you're offering to the community, and that library branch means a lot to the near east side. And, it always has, and it always will. I've been in there two or three times since we opened it, and there's always action going on in there. There's always something going on, and there's always a lot of traffic, in and out. And, that's a really good sign that your purpose is being very well served, and the needs

are being very well met. And so, thank you for what you're doing during Black History Month and thank you for sharing with us today.

Ms. Gibbs: Thank you so much. I really appreciate that. I count it an honor to be able to work at the Martin Luther King branch, and to be able to come and see how the people interact with the branch, is just so awesome. I think just having the additional meeting rooms, the larger children's spaces. At 2:30 P.M., East High School lets out, and we're out there and the kids are there every day. So, it's wonderful for them to be able to be in the building, and to hear people. Because, people come in all the time and they talk about the old East Side Branch, that was originally there, and we get to talk to them about Martin Luther King's father being there for the dedication of the old building, and then Martin Luther King III, being there for the dedication of our current building. There is deep history in the library as well, so thank you so much for inviting me out again.

Commissioner Brown: I think that the libraries are such an incredible resource for our community, and we're so fortunate to have the Martin Luther King library, where it is, but all of the library system is such an incredible wealth of so much history. People don't realize what we have in Central Ohio, and this library system has done an incredible job of being with the times that we are in; the library has reached out and done so much more than just being a place to check out books. They have been that place where kids and adults can go, and do so much more than just check out books. It is the place to be. We know what all you do, and anything that we can do to promote that and just keep that going, I am all in.

Ms. Gibbs: Thank you. I appreciate all of your support. Come in and check us out, and go to our website at: columbuslibrary.org, where you can find out more information. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Brown moved for the approval of the minutes of the July 23, 2019 General Session; the February 4, 2020 General Session; and, the February 6, 2020 Briefing Session, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0081-20, awarding contract and approving contract bond to Lindsay Precast, Inc., for the Bridge Precast Culvert Material Purchase (\$246,878.53) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Robertson: Good morning, Commissioners. Commissioners, this first resolution, as stated, is a purchase award to Lindsay Precast. We had a competitive bid on January 14 [2020], and we had two bidders, and Lindsay had the lowest and best bid.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0081-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0082-20, WSP USA, Inc., consulting engineers appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in preparing right-of-way and construction plans for the Rohr Road, County Road

No. 235, at London-Groveport Road, SR317, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$353,976.00) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this resolution is for a design contract award with WSP. This is for a capital improvement project at the intersection of Rohr Road and State Route 317. That is in the southeast part of Franklin County; that's in the Rickenbacker area. This is a cooperative project that includes Franklin County, Groveport, ODOT, and we utilized the qualifications-based selection process, and recommend your approval.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0082-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0083-20, preliminary allocation of County Motor Vehicle License Fee (\$5) Funds for the City of Whitehall (\$65,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Robertson: As stated, this is a \$5.00 fund resolution for the City of Whitehall, to improve Broad Street from Broadwood Avenue, east to Maplewood Avenue.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0083-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0084-20, report (1st) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Alum Creek Drive at Rohr Road Improvement project, Hamilton Township and Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$81,025.00) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this is a capital improvement project, also in the southeast part of Franklin County; also very near to Rickenbacker. It's a cooperative project that includes Franklin County, City of Columbus, Groveport, Madison Township, Hamilton Township, and the Franklin County Transportation Improvement District. This is the first resolution for right-of-way acquisition, and includes two properties. The appraisals were based on fair market value.

Commissioner Brown: A lot of partners on this one.

Mr. Robertson: Yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0084-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0085-20, authorizing seven grant agreements to provide community stabilization

services for Franklin County Senior Options (\$176,258.00) (Office on Aging), presented by Amy Funk, Interim Director, Office on Aging.

Ms. Funk: Good morning, Commissioners. This resolution authorizes seven grant agreements to provide community stabilization. This is a new category for us and it includes some new and exciting projects, as well as some renewals. Community stabilization is needed in distressed neighborhoods, especially those that are experiencing or on the cusp of gentrification. Seniors in these neighborhoods are often at risk of losing their housing and their sense of belonging in the community. Projects funded under this category work by providing services and programming that helps seniors stay in their homes, such as one on one assistance to seniors in crisis situations, especially housing related ones, such as eviction. Linkage to home maintenance and repair resources, transportation to medical appointments, minor yard work, snow shoveling, as well as active opportunities to socialize and meet their neighbors. Before I ask for your approval, I'd like to call up Kate McGarvey, who is the Executive Director of Legal Aid Society of Columbus, to share a little bit about the program that they're doing with our older adults.

Kate McGarvey, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Columbus: Thank you for the invitation to speak this morning. My name is Kate McGarvey and I am the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Columbus. So, a little bit about the Legal Aid Society of Columbus. It is a non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of the poor through representation in civil legal matters. We represent individuals in Franklin, Madison, Delaware, Marion, Morrow, and Union counties. We were founded in 1954, by a group of private lawyers who were volunteering with the Columbus Bar Association. We continue to utilize private lawyers since then, with over 1,000 volunteers volunteering in 2018, with referrals, clinics, and directly with our staff in the office. In 2018, our office handled 9,351 cases which impacted 1,917 seniors. This includes providing services in a broad range of substantive areas. With the help of funding through Senior Options, this has included obtaining health insurance and services through Medicaid and Medicare, drafting necessary wills and powers of attorney for seniors, protecting the homes of seniors from foreclosure and eviction, maintaining and obtaining social security and food stamp benefits, bankruptcy assistance, divorces, and protecting seniors from debt collection and consumer scams. The LASC Wills Clinics, which are made possible through the Senior Options Funding, are among the most popular programs offered at area senior living centers according to the service coordinators who schedule activities. "Once they attend, they never stop talking about it," said Donna Coe, who works for Lutheran Social Services. "Residents are always telling me: 'I came to the Wills Clinic, and I'm so relieved' as it helps take the pressure off of their loved ones." That was the case with Betty, who sought help at a clinic because her children did not agree with her wishes for her end of life care. She left the clinic with documentation that not only ensured her wishes would be followed, but also would prevent her children from disagreeing about her care. "It's a tremendous relief to me to know that this won't cause any hard feelings amongst my children," she told the attorney who assisted her.

Ms. McGarvey (cont.): Another gentleman attended the clinic because he was worried that

his estranged children could cause problems for his other children when it came time to distribute his estate. Working with a volunteer at the clinic, he outlined how and to whom his assets are to be distributed. "I'm grateful that someone was able to help me get my affairs in order, so my children don't have an additional burden when I pass," he said afterwards. We are incredibly grateful to also have Senior Options support now with our Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP). Each day, on average, 75 new Franklin County tenants are summoned to Municipal Court, facing the prospect of being evicted from their homes. The majority come without an attorney, struggling to understand their rights and navigate a confusing court system. There are now a variety of service providers available to support tenants in this process including Legal Aid, Community Mediation Services, Job and Family Services, and others. However, one piece remained missing, and that was access to a social worker. Through the new Housing Crisis Intervention project funded in part by Senior Options, we are now able to support a social worker to aid 150 low income and disabled seniors who are working with LASC attorneys to maintain housing or to find alternative housing when housing cannot be maintained. This allows seniors to go through an assessment regarding available resources when they are at court. They also receive follow up from the social worker after eviction court with the goal of seventy percent of seniors who are served by TAP attorneys reporting more stable housing than when they arrived. We greatly appreciate the ongoing and generous support to Legal Aid, which makes a real difference in the lives of low income seniors in our community. Thank you.

Commissioner Boyce: I just want to say thanks for coming down. I believe that is one of the most despicable scams in preying on our seniors, who at the very least should be uplifted in our communities and supported in every way. But, there are some people who are just unscrupulous when preying on vulnerable people. When my grandmother was around, she was scammed and I remember how legitimate it was presented to her. It's really despicable, so thanks for what you do, and thanks for what you represent. I am glad to be partners with you.

Ms. McGarvey: We would certainly agree, especially with low income home owners, in terms of some of the scams that we are seeing that are very much preying on seniors. Ending up with home sales for much less than market value, and not having the ability to pass on that wealth to their family. Thank you.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0085-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0086-20, authorizing seven grant agreements to provide outreach services for Franklin County Senior Options (\$389,129.00) (Office on Aging), presented by Amy Funk, Interim Director, Office on Aging.

Ms. Funk: This resolution authorizes seven grant agreements to provide outreach services; these grants are all renewals. The grant agencies in this category target special population seniors in the community. These include the homebound, hard to reach, very low income

seniors, refugees and immigrants, among others. The services are tailored to meet the specific needs of this particular population, therefore assisting them to live as independently, with an improved quality of life. These services are diverse, and can include group socialization activities, peer support groups, translation services, and friendly visits. I would now like to ask Narad Nepal, from Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) to share a little about our older refugee and immigrant program.

Narad Nepal, Senior Services, Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS): Good morning, Commissioners. I am with the Older Refugee and Immigrant (ORI) program at Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS). The Older Refugee and Immigrant program serves refugee and immigrant seniors in Franklin County. Any resident of Franklin County above the age of sixty years is eligible to receive our services that include case management, citizenship tutoring, and the services of the Senior Companion, through our partnership with Catholic Social Services. Refugee and immigrant seniors face unique challenges as they try to integrate into the mainstream community due to language, social, and cultural barriers. Refugee seniors have also spent a lot of their years in refugee camps and they have many medical issues that may or may not be present in the mainstream communities. They also have many social and cultural norms that if not taken into consideration, they may not be able to make use of the many resources that are available to seniors in the county. The Older Refugee and Immigrant Program uses bilingual case workers who provide culturally appropriate case management to the seniors to enable them to take benefit of the available resources. Most of our clients receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). They have to become naturalized citizens within seven years of their arrival in the U.S., to continue to receive this benefit. Our clients do not have English language skills. Some of them are not even literate in their own language due to absence of opportunities in their home countries. To learn a new language at this age and pass the interview is a slow and uphill task. The ORI program conducts citizenship tutoring for seniors through the Senior Options Grant, to help seniors become new American citizens and to continue receiving the benefits. To achieve our goals, we partner with many other agencies providing services to seniors like Life Care Alliance, Clintonville Resources Center, and St. Stephens Community House. This helps to explain the needs and challenges so that other agencies can tailor their services to meet the needs of this new and growing section of the community. The Senior Option grant has been so important for us in providing services to immigrant seniors. In 2019, because of this grant we were able to provide case management services to 173 seniors. We provided naturalization assistance to 61 seniors and 13 of them became naturalized citizens. The grant also helped us make 24 food pantry trips and more than 20 social outings. While seniors are fortunate to have resources available in Franklin County, due to the unique challenges that refugee and immigrant seniors present, the continuation of the Senior Options grant would enable us to provide these essential services to help seniors integrate into the main stream community and also provide the support that they need to continue to age in their own homes. Thank you.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0086-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0087-20, authorizing a contract extension and modification for Spay, Neuter and Veterinarian Services (\$871,500.00) (Animal Control), presented by Kaye Persinger, Director, Animal Control.

Ms. Persinger: Good morning, Commissioners. After a competitive bid in 2018, veterinarian services were awarded to Shelter Outreach Services of Ohio, with four, one-year extension periods. This contract provides for all spay and neutering, and all veterinarian services, in total. The contract this year has been modified to provide all services at a flat monthly rate, with the exception of the SNYP It Program [Spay, Neuter Your Pup], that will be billed per procedure.

President O’Grady: How many dogs did we bring in last year?

Ms. Persinger: Close to 10,000 [dogs].

President O’Grady: Did we have spay and neuter programming last year?

Ms. Persinger: Yes, sir. We did. We did it once per week for the community, and now we’re doing it every day. And, it should be noted that the SNYP It Program is ran by donations, and the community has overwhelmed us with donations for this program, as well.

President O’Grady: And, how many dogs did we spay and neuter last year?

Ms. Persinger: It is in the thousands, Commissioner.

President O’Grady: This is a great program. How long have we been doing this?

Ms. Persinger: We’ve been offering it to the community for three years.

President O’Grady: This is something we had been working on and hoping to get in place for a long time. And so, this has been a great addition the last couple of years. This is fantastic stuff.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0087-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0088-20, awarding a Loan Agreement with the Community Housing Network for the Creekside Apartments housing project (\$250,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Jenny Snapp, Assistant Director, and Mark Paxson, Community Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Paxson: Good morning, Commissioners. The Creekside Apartments housing project will result in an approximately 63 one-bedroom unit apartment complex. The project will

serve low income individuals, disabled by mental illnesses, as well as individuals with a history of homelessness. This project is party to the Commissioners' Affordable Housing Initiative. It is located at 500 North Nelson Road, in Eastgate, near I-670. The total program cost is \$13 million, which the county will be contributing \$250,000 in HUD funds. The project was approved under the county's 2019 HUD action plan, and meets all of the citizen participation requirements.

President O'Grady: This is part of our affordable housing program?

Mr. Paxson: Correct.

President O'Grady: Does it tie in at all with our Poverty Blueprint?

Mr. Paxson: Yes, this is a subset of that Commissioner.

Commissioner Brown: It fits in with the Blueprint.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0088-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0089-20, authorizing an agreement with the Neighborhood Design Center for a Stelzer Road Frontage Plan in Mifflin Township and to develop infill housing options and open space planning (\$13,700.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Jenny Snapp, Assistant Director, and Mark Paxson, Community Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Paxson: This resolution authorizes an agreement with the Economic Development and Planning Department and the Neighborhood Design Center, for a Stelzer Road Frontage Plan in Mifflin Township. This is to develop infill housing options and open space planning. The funding for this was approved in a 2019 amendment to the HUD action plan, and we funded it with community-funded block grant dollars, in the amount of \$13,700.00.

Ms. Snapp: *A PowerPoint Presentation was utilized during the review of this resolution, and is on file with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.* Good morning, Commissioners. I have a few slides to take you through for the resolution that Mark just took you through. This resolution is to enter into a contract with the Neighborhood Design Center for planning and design services, using community development block grant funds. This redevelopment project is for the Leonard Park area on the northeast side of Franklin County, in Mifflin Township at Agler and Stelzer Road, as you can see on the map. EDP recognizes the need for comprehensive redevelopment planning in this area, which is ripe for redevelopment, as it is in the Gahanna City Schools District. We are working jointly and closely with COCIC [Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation] and Mifflin Township, and we'll be incorporating affordable housing in this project. Commissioners, as you know, with this and the prior project, to summarize, fits in with EDP's recently

adopted strategic plan to implement affordable housing in our community and the county. We do have Kerry Reeds of the Neighborhood Design Center in attendance, should you have any questions, as well as Matt Brown, our Planning Administrator, who is leading this project. I just want to thank Matt for his leadership on this particular project. I did include our focus area here, and the Neighborhood Design Center is implementing some planning services for that corridor, as well as some open space planning on the east side of the Leonard Park focus area. COCIC is working very closely with land owners, as we speak. As you can see from the peach colored parcels on the map, there are a lot of vacancies in this particular area. We think it's important to get some planning done in this area now, before any potential redevelopment happens from the private sector. If you don't have any questions, we request your support of this resolution.

Commissioner Brown: I think this makes a great deal of sense to get the planning done now.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0089-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0090-20, review of a petition to annex 63.5 +/- acres from Plain Township to the City of New Albany Case #ANX-03-20 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Jenny Snapp, Assistant Director, and Mark Paxson, Community Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

Ms. Snapp: Commissioners, this resolution is considered an expedited Type I annexation petition, of 63.6 acres, from Plain Township to the City of New Albany. The area to be annexed includes property located at 8306 Central College Road; two parcels at 0 Central College Road, as they do not have addresses; and, 8390 Central College Road, all of those are north of Central College Road, east and south of Johnstown Road, and west of Beech Road, northwest. The petition was filed by agent and attorney Aaron L. Underhill of Underhill and Hodge, LLC, on behalf of owner, Homewood Corporation, James Lipnos, President. Eric Zartman of Underhill & Hodge is in attendance should you have any questions. Seventeen percent of the site's perimeter is contiguous with the City of New Albany, and the applicant has provided a copy of the annexation agreement between the township and the City of New Albany. The petition meets all statutory requirements outlined in Section 709.022 of the Ohio Revised Code. Pending any questions, we request your approval.

President O'Grady: Does Mr. Zartman have anything to add?

Mr. Zartman, Underhill & Hodge, LLC: No, Commissioner.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0090-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0091-20, authorizing the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services Director to enter into a subgrant agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for early learning and development infrastructure services (Job and Family Services), presented by Joy Bivens, Director, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Bivens: Good morning, Commissioners. In December, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services released a request for grant applications for the Ohio Quality Infrastructure Grant Program. In January, we submitted an application and this was a competitive process. We were notified on the 27th [of January] that it was approved. Under the application, we subcontract with local partners such as Action for Children, as well as Future Ready, to provide services to Franklin County providers to improve and build capacity, to become star-rated centers by July 1st, 2020. I would be remiss if I did not mention the generous effort and support of the Commissioners on the Step Up initiative. Through the budget of Job and Family Services, you approved \$2.3 million, just in the Step Up to Quality initiative alone. We are really excited that we were able to obtain this grant through the state to assist, not just with Step Up, but also to advance the efforts. The scope of our collective work will fall under three service components: workforce recruitment and retention, high quality childcare training and technical assistance, and equipment. Commissioners, this resolution supports goal number 11 of the Rise Together Blueprint, increasing the number of students at or near the poverty level, experiencing academic success. Pending any questions, I would ask for your approval of this resolution.

Commissioner Boyce: I just wanted to add and recognize, as I said in Briefing, State Representative Erica Crawley, for her advocacy in the Ohio House, for this grant. She has been a steadfast supporter of Franklin County, and certainly that's her role as a legislator, representing Franklin County, but quite frankly, she went beyond the call of duty, and was fully engaged with the governor's office, and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Hall, and has been fully engaged in this process. I just want to recognize her, because that's the kind of partnership that I think is valuable. And, I know you as well, Director, have been very engaged with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, because when I met with them, they indicated that. You were very much accessible and very much engaged, and made accommodations at every level in our communication and conversation with them. And so, I say that because this grant is reflective of your efforts and folks like State Representative Erica Crawley, being our advocate at the state level.

Ms. Bivens: And, I just want to thank the team who actually wrote the grant, so a shout out to all of those at Job and Family Services who wrote it. Thank you once again to our State Representative, as well as your efforts.

Commissioner Brown: We could not do this without the partnerships, at the state and with the advocacy we have in our JFS Team.

President O'Grady: And, Lauren Rummel, our Government Affairs Director, who has been working hard with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, along with

Representative Crawley, and the other folks in our delegation, to bang on those doors at the statehouse. It's been a great partnership all around.

Commissioner Boyce: Thanks for mentioning Lauren Rummel, because there's the value of that position that we created a couple of years ago. Because, she has been one hundred percent engaged with the State of Ohio, at every level. And, it's really been a valuable investment on our part in hiring Lauren and creating this position.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0091-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0092-20, approving a subaward agreement with the National Center for Urban Solutions for programming to engage fathers in outreach to early child care providers for the Step Up to Quality initiative (\$100,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Joy Bivens, Director, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Bivens: Commissioners, before I begin this resolution, I would like to ask all of our dads and all of their little people to come stand with me, as I read this resolution. I am going to touch on a couple of things, and then I am going to ask Mr. John Gregory to say a few words. Commissioners, as you know, on July 1, 2020, every center in Franklin County must be star rated, and the deadline is upon us. We really need every center to be in the pipeline by March 1. While our community has made great strides, if you remember, we started this effort two or three years ago. In Franklin County we were at twenty-four percent of centers being star rated. Today, the most recent report states that we are at seventy-two percent, and again, we would not have been able to do this without your generous support, regarding the \$2.5 million that you've invested or allocated through our Job and Family Services budget. Because again, this was an unfunded mandate. With those numbers, I just want to touch on a couple of data points. As we have gone through the Step Up to Quality process, of the 27,000 children who receive public-funded childcare, sixty-eight percent of those children are children of color, in the eight lowest asset neighborhoods within our community. When we look at Step Up to Quality and its purpose, it's to assist children in becoming kindergarten ready. According to the Groundwork's Report of Ohio, seventy-three percent of African American children in Franklin County are not kindergarten ready. I am just going to let that sit there for a second. Seventy-three percent. So, we have engaged all of our partners, including our single moms, faith community, but one of the voices that we wanted to make sure was at the table were our fathers. And, many times when we go into those meetings, people ask, we need a male; particularly, a man of color. Because, a lot of times you don't see men of color at the table. Not because they're not engaged, because many of them are, but it's because the work has been deemed a predominately female work, by society. So today, we are excited to partner with NCUS [National Center for Urban Solution] for an initiative that we are calling the "Calling All Dads" initiative, which will seek to engage and train approximately 100 fathers as ambassadors, to promote the importance of quality, early learning; the significance of star

ratings; and, the consequences facing our community if providers who receive publicly funded childcare are not star rated by July 1, 2020.

John Gregory, National Center for Urban Solutions (NCUS): Good morning, Commissioners. It's really funny, I was sitting back there and I was thinking, I have worked with several previous JFS directors, and out of all of these great directors, Mrs. Bivens is probably one of the most focused, individuals who is focused on results. When we talk about the urban community, we have to talk about purpose. And, we have to talk about outcomes and results. And, working with Mrs. Bivens, she will call and say, this is what I want, this is what I need to have done, and not looking for the flowery, or anything. And so, I really want to thank her. Unfortunately, in this country, we see African American men at the bottom of the totem pole. And, this right here, Commissioners, you are doing something that has not been done before. Calling out African American men and requiring them to become participants in their children's families. But, there has to be a mechanism for that. And so, we have a grassroots mechanism for that. We have a guy here, Mr. Buckner, he is here this morning and owns one of the childcare centers that needs to be star rated. And so you can take him off of your list, because we already have him in the process. We have three guys here today who have children and they go to childcare centers that are not star rated. We're going to get them in the pipeline. You can see our shirts, and on the back it says, "Calling All Dads." And so, while Mrs. Bivens has told us what she wants us to do, and she said under no uncertain terms that we will do it, we want you to know that we put a calling out to Calling All Dads. Our response of men who want to be a part of this is phenomenal. So, we're expecting to exceed the 100 men that she told us we better have, and then told us that she really wanted more than that. But, this is important, because the stabilization of African American families has to start with men. And what is known in research is that when men are involved in their families, children are more likely to graduate from high school, they're more likely not to go to prison, they're more likely to go on to live productive lives. So, this is a campaign. You're going to see billboards. You're going to see Hot Cards; we've got wristbands. We're going to do it the grassroots way. Because, we are going to go door to door, meetings inside childcare centers, and we're going to those childcare centers and organizing those fathers. We're having spaghetti dinners, with garlic bread, and we're going to talk to fathers about taking responsibility. But, also understanding the purpose and the reason why your kid needs to be kindergarten ready. And so today, I have all fathers [with me]. All of us are going to go door to door. I called someone the other day, and they said that they really wanted to do this [become star rated] but they didn't understand all of the paperwork. And, that's why you do stuff from a grassroots perspective. Because, the truth of the matter is, is that when someone decides they want to open a daycare center, no one says you've got all of this paperwork to do. I just wanted to take care of kids and have fun. Mrs. Bivens, we are going to make sure that this campaign succeeds and goes around the country. Because, what we want to do is make sure that fathers are involved in life. This project will be directed by Mr. Johnny Turner. And Marlon. Marlon is really an exciting young man. We've got the millennials, we've got the middle-age ones, and we've got the old folks. We're going to our community to make a difference. And, we thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Bivens: I would be remiss if I did not mention that this aligns with Poverty Blueprint goal number 11 and goal number 13. And, as you know, hearing from those that are living in poverty, racial disparity is at the top of the list. We believe that this effort touches on that as well. Especially when you talk about seventy-three percent of African American children in Franklin County not being kindergarten ready. So, thank you. Pending any questions, I would ask for your approval of this resolution.

Commissioner Boyce: I don't have any questions, but I do want to commend everyone for taking time out of their day to be here, and illustrate and demonstrate the important role that we play. I think Mr. Gregory said it very well. Statistically, African American men are almost at the bottom rung of almost nearly every category. And, when you look at the statistics that you laid out, Director Bivens, that vast majority of those homes are led by single moms; particularly in African American communities. And so, I think that this effort is a real investment in Franklin County, into those African American men, those fathers in Central Ohio, and most importantly those families and those children. And, I know Mr. Buckner. You're the example of what we should all strive to be in fatherhood, and I know that personally. I just want to commend you all, and thank you all for what you represent. Many of you know my story. My father was murdered when I was a young person. And, the statistics that follow are tremendous. With the exception of myself, quite frankly, those statistics held true in my own family. The point I am making is that we can make a difference. We can turn the tide in terms of some of these awful statistics. And, I look into your eyes and feel good about what tomorrow looks like versus today. Thank you for what you represent. Thank you for being here. Thank you for being part of what I believe to be a new movement to change the face of poverty, and to change what we're doing here in Central Ohio. So, thank you so much.

Commissioner Brown: Thank you. And thank you for being here. You're here. You're the ones that showed up and you can make a difference, and you will. So, thank you for being here.

President O'Grady: It's great to see you here picking up this cause and making it happen. A year ago or so, when we were looking at how to make this work, how to make this happen, we were talking to the legislature and talking to folks about how to extend the deadline, how to do things to try to make this thing work. Some of the opposition that we got was from daycare centers in the suburbs. Daycare centers from rich white folks. Daycare centers where frankly, not that my wife and I are wealthy, but that are places like where I sent my kids. And so now, here we are, a year and a half later and it's fantastic to see this community step up, you guys step up, and say we're going to own this issue. And, we're going to make this happen. Because, when we went to try to get the assistance that we needed, then, we didn't get it. We didn't get help from people who we thought could help us. So, it's great to see you gentlemen owning this issue. Thank you for what you're doing.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0092-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

(A short video was filmed and several photographs were taken)

Resolution No. 0093-20, authorizing a contract with Vincentian Ohio Action Network for a Catalyst Grant for the provision of the Accompanying Returning Citizens with Hope program (\$165,125.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Program.

Mr. Daniels: Good morning, Commissioners. This resolution seeks your approval of a contract with Vincentian Ohio Action Network. It was chosen as a Catalyst Grant winner last year. It was then decided after conversations with the Office of Management & Budget that it made more sense for our office to administer this grant directly, and so it was built into our budget for 2020. It is a grant that will allow the Vincentians to reach out to local communities of faith, to talk about issues regarding reentry to residence, to get those communities of faith to wraparound those reentering residents. And, to encourage business owners within those communities of faith, to hire reentering residents. Pending any questions, we'd ask for your approval.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0093-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0094-20, authorizing a contract modification between the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the Corporation for Supportive Housing to provide a Justice Rapid Rehousing (an increase of \$200,713.05) (\$950,713.05) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Program.

Mr. Daniels: Commissioners, this is a modification to the contract we have existing with CSH, to provide Frequent System User Engagement, long term supportive housing for frequent jail users. In conversation with our colleagues over in Common Pleas Court, we identified a need to provide short term, temporary rapid rehousing for some of the folks participating in programs over there, particularly for individuals involved in the TIES [Treatment is Essential to Success] Drug Court. So, this is a modification to the contract which will allow us to expand and include that rapid rehousing. Pending any questions, we'd ask for your approval.

Commissioner Boyce: I'd love to get more personal with this program, and maybe see where we're investing some of those resources.

Mr. Daniels: We'll be doing that with Judge McIntosh in the TIES Court, so I'd love to get together with you.

Commissioner Boyce: Maybe not now, as I have a lot going on, but maybe in the next month or so.

Mr. Daniels: Okay, great.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0094-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0095-20, authorizing a contract with the UNIK Foundation for the provision of digital skills training and placement into career pathways for young restored residents (\$35,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Program.

Mr. Daniels: Commissioners, this is a contract with the UNIK Foundation, which is the not-for-profit arm of Hanad Duale's organization. We're specifically targeting young, reentering residents between the ages of 18 to 24. As you know, that's a group of folks we'd like to catch the first time they go through the system, and, a group of folks for which there is not a whole lot of programming available. So, partnering with Assad Shabab at The Hub, we will be working with Hanad and his group at the UNIK Foundation to provide skills training and placement into career paths, for again, those young reentering residents, between the ages of 18 to 24. Pending any questions, we'd ask for your approval.

Commissioner Brown: This is an important grant, and I think to work with this age group, so that they don't continue on to the next phase of criminal justice.

Mr. Daniels: And, criminal justice, Commissioner, is that one place, within homelessness, we've recognized it, in foster care we've recognized it, in a variety of different things. But in the justice system, the day you turn 18, you're thrown out. So, it is very different than what juvenile justice looks like. There is no transition. We're really trying to target those first-time offenders, as adults, to pull them out and make them realize that this isn't 'baby jail' anymore. This is a big deal. And, let's get you out of the system while we can.

Commissioner Brown: This is really an important piece.

President O'Grady: We've been working with this age group for a long time.

Commissioner Brown: There is no transition. You're either in the juvenile justice system, or you're in the adult system. And, the adult system is very different.

President O'Grady: Once you hit 18, there is no juvenile jail.

Commissioner Brown: That record and that treatment is so very different.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0095-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0096-20, authorizing a contract with Nothing Into Something Real Estate Inc. to provide transitional housing and housing support for participants of the Pathways program through grant funding (\$20,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Program.

Mr. Daniels: Commissioners, as you know, the women participating in our Pathways program face a variety of challenges, housing being among the most important of them. This contract will allow us to provide immediate transitional housing and housing supports for those participants. Pending any questions, we'd ask for your approval.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0096-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0097-20, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$29,484,877.34) (Purchasing), presented by Chris Johnston, Purchasing Supervisor, Purchasing, and Marleise Wicker, Small and Emerging Business Coordinator.

Mr. Johnston: Commissioners, good morning. This resolution requests your approval of 181 purchase orders (POs), for which the County Auditor has pre-certified available funding.

Ms. Wicker: This week's small and emerging business (SEBEs) vendors include 26 eligible purchase orders, totaling \$14 million. These are purchase orders for goods and services that have a higher likelihood of participation by small and emerging businesses. Of these, 22 were awarded to certified business enterprises, in the following categories: two LEDE [local economically disadvantaged]; 10 women; eight minority; one small and emerging business; and, one disadvantaged business enterprise, which includes goods and services, totaling \$14,627,515.53. This is 85 percent of the eligible purchase volume, and 99 percent of the eligible purchase order dollar value.

Mr. Johnston: Pending any questions, I'd request your approval of this resolution.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0097-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0098-20, reappointing J. Anthony (Tony) Logan, Laquore Meadows, Desiree Polk-Bland, and Randy Sokol to the Columbus & Franklin County Local Food Board (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Long: Good morning, Commissioners. Pending any questions, we'd recommend the reappointment of Tony Logan, Director Meadows, Dr. Polk-Bland, and Randy Sokol to the local food board.

President O'Grady: These folks are doing a tremendous job; all of them.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0098-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0099-20, reappointing members to the Community Advisory Committee for the Franklin County Department of Animal Care and Control (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Long: As stated, we would recommend the reappointment of members to the Community Advisory Committee for the Department of Animal Care and Control.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0099-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0100-20, appointing members to the Franklin County Community Corrections Planning Board (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Long: Pending any questions, we'd recommend the appointment of members to the Franklin County Community Corrections Planning Board.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0100-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0101-20, appointing and reappointing members to the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Long: Pending any questions, Commissioners, we would recommend the appointment and reappointment of members to the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0101-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0102-20, appointing Carlie Boos to various Franklin County designated Tax

Incentive Review Councils and Community Reinvestment Authorities (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Long: Commissioners, as stated, this resolution would recommend your approval of the appointment of Carlie Boos, to the Tax Incentive Review Council, and the Community Reinvestment Authority.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 0102-20, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

President O'Grady: Do we have any journalizations?

Clerk: No, Commissioner.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 A.M.

(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' meeting of February 11, 2020.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



MARILYN BROWN



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

Submitted by:



Dean M. Hindenlang,
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Enc.

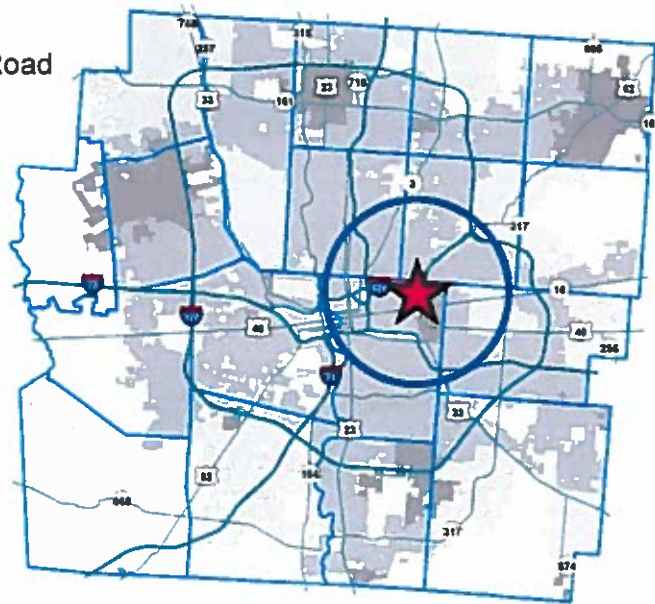


Franklin County
**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

GENERAL SESSION
FEBRUARY 11, 2020

FRANKLIN COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

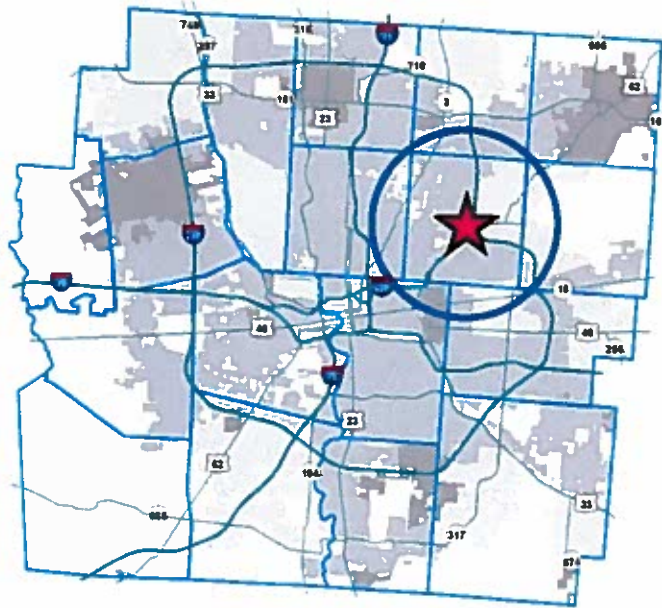
500 N. Nelson Road
Location Map



63 Permanent
Supportive
Housing Units



Leonard Park
Location Map



Leonard Park Focus Area

Legend

- Mason Run
- Columbus
- Land Use**
- Vacant
- Residential
- Commercial
- Cell Tower
- Parcels

