

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

January 9, 2024

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

Present were: Kevin L. Boyce, President
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator; Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; and Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Boyce called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: Before we get on with today's agenda, we are pleased to welcome two ceremonial guests to the session. The first is Gwen England from the CATCH (Changing Actions to Change Habits) Court program, who is here to tell us a little bit about National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness about the different forms of human trafficking, whether for labor, services, commercial sex, or for other purposes. We know that trafficking affects people from all economic classes, racial and ethnic identities, gender identities, sexual orientations, and both adults and children, but we also know that people of color and from LGBTQIA+ communities are disproportionately affected. CATCH Court is a specialized docket in our Municipal Court that aims to break the cycle of abuse for victims of human trafficking, and we are very pleased to welcome Ms. England today to tell us more about it.

Gwen England, CATCH Court Program Leader, Franklin County Municipal Court: I appreciate this opportunity to share about some anti-trafficking work that is happening locally, in honor of January being Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The work of prevention is absolutely essential in this fight; however, even with the advancements in education, awareness, and prevention, we are nowhere near eradicating this problem, specifically in Ohio. We are in need of help for survivors when exploitation occurs, and that is where CATCH Court comes in.

Ms. England (cont.): I am excited to brag about the incredible work that Judge Jodi Thomas and the CATCH Court program are facilitating. CATCH Court is a specialized docket that is housed in the Franklin County Municipal Court. It serves women who have been identified within our criminal legal system as survivors of trafficking, or those who are at risk of sexual exploitation. Essentially, that means that any woman who is criminally involved and also involved in the sex trade can come to CATCH Court for two years if she chooses. CATCH is certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio, which means that there are a lot of boxes that need to be checked and a lot of regulations that have to be met. CATCH is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of women exiting the sex trade because it has listened to women who are engaging in the sex industry and desiring to exit. If we look at the population in CATCH, there are some significant vulnerabilities that we have to address if we want them to be successful. About three-quarters of the women in our program grew up in poverty; 86% never graduated high school; and 100% suffer from substance use disorder and meet the diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as other mental health diagnoses. The founder of our program, Judge Paul Herbert, retired, and Judge Thomas and I took over the docket in 2020. We were on a mission to evolve the program and reimagine what justice looks like for these women. Through an in-depth deconstruction effort, the CATCH team became painfully aware of the difference between intent and impact. Historically, in our program, there were a lot of rules, including stay-away zones, stay-away people, driving protocols, home pass protocols, and rigid treatment guidelines. All of those rules were implemented with the intent of safety. We wanted these women to have a safe environment, free of distraction from old connections that were unhealthy. But what we discovered was that these rules were creating secrecy. I conducted exit interviews with graduates, once they were off probation so that there was not a fear of a court response, and I asked them to tell me honestly if they followed the rules. All of them said no. They had broken all of the rules. We decided to look at the impact that these rules and regulations were having on the docket. Judith Herman reminds us that if trauma happens in isolation, healing from trauma can only happen in the presence of safe community and connection. So, we revamped our entire program through that deconstruction. We looked at our processes and protocols, and we decided that it was more important to foster a safe community where these women can learn, fail, grow, be honest, and have the support of other women who are on the same journey, as well as the support of the staff and community partners that we have to help them navigate life. The cycle of complex trauma includes three elements: secrecy, shame, and silence. This has been the life experience for the majority of the women that we serve, even prior to being exploited. CATCH is committed to operating from a philosophy that distinctly changes that life experience rather than one that perpetuates it in a different environment. This commitment has led us to embrace an approach that provides autonomy and empowerment to the survivors that we serve. Normalizing learning and failure in a safe community and connection is the secret sauce of CATCH Court; that is what helps the women heal. This model of autonomy and empowerment is a lot more work. Under our previous model, I was the Probation Officer for five years. I have had the opportunity to see both models in action. Although our current model is a lot more work, I truly believe that this is what they need to be able to recover from the horrifying things that they have experienced. We cannot do this work without the incredible partners that we have here in Franklin County and the culture of support that we experience. Organizations like Freedom a la Cart, which is our non-profit partner, fill some of the gaps by offering mentorship, workforce development, and facilitating our aftercare program.

Ms. England (cont.): Sanctuary Night meets the basic needs of the women if they abscond, are back in the life, living on the street, and using. They also provide hope to the women who are incarcerated at Jackson Pike and are awaiting release through the weekly jail group that we facilitate. Transitioning away from black-and-white rigidity, we have seen some incredible results. Our graduation rate has increased by 10%, our retention rate has increased, and our diversity has more than doubled. Because of the nuance and innovation of the docket, we have been afforded the opportunity to work very closely with the Common Pleas Court. In fact, 54% of our current participants have a felony case. Because of that, we have two felony probation officers for CATCH Court. We have repeatedly seen women be given access to our restorative justice program instead of being sentenced to prison, and that is what it is all about. This is what anti-trafficking work looks like in Franklin County. It is liberation from exploitation, but it is also affording these women opportunities to rebuild their lives to what they could have been, had life not dealt them a hand of vulnerabilities to start with. That is the work of justice. Thank you for allowing me to share a little bit about the anti-trafficking work being done in Central Ohio.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for being here and for your presentation. I know this is a special docket for women, in particular. But we also know that our youth who transition out of foster care are subject to human trafficking. If those youth can't stay in their foster home and don't have a place to go, they often end up on the street and can easily end up in a trafficking situation. There are also populations of young men and trans men who are at risk of being trafficked. Can you tell us about any programming that exists for those individuals?

Ms. England: I love it when people bring this up because we often think about women when we talk about this subject. Empowerment Court is the juvenile human trafficking docket, and we have a relationship with that court. When youth age out of the system, if they have the risk factors and vulnerabilities to be trafficked, they will communicate that with us so that we can keep them on our radar and facilitate any resources that might be helpful to them. Freedom a la Cart runs our Butterfly Program, which is the aftercare program. They essentially offer all of the same support as we do in CATCH, but without the legal component. If there is a young person who is an adult, even if they are male, who is experiencing vulnerabilities linked to trafficking, they can be linked to Freedom a la Cart for case management, weekly support groups, educational resources, workforce development, and all of the other wraparound services that the women in CATCH receive. That is the go-to specifically for human trafficking survivors. Overall, we need more support, but specifically for those who are non-binary or in the LGBTQIA+ community and are caught in this life of exploitation. CATCH will accept anyone who identifies as a woman. We did try to implement males into CATCH Court, but it did not work out. We are hungry to serve that population, but we have not seen the need in the criminal legal system. The non-profit organizations are where that work currently needs to be done because it is hard to identify those victims within the criminal legal system.

Commissioner Crawley: I got a call the other day about a young man who is being trafficked, and we connected that person with our Justice Policy and Programs agency. For males, in particular, there is another component to all of this. I understand why it may not have worked to have a special docket or program for men in CATCH Court, where they may have interacted with women who had been exploited.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): Men who have been trafficked or exploited may deal with more shame and guilt than women because we generally just think of women as victims of trafficking. There are special needs for men in these situations, and I would love to have a partnership to support young men who are not part of the LGBTQIA+ community and find themselves in this life of exploitation. My next question is about how women are manipulated or coerced into exploitation. A lot of times, women are brought into this life by other women. What programming is being done to prosecute and support those individuals who are preying on others and bringing them to the life? They need to be held accountable, but they are also usually victims of the lifestyle, which becomes a snowball effect.

Ms. England: We have actually helped several women who were looked at as women who had trafficked other women. Trafficking is a criminal enterprise. If you compare it to traditional employment, there are similar principles, including the practice of working your way up in a company. It is no different in the street economy. Women who have been in the life for a very long time often cross over into becoming perpetrators or traffickers, as the legal system would view them. But as you mentioned, they are also victims, so it is a very complex and nuanced scenario. We believe that if someone wants to exit the life and they are safe for our community, no matter what role they played, we will allow them to participate in CATCH. We have measures to ensure we are not bringing harm into our community. In our last graduating class, we had three women who were looking at prison time for trafficking and were able to participate in our jail program. Every Monday, we facilitate a curriculum in the Franklin County jail. These women were incarcerated for years, and we got to know them very well. The court afforded them the opportunity to come to CATCH instead, and they are all doing phenomenally. I still talk to all of them pretty frequently. That is the beauty of CATCH Court. A lot of times, in anti-trafficking work, we think a victim looks a certain way, and we put people in a box. We really try to shatter that. We want to see the human in front of us for what they have experienced. We want to hear their story and what their dreams are, and if we can support their rehabilitation in any way, we want to do that. CATCH Court is really about restorative justice because that is how you heal the community.

Commissioner Boyce: I am really glad you mentioned Judge Herbert because he was a pioneer in leading this conversation. CATCH Court is something that will always be a part of his legacy. I love that we are having a conversation that focuses on victims rather than criminals. Years ago, there was a raid at a massage parlor in my district. There were approximately twenty women there who were victims of human trafficking. None of the women spoke English, and they did not know where they were. They were whisked away from their homeland in a very secretive and criminal manner. It does not take a clinical psychologist to see that the physical and mental abuse that they incurred will require a lifetime of recovery. After the raid, the women were left there. They needed clothes, food, and a place to stay. They also needed to figure out translation services. I got involved because we were trying to get those services for them. I was profoundly impacted by it. When we say "human trafficking," it is another way to say "slavery." I met some of those women and saw the terror in their eyes and the confusion on their faces. They appreciated being taken out of that environment. It is all something I will never be able to forget. The real work comes after victims have been rescued from those scenarios. We see the impacts of slavery in American history.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): We have to invest in people who have been impacted by that, and we need to continue that investment after they have been rescued to help them heal. Secrecy, shame, and silence are three things that are very difficult to overcome. We really appreciate your work. I love that as the Board of Commissioners, we get to engage with partners like you, and we will continue to invest in what you do.

Ms. England: Thank you. Before I take my seat, something has come to mind that I want to share. The Attorney General has a Human Trafficking Commission, as I am sure you are aware. They have ambassadors, people with lived experience, who sit on that board. There is a male ambassador who is very passionate about creating more services for the male population that has been exploited. He is doing a lot of the leg work to connect with funders and partners to provide emergency housing and supportive services for males, specifically.

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Commissioner Boyce: Our second special guest this week is Ange-Marie Hancock, Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. She's here to tell us a little bit about the work that they do as an interdisciplinary research center studying the conditions that create and fuel inequity in our society and how we can disrupt them. Welcome, Ms. Hancock. We're pleased to have you with us today, and after you speak, we've got a ceremonial resolution to present to you honoring the Kirwan Institute's 20th Anniversary.

Ange-Marie Hancock, Executive Director, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity: Thank you for joining us in celebrating this remarkable milestone, the 20th Anniversary of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, which has been a beacon of hope and progress in our community. It is a profound honor for me to stand before you today as the Executive Director, and I am deeply humbled by the recognition you are giving us today. As someone born at Mount Carmel Hospital and whose parents brought her back to campus to begin her life after two days at Mount Carmel, and as an alumna of Thomas Worthington High School, this honor is quite special. Two decades ago, the Kirwan Institute was born from a vision for a more equitable society, recognizing the urgent need to address systemic disparities and injustices. Our founding director, Professor John A. Powell, lit the torch of racial and ethnic equity, and we continue to conduct transformative research that strives toward a world where every person can thrive, regardless of their background. Just before the pandemic, we were honored to work on the RISE Together Blueprint to eradicate poverty, and that is just one example of what we have been able to do. Over the years, we have engaged in groundbreaking research, advocacy, and community partnerships that have made tangible differences in over 400 communities across the country, many of which are here in Franklin County. We dream with and empower communities to pursue a shared future that brings us all together. As we celebrate our 20th Anniversary, we also mark the launch of our new strategic vision, a roadmap that will guide us over the next ten years. This plan represents our unwavering commitment to equity, inclusion, and justice.

Ms. Hancock (cont.): It reaffirms our dedication to research that uncovers hidden disparities and drives change in partnership with communities, policymakers, scholars, and students, who amplify our impact on health equity, educational equity, economic opportunity, housing equity, and poverty eradication. In the face of many ongoing challenges, we remain steadfast in this mission. Our work is not done, but together with our partners and community, we will continue to break down barriers, challenge inequities, and create a more just and equitable society for all. As we look to the future, let us remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” The Kirwan Institute is proud to be a part of that bending arc, and we are grateful to the County for its support, guidance, and partnership along the way. I want to thank the Board of Commissioners for this recognition, and I want to thank everyone who is here, including Trudy Bartley, who has been tremendously supportive and an essential part of my transition into this role. Together, we will keep pushing the boundaries of what’s possible and striving for a world where equity is not just a dream but a reality for everyone in our community.

Commissioner Crawley: I am excited about your vision going forward. I know it involves three or four pillars, and you are welcome to talk about those with us if you would like. When I first heard about your plans for the coming years, I identified several places where the County could be partners. I appreciate the work that the Kirwan Institute did in partnership and collaboration with the County on our RISE Together Blueprint, which serves as the framework of everything that we do. When I am having conversations about the poverty work that we are doing at the County, I always mention the Kirwan Institute and how we would not be able to do the work that we do without the research you have provided us. You are unapologetic about the barriers that we have faced historically and systemically. If we are ever going to tackle poverty in a real way, disrupt the barriers we face, and address the continued harm we see with redlining and state and federal laws that have been codified, we need to tell the truth about where we have been. We are lucky to have you. I am glad you are here leading the Kirwan Institute, and I look forward to partnering with you as you share your vision for the years to come.

Ms. Hancock: We launched a ten-year strategic vision on September 29, 2023. That vision has three pillars. As I go over those pillars, we will see some connections to the Rise Together Blueprint. I think everyone can acknowledge that we are in a shifting and dynamic landscape with some of the backlash going against some of the real, tangible progress we have made on the equity front. So, our first pillar is that it is time for Kirwan to innovate, just as we did when we invented opportunity mapping twenty years ago. That moved the needle on how we think about place-based investments and helping policymakers understand the areas where resources are needed. It highlighted where policy decisions created barriers to opportunities instead of on-ramps to opportunities. It is time for us to innovate again, so we are going to invest in what those innovations should be. I would love to tell you today what those are, but we do not know yet, and that is why we need to innovate. We need to innovate because of the Supreme Court and because of the backlash. The second pillar involves some of the work we plan on continuing with RISE Together and other folks in the county through strategic partnerships. We anticipate building twenty-five new strategic partnerships that would allow us to invest deeply with communities and policymakers.

Ms. Hancock (cont.): President Carter of the Ohio State University spoke yesterday about retaining faculty and making sure that the research insights that Ohio State produces trickle down and filter into the decision-making in the communities. That is one of the areas in which Kirwan will continue to invest, and we will do that in several areas, including health equity, educational equity, poverty eradication, economic opportunity, and housing equity. The final pillar focuses on partnering with communities. We are doing that with the City of Columbus right now and we have had a long history of doing that with Westerville and Worthington. We have done that in a variety of different locations across the county. Our approach will be different now, however, because we would like to triple the amount of time we invest in each community. We want to come alongside communities and let them know that we are with them for the long haul. Poverty is not going to go away in a year or two years. There are several aspects of poverty, and they are all connected to one another.

Commissioner Crawley: I was speaking to Administrator Wilson yesterday about how we cannot talk about housing without talking about transportation. All of these issues are often siloed, but they are connected, and we need to talk about them as such. I appreciate you raising awareness about that.

Commissioner Boyce: Central Ohio is a much larger and more complex political environment than people from the outside usually think. But embedded in that is this work. The historical impact of the Ohio State University on this community is something that deserves evaluation, investment, and partnership. I want to encourage you to stay fully engaged with Franklin County and our work. At the heart of what you are doing is the research and data collection that allows us to carry out our work in an effective and deliberate way. Rooted in our RISE Together Blueprint strategy is the concept of change, and we have to be committed to the long haul to effectuate change. When we entered into this poverty work, we zeroed in on having a long-term commitment. Often, in government, we tend to be reactive to data and information, and then we move on to the next thing without being committed to the long play. We often want results from that investment right away, as well. The reality is that change does not occur like that. OSU does a lot of amazing things for our community, but it also has a long history of its own disconnect from this local community. I think there is value in zeroing in on that. Ohio State is unique in its power, authority, and influence, and the County is, as well. I think there is an opportunity for us to work closer together as we dive deeper into the next layer, and I would like to ask that we do so. The Kirwan Institute is doing tremendous work, and I think there is an opportunity for you to partner with the County at a deeper level, especially as we get further into our investment in the Community Information Exchange (CIE). We need to do a better job of not siloing our research and information because we need to carry out the change that is needed, as identified by that data. As a kid, I never felt like I had access to OSU, but today, I think many of those barriers have been lowered to an extent. A partnership between this Board and Kirwan is something that I would heavily support.

Commissioner Crawley: I love that Commissioner Boyce brought up the disconnect. We have been working with Trudy Bartley and her team to deal with the fact that Black and Brown children, and historically Black children in particular, have not seen OSU as an asset or resource for them, especially in the context of agriculture.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): I am using agriculture as an example because we have a program with OSU called Urban ROOTS (Reshaping Outreach Opportunities Through Self-Discovery), which is County-funded. We are in our second year of this year-round program. This program is not just for children and students, but it is an effort to involve parents and the community because not everyone, especially those in marginalized communities, has seen OSU as an asset. We should be doing this in other programs, as well. To Commissioner Boyce's point, I would like to identify more areas where we can partner with the Kirwan Institute. It is great for Ohio State and the Kirwan Institute to have anti-poverty initiatives, but we cannot fully carry those out with a school that does not acknowledge, or that perpetuates, the divide between the haves and the have-nots and between who has access and who does not. We need to be honest about that. But I love the fact that we have Urban ROOTS, and there is interest from other parts of the state in replicating that program. We should have more opportunities like that for year-round programming, not just for students but for their families, as well. This is how we can change the narrative so everyone can see OSU as a resource for them.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: I oversee all of the Health and Human Service agencies that fall under the Board of Commissioners, in addition to making sure that actions from the government's perspective of the Poverty Blueprint plan are carried out. Housed at Ohio State, we have the Pathways 2 Progress program, a summertime youth program that we hope to make year-round because it has been one of our best summer youth programs. I would like to meet with you to discuss all of our initiatives. As you develop your framework, we can determine where you can assist in collecting and utilizing the right data to make our initiatives effective.

Ms. Hancock: Thank you very much for engaging and being willing to work with Kirwan. We stand ready. I want to acknowledge what Commissioner Boyce said about the disconnect. One of the things that Kirwan has learned how to do in our 20 years is to bridge that gap in ways that perhaps other parts of the University have not always done. That is something we consider to be an area of expertise, and we offer that to the University to teach them how to better engage with the County and the various communities throughout the county. Transportation is key, and we want to think about how all of the factors connect. One of the programs that OSU has that is close to my heart is the Young Scholars Program. I am a former middle school math teacher from that program. We need to determine how we can expand opportunities like this to ensure that more and more kids in Franklin County see Ohio State as not just a place they can root or play for but a place where they can grow whatever talents they want. As I have told my foster son, you can go to college because there is a college and a program for anything you want to do. Ohio State is one of those comprehensive universities where that can be done. DCA Bivens, I would love to meet with you and explore more of our collaboration possibilities. I have a lot of experience working at the county level in different contexts, and I would be excited to determine the needs and see where we can be helpful.

Commissioner Boyce: Ohio State is such a massive institution, and I hope that the dots are being connected throughout the system, such as between admissions, placement, residential, law enforcement, and so on.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): Sometimes, you know that work is happening at a high level, but sometimes, it does not always connect with the levels below it. We want youth, particularly Black and Brown youth, to stay in Central Ohio. We want them to feel like they have a place right here. Because when they go away to school, it is hard to get them back. We do not have the brain drain that other cities have because we have Ohio State, and it is an anchor that attracts students to stay in Central Ohio, but I think sometimes the strategy of the university focuses on bringing students from outside of the state, and it misses the youth who are already here. We have to think about that in Franklin County, as well. Our strategy is to reduce the number of people we need to serve each year through our Health and Human Services agencies so that people are living sustainable lives. The idea is to create better-paying jobs, provide access to better education, create better childcare and healthcare scenarios, and so on, so that people can be sustainable on their own. I think that is the same with OSU. We at Franklin County have to own being partners with you better. Your data is crucial, and we need to work more closely with you.

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Approval of the minutes for the October 10, October 17, October 24, and October 31, 2023, General Sessions; and the October 5, October 12, October 19, and October 26, 2023, Briefing Sessions. Commissioner Crawley moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0011-24, appointing the Franklin County Apiary Inspector for 2024 (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Nina Bagley, Apiary Inspector, shared remarks and explained her duties as Apiary Inspector. She noted that she checks the beehives of approximately 900 people in Franklin County. Ms. Bagley stated that there has been a 49% reduction in the number of bees in the country over the past year, and there is likely to be a 50% reduction in the bee population in Ohio this year. She emphasized the importance of bees, noting that they pollinate one-third of our food crops and are the key to sustaining our lifecycle. Ms. Bagley stated that more help is needed to educate the public and enforce proper and safe beekeeping rules. Commissioner Boyce encouraged DCA Long to incorporate this conversation into some of the County's legislative strategies so that inspectors would have the resources to enforce the rules. Commissioner Crawley underscored the importance of bees in the lifecycle of plants and animals and the importance of education on this topic. She also stated that bees should be removed rather than exterminated when possible.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0011-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Plans approved for the improvement of Genessee Avenue from Parkwood Avenue to Perdue Avenue, Mifflin Township, Franklin County, Ohio.

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

Resolution No. 0012-24, plans approved for the improvement of Genessee Avenue from Parkwood Avenue to Perdue Avenue, Mifflin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0012-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Prayer of petition to vacate unnamed alleys located in the Northern-Way Subdivision, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, granted.

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

Resolution No. 0013-24, prayer of petition to vacate unnamed alleys located in the Northern-Way Subdivision, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, granted (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce asked for clarification regarding what happens when a township vacates alleys. Mr. Soulas explained that the alleys would revert to the abutting property owners.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0013-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0014-24, report (16th) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Elliott Road and Hayden Run Road Drainage Improvement project, Brown Township and Washington Township, Franklin

County, Ohio (\$67,124.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce asked for clarification regarding the process and the settlement amount. Mr. Soulas explained the process and stated that the settlement amount is in addition to the fair market value offer provided to the property owner(s).

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0014-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0015-24, authorizing the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, to enter into a consultant contract with Paul Werth Associates, Inc. for public relations management and strategies (\$100,000.00) (Prosecuting Attorney), presented by Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0015-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0016-24, approving the settlement of legal claims and authorizing the County Administrator to execute a Settlement Agreement and Release (Prosecuting Attorney), presented by Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0016-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0017-24, authorizing the First Contract Modification and Novation Agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. (\$299,560.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0017-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0018-24, authorizing the contract agreement with the Alabama Civil Right Tourism Association to operate and execute a Civil Rights tour that will support our ongoing education regarding the complex, continuous work of advancing racial equality (\$73,982.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0018-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0019-24, authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant with Community Refugee & Immigration Services to provide gap funding for interpretation and case management services (\$81,284.25) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Hummer and Mr. Wilson reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0019-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0020-24, review of petition to annex 0.755 +/- acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City Case #ANX-54-23 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Ruchelle Pride, Interim Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0020-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0021-24, approving a contract agreement with Dress for Success Columbus for workplace suiting services and programming (\$190,000.00) (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.

DCA Bivens asked that this information be posted on all of the County websites to ensure everyone has access to the information, to which Ms. Turner agreed.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0021-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0022-24, approving a subaward agreement with Tech Corps Ohio for youth technology programming (\$674,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Crawley noted that this is a year-round program for 115 students, and students are able to participate for multiple years. She asked how many new students can engage in Tech Corps versus repeat students. Ms. Turner said she would check to see how many new students are enrolled annually and report back to the commissioners.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0022-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0023-24, approving a subaward agreement with IMPACT Community Action for the Franklin County Out-of-School Youth Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (\$1,089,999.99) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0023-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0024-24, approving a subaward agreement with Franklin County Public Health for a Transitional Housing Pilot Initiative (\$1,000,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Walter Dillard, Assistant Director and Chief Strategy Officer, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Boyce noted that this is timely because emergency housing issues are often more harsh in winter. Commissioner Crawley asked where these funds came from, and Ms. Turner replied that these are General Revenue dollars. Commissioner Crawley noted that Franklin County has \$3.2 million in HOME ARPA dollars, and they have until 2030 to use those dollars. She explained that dollars that are available now may not be available later on, so the County should be using them now. She noted that there is a growing need for emergency housing, and the HOME ARPA dollars can be allocated to housing initiatives, so the County needs to be strategic about how it is funding its various housing initiatives.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0024-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0025-24, 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 Kevin Greenwood, Deputy Director, Survivor Services, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0025-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0026-24, authorizing the County Administrator to perform certain administrative functions (Human Resources), presented by Laura Repasky, Director, Human Resources.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0026-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0027-24, authorizing contracts with forty-three (43) Providers for Consolidated County Transportation Services (Lift, Non-Lift and Escort) (\$25,000,000.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0027-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0028-24, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$60,365,564.44) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to amend Resolution 0028-24 to remove one Purchase Order for Huntington National Bank in the amount of \$150,000.00 for a revised total of \$60,215,564.44, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was amended by roll call vote.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Amended Resolution 0028-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Amended Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0029-24, authorizing appropriation adjustments for providing salary and wage increases to non-bargaining employees (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0029-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0030-24, authorizing the County Administrator to approve the settlement of certain legal claims in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars or less, and to take all actions necessary to effectuate those settlements, as originally granted under, and subject to the same terms and limitations as described in, Resolution 0319-21 and 313-22, through December 31, 2025 (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Crawley asked why the term of this resolution was for two years rather than one year. Ms. Hummer stated that she set the term for two years to align with the County Administrator's tenure. Administrator Wilson said that the first year was completed as a pilot study, and it was successful, so he supported the two-year term of this resolution. Ms. Hummer explained the process of this resolution authority and noted that it does not provide unilateral authority. She stated that the Commissioners will continue to receive direct correspondence, and there is a waiting period of ten days before the County Administrator takes any action. She continued that if any of the Commissioners object, the matter is placed on a General Session agenda for consideration by the Board. She noted that the Commissioners maintain complete authority. Administrator Wilson added that all settlements signed using this authority are

disclosed to the Board of Commissioners as part of the annual and mid-year Budget Review processes. Commissioner Crawley stated that she would prefer the term to be one year rather than two. Commissioner Boyce voiced his agreement with Commissioner Crawley.

Commissioner Crawley moved to amend Resolution 0030-24 to reflect an end date of January 14, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Boyce.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Amended Resolution 0030-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Amended Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read two (2) journalizations into the record:

Case #ANX-02-24, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-02-24, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on January 3, 2024. The petition is requesting to annex 9.45-acres from Jackson Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on February 6, 2024. Site: Demorest Road, PID #160-000126; 2021 Demorest Road, PID #160-000228; 2005 Demorest Road, PID #160-002146; Demorest Road, PID #160-002175.

Case #ANX-03-24, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-03-24, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on January 3, 2024. The petition is requesting to annex 0.897-acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on February 6, 2024. Site: 2232 Edwards Road, PID #160-000449.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 A.M.

(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.



KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT

JOHN O'GRADY



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

Submitted by:



Lauren M. Graessle

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