

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

February 18, 2025

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Present were: Erica C. Crawley, President
John O'Grady, Commissioner
Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Shayla Favor, Prosecuting Attorney; and Brittany R. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom conferencing by dialing (929) 436-2866, Meeting ID: 978 8790 2896; Passcode: 628826, or by joining at: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/97887902896>

Commissioner Crawley called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

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Commissioner Crawley: Good morning, everyone, and thank you for joining us today.

Before we begin our agenda, we want to recognize that February is National Youth Leadership Month—a time to celebrate and uplift the potential of young leaders who are shaping our future. By amplifying diverse voices and perspectives, we empower, inspire, and equip the next generation with the tools and confidence to lead with integrity, inclusivity, and vision.

Today, we are honored to welcome Patrick Terrien, President & CEO of the Columbus Council on World Affairs, who will share insights on their Global Scholars Diploma program. This initiative connects high school students with global community partners, businesses, civic leaders, and individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, preparing them to lead in an interconnected world.

Patrick Terrien, President & CEO, Columbus Council on World Affairs: Hi, I am Patrick Terrien with the Columbus Council on World Affairs, and I have been there for about 20 years. Over the last 13 years, we have led a program called Global Scholars Diploma, a three-year high school program for young people in our region. We have about 1,300 students in the program nationwide and beyond, as well as 20 school districts. This is our 50th year in existence, and we are excited to celebrate it. I want to thank the commissioners and the administrators for supporting the

organization and this program through the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. This is about youth leadership, which is what the Global Scholars Diploma is about. I want to let our colleagues discuss the program and their experiences.

Sadn Alnuaimi: Hello, my name is Sadn Alnuaimi, and I am one of the Global Scholars in year two. I am an immigrant from Egypt and came here when I was six. Coming to America was completely different for me. I couldn't speak English, and English is my second language. Everything was completely foreign. The cultural shock I experienced was very different, but it taught me how to adapt and compromise. I am still very deeply rooted in my Egyptian culture as well. One thing that stood out to me was when we received cards. One card said to speak loudly with direct eye contact, and the other said to speak softly and look down. This brought me back to kindergarten, where my teacher would speak to me, and I would look down as a sign of respect, but she thought I was rude. That came as a cultural shock to both of us. We then had to make a business deal with someone with a different card. That taught us to compromise, adapt, and reach an agreement even if someone was different from us or talked differently from us. Once again, that brought me back to how things could be better in this world if we compromised and understood one another on a deep level. I want to thank you for donating to Global Scholars, and I love this program.

Aya Sophia Al-Saadoon: My name is Aya Sophia Al-Saadoon, and I am a sophomore at Westerville North and a Global Scholar. First, I want to thank you for funding Global Scholars. I have been in different programs and clubs since I was small, and I have never seen a program like Global Scholars. Global Scholars fosters an understanding of cooperation and culture. It teaches us about different cultures all over the world. It teaches how to learn from one another, creating inclusivity and harmony. The idea that we can learn different cultures from one another is amazing. It was a different cultural shock when I first came to the United States. The idea is that we can learn from one another and be culturally aware. Cultural awareness is important because, without it, there is ignorance, leading to fear and hatred. These are important words for me because I feel like when you don't understand someone, you can be fearful of them. I think ignorance is one of the worst things that a human can be. Global Scholars has opened my eyes to new ideas, ways of thinking, ideals, and understanding of customs and cultural backgrounds. Thank you for your time.

Patrick Terrien: Thank you again. In year three, they will be doing a take-action project where they must do something locally on a global issue. Keep an eye out for them. Thank you.

Commissioner Boyce: Sophia, you said something that jumped out to me. You said you didn't want to use inclusivity and harmony, but those are real words that we should live by because they undergird why and how this country was created. The deviation from words like inclusivity and harmony is certainly a sign of the times. Still, I will remind those who don't believe in those words what our founding fathers said in our Declaration of Independence when they said, "We hold these truths to be self-evident" and that we are endowed by a creator with certain unalienable rights, among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I believe deeply that inclusivity and harmony are embedded in those words. For those who may not believe in that as a policy or perspective today for this great country, they are wrong. Our founding fathers certainly didn't get everything right when they created this representative democracy, meaning that we choose our leaders in every election to represent us, and that reflects the masses and the voice of the people.

And while those founding fathers didn't get everything right, and we certainly don't get them right every day here as a country or even in a community. I can assure you, and I promise you that it's something worth fighting for, it's something worth standing for, and it's something that you two represent for future generations. The work that we do, representing this community in a local public office, is one piece of a very large puzzle that makes this world great and worthwhile. I want you to know that and take that back with you as you go to school and matriculate through life. You represent the future. And, you know, you mentioned that we stayed up here one day. I can see in both of you that it's much bigger. Learn what you can in this role, learn what you can in life, and utilize that to make it better for all of us or future generations. Thank you so much. I'm proud of both of you, and I wish you nothing but luck in being a part of humanity, so I want to encourage you both to continue your endeavors.

Commissioner O'Grady: Thank you for being here and thanking us for continuing to fund the Global Scholars program. We are happy to fund this program. We believe in funding programs like this for many reasons. As Commissioner Boyce indicated earlier, many conversations exist about this activity and work. I have said many times that the Franklin County we grew up in spoke just a few languages and had just a few cultures. Today, Franklin County speaks several languages and has many cultures. We believe it's important to continue to do work like this to celebrate our diversity, work with countries across the globe, and work with our sister cities to celebrate the diversity of this community. Thank you for being here today.

Commissioner Crawley: I appreciate you, Patrick, for being here and all you do for this program and the students in Franklin County. Thank you for being here and telling us how wonderful and impactful the program has been for you, too. I will say that you are a leader today. You are absolutely leaders coming down to this meeting talking about the impact this program has had on you and the difference made for you and others. It takes leadership and courage. I appreciate the stories of diversity, and we get to learn from each other and why things matter in your culture versus someone else's and bringing those differences to a commonplace. My colleagues couldn't have said it better. We absolutely believe in diversity and inclusivity, that all cultures should be celebrated, and that we can continue to foster growth and learning when we embrace all cultures and what they bring to our community. Good luck to you all and thank you for being here.

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Resolution No. 0111-25, authorizing disposition of personal property, including motor vehicles and equipment, which are no longer needed for public use, are obsolete, or are unfit for the purpose for which it was acquired, and authorizing the Franklin County Engineer to dispose of said items by transferring title by internet auction (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineers Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0111-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0112-25, ADR & Associates, Ltd., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing detailed engineering design services for the Raduege-Snyder Drainage Improvement project, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$196,799.00) (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineers Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0112-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0113-25, Report (3rd) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation and damages for a portion of the owners of property abutting Harrisburg-Georgesville Road 2.83 over Big Darby Creek (PLE-CR3-2.83), Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$672.00) (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineers Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0113-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0114-25, Report (4th) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation and damages for a portion of the owners of property abutting Harrisburg-Georgesville Road 2.83 over Big Darby Creek (PLE-CR3-2.83), Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$1,103.00) (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineers Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0114-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0115-25, Report (5th) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation and damages for a portion of the owners of property abutting Harrisburg-Georgesville Road 2.83 over Big Darby Creek (PLE-CR3-2.83), Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$120,114.00) (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineers Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0115-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0116-25, awarding contract and approving contract bond to Shelly & Sands, Inc., for Eiterman Road 0.75 over South Fork Indian Run (WAS-CR41-0.75) (\$893,496.60) (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineers Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0116-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0117-25, authorizing a supplemental contract with DLT Solutions, LLC. for CrowdStrike Managed Detection and Response cybersecurity services (\$494,541.60) (Franklin County Data Center), presented by Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Franklin County Data Center.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0117-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0118-25, authorizing a grant agreement with Stonewall Columbus to support year-round programming and the 2025 Pride Festival and March (\$276,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Officer of Diversity Equity & Inclusion and Densil Porteus, Executive Director, Stonewall Columbus.

Ms. Withers and Mr. Porteus reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Mr. Porteus thanked the commissioners for their continued support and discussed Stonewell's work over four decades, which has created space for various identities, and added it is not only a financial contribution, but a testament and statement of the county's commitment to every person.

Commissioner Boyce noted Mr. Porteus' leadership over the years and how Stonewall represents a message and an organization of the LGBTQ+ community, one of the largest in the country.

Commissioner O'Grady noted the great economic investment and support this has on the community.

Commissioner Crawley thanked Mr. Porteus for his work and for creating space for inclusivity, diversity, and equality.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0118-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0119-25, authorizing a grant agreement with Columbus Fashion Alliance to support a workforce development program promoting fashion-forward culture in Franklin County and the Greater Columbus area (\$1,400,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Officer of Diversity Equity & Inclusion and Yohannan "Yogi" Terrell, CEO, Columbus Fashion Alliance.

Ms. Withers and Mr. Terrell reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Mr. Terrell discussed his recent return from the largest fashion trade show in the country and how Columbus ranks as the third-largest fashion industry in the country. Mr. Terrell thanked the commissioners for supporting the Ready to Work program and allowing individuals to grow their brand and added the move to the Short North Arts District, which will increase traffic and shoppers.

Trevell Adams and Desmond Turay, Ready to Work Participants, discussed their participation in the program, and the knowledge and marketing they have gained.

Commissioner Boyce discussed the sales tax challenge and advised them to write a business blueprint. Mr. Terrell advised that they do cover those items in the program.

Commissioner Crawley asked what offerings they provide cohorts to help them protect their brand, trade, or trademark. Mr. Terrell advised that they have expert hours and work with the participants to see what they need. Commissioner Crawley noted she would like to see a partnership with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) to address recycled materials and clothes. Mr. Terrell advised that the SWACO green campus stemmed from a report they partnered with in 2023 and will continue working closely with SWACO.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, asked how young individuals apply for the Ready to Work program. Mr. Terrell advised that they market through Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn; the website is columbusfashion.org.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0119-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0120-25, authorizing a grant agreement with Besa Community to support economic equity in Franklin County by reinventing the volunteer experience through inspiring service and transforming civic engagement (\$25,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Officer of Diversity Equity & Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0120-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0121-25, authorizing an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for floodplain review services (\$15,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0121-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0122-25, approving a subaward agreement with Think Make Live Youth to facilitate programming to decrease youth gun violence in Franklin County (\$100,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services and Terry Green, Founder, and CEO, Think Make Live Youth.

Ms. Barnes and Mr. Green reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Mr. Green added that they have 50 young individuals in the program from Independence High School and are currently at Campion Middle School, South High School, with over 120 in the program, and have been in Franklin County for over 10 years supporting young people between the ages of 13 and 24 and recently reached out to work with the juvenile court.

Hayden Thompson, a Think Make Live Youth participant, discussed the program, its meaning, and how it helped him obtain employment.

Mujedidd Muhammad, Credible Messenger, Think Make Live Youth, thanked the commissioners for supporting this program and discussed how the Guns Down program is a platform to reach the youth and how the youth today have trauma. Mr. Muhammad added that the program allows youth to open up and discuss their trauma.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, noted that Mr. Green's work is commendable, and his passion and leadership are a blessing and the true definition of demonstrating action and how entering into this agreement with Job and Family Services is an example of what can be done in the community to help turn youth around.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0122-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0123-25, approving a contract for on-site case management services between the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services and Nationwide Children's Hospital (\$215,010.84) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0123-25, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0124-25, authorizing an agreement between the Board of Commissioners and Property Owners for financial assistance with Sanitary Sewer Connections in the Mon-E-Bak and Brown Road East Service Areas - Round 3 Emergency (Sanitary Engineers), presented by Ryan Stowe, Assistant Director, Sanitary Engineers.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0124-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0125-25, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$4,945,831.49) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Perla Martinez, Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion.

Ms. Perry-Balonier and Ms. Martinez reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0125-25, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0126-25, approving one purchase order for Franklin County General Services Purchasing (\$25,000.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

Ms. Perry-Balonier reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0126-25, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0127-25, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$20,000.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

Ms. Perry-Balonier reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0127-25, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0128-25, reappointing Linda Logan to the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Board of Trustees (Board of Commissioners), presented by Melissa Kohler, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0128-25, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0129-25, appointing Joseph Denlinger to the County Hospital Commission of Franklin County, Ohio (Board of Commissioners), presented by Melissa Kohler, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0129-25, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0130-25, appointing Catherine Ballard to the County Hospital Commission of Franklin County, Ohio (Board of Commissioners), presented by Melissa Kohler, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0128-25, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

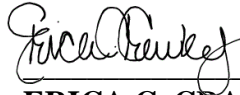
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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session for Tuesday, February 18, 2025.



ERICA C. CRAWLEY, PRESIDENT

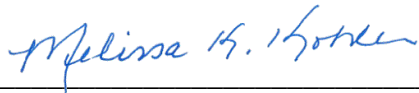


JOHN O'GRADY



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

Submitted by:



**Melissa K. Kohler
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**