

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

(Note: This meeting was conducted by teleconference due to the current Covid-19 outbreak.)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m. by Council President Matt Burke.

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Council Members Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake, Burke, Vaughn

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

PRESIDENT BURKE: At this time, I would like to make a motion that we accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the city of Garfield Heights for Monday, September 28, 2020 as written. Do I have a second?

CLMN DONAHUE: Seconds.

PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by myself and seconded by Clmn Donahue to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the city of Garfield Heights for Monday, September 28, 2020, as written. Will the Clerk please take a roll call vote.

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich

CLWN DAVIS: Before I vote, Mr. Chairman, did you say the Amended Council Meeting Minutes?

PRESIDENT BURKE: No, I just said the Council Meeting Minutes. So we need to redo this. I should have said Amended. I apologize for that.

CLWN DAVIS: I'm sorry. *(Inaudible.)*

PRESIDENT BURKE: I will make a motion at this time to accept the Amended version of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the city of Garfield Heights for Monday, September 28, 2020 as written. Do I have a second?

CLMN DONAHUE: Chuck Donahue seconds it.

PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by myself and seconded by Clmn Donahue to accept the Amended version of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the city of Garfield Heights for Monday, September 28, 2020, as submitted. Will the Clerk please take a roll call vote.

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

PRESIDENT BURKE: The Amended version of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the city of Garfield Heights from Monday, September 28, 2020 passes with 7 Yes votes.

The next order of business is the Special Council Meeting Minutes for the city of Garfield Heights for Thursday, October 1, 2020. At this time, I'd like to make motion to accept said Minutes as written. Do I have a second?

CLMN DONAHUE: Mr. Donahue seconds.

PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by myself and seconded by Clmn Donahue to accept the Special Council Meeting Minutes for the city of Garfield Heights for Thursday, October 1, 2020, as submitted. Will the Clerk please take a roll call vote.

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

The Special Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 1, 2020 passes with 7 votes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL:

PRESIDENT BURKE: OK. We are up to Written Communications to Council. I know we had a couple of e-mails. Barb, do you have those e-mails like I instructed you to have?

CLERK: Yes, I have them right here. Both of them. Would you like me to read them now?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Absolutely, if you could, please.

CLERK: All right. The first letter came by e-mail. It's from James Fruits. It's dated Wednesday, September 30th.

"Council President Burke,

I was not able to attend Monday night's City Council Meeting and would like to listen to the recording. Can you please send me the link?

To all of Council and the Mayor,

I want to state my disappointment in the Safety Committee meeting that was held on Tuesday, September 29th. On multiple occasions I have asked specific questions about when the Safety Council will address the policing issues in our community and how our residents have been affected by these issues and my questions have been ignored each time. It appears to me that the Safety Council is unwilling to address these issues at all this year. Our residents deserve better.

Councilman Vaughn, you stated at the Safety Council meeting that policing issues were not on the agenda. I cannot agree more, policing issues that are important to our community are indeed not on your agenda, at all. They weren't on your agenda last night. They haven't been on your agenda since June 15th when the news broke about Mr. Settles having been imprisoned for 5 months in the County Jail after he was beaten by one of our officers. When will policing issues and issues of systemic racism in our community be on the agenda? How is our community leadership rebuilding trust with it's

residents by avoiding these issues? If this isn't an issue for the Safety Council, who is it an issue for? Who will step up and make this an issue that our community addresses?

Sincerely,
—james

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Barb.

CLERK: You're welcome. Do you want to comment or should I read the next one?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Go ahead and read the next one.

CLERK: All right. The next one is from Haziel Robles Feeney. It's dated October 12th and it came by e-mail.

"Dear City Council,

I'd like to interject some positive notes regarding our police department in the midsts of all the negativity being spewed at them. Our police department, to me does an outstanding job with what they have to work with. When needed, they are there within minutes. They've always been cordial and easily approached. They risk their lives each day for people they don't even know and continue to do so without bias. We honestly need more police officers in our department. My family and I will continue to fully support our police department.

Thank you,

Haziel Robles Feeney"

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Barb.

CLERK: You're welcome.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PRESIDENT BURKE: OK. We will move on to Committee Reports. Do we have any Committee Reports this evening?

CLMN VAUGHN: Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Clmn Vaughn.

CLMN VAUGHN: I have a couple Committee Reports. Two concerning Safety Committee and one concerning Finance.

PRESIDENT BURKE: OK. Mr. Vaughn, you have the floor.

CLMN VAUGHN: A few weeks ago, we had a Safety Committee Meeting on Tuesday, September 29th concerning Halloween. Normally it would not be a concern, but since we're

living through a pandemic, discussion needed to be had. We talked at quite length on whether or not to go forward with trick or treating, truck or treat or what other cities were going to do in the city. It was decided that we will allow traditional trick or treating on Saturday October 31st from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We ask everyone to follow social distancing and wear a facemask. Everyone be safe and enjoy. The police will be out patrolling with extra officers on the road, being assisted by our Auxiliary Police Officers. Again, we will celebrate a traditional Halloween on October 31st from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Next, we will be calling a Safety Committee Meeting to discuss issues brought forward from the Prayer Session at Holy Spirit Church and the meeting held at The Rock Community Church. We ask those who are interested to call in via telecommunications for a meeting. This meeting is to discuss a plan for the future and to work with the Police Department in the future. The meeting will be held on October 19th at 6:30 p.m. We ask all to be patient and considerate of each other. Again, this meeting is Monday, October 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Lastly, the next is a report for City Finance Meetings. These will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 27th, 28th and 29th. These meetings are for setting budgets for the 2021 fiscal year. Starting times will be at 6:30 p.m. Details and schedules will be sent out soon. Thank you. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Clmn Vaughn. What did you say those Finance Meeting dates were going to be?

CLMN VAUGHN: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday October 27th, 28th and 29th. Going to be a busy week.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes, it will be. Do we have any other Committee Reports? If there are none, we will move on to the report of the Mayor. Mayor, do you have a report for us this evening?

REPORT OF THE MAYOR:

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. I first want to read a memo from the Northeast Ohio Sewer District.

"Times are tough, but we are in this together. You may qualify for a lower sewer bill. You rely on sewer and storm water services every day. When bills are due in difficult times we understand priorities change. Our priority will always be our customers. We may offer the help you need. While collection activities are on hold during the Covid 19 pandemic, sewer bills don't go away. Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District offers cost saving programs including crisis assistance for life events by job loss or medical expenses. A Homestead or affordability program represents a 100% discount for qualified customers.

If you are a renter having difficulty making payments to the Covid 19 Northeast Ohio Rep, help is available thanks to CHM Housing Partners. To see if you qualify, please contact Northeast Ohio Sewer District customer service at (216) 881-8247."

Next I want to move on to a Landlord Tenant Forum that is scheduled for October 20, 2020 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. Panelists for this forum are Judge Deborah Nicastro, Garfield Heights Municipal Court Advisory Committee, Alfrie Hudson, Wraparound Service Specialist for Murtis-Taylor Human Services Systems and Kate Camden, Director of Financial Mobility Programs, CHM Housing Partners. Our panelists will discuss your rights, your responsibilities under the CDC Eviction Moratorium and available assistance for landlords and tenants. Submit your questions live in the Zoom or Facebook. Chat or e-mail questions in advance to garfieldheightsaca@gmail.com.

If you are struggling out there and we know you are, don't be bashful. Don't be too proud. If there's help out there, let's find out what it's all about. I urge everyone to please listen in on this tenant forum.

Next, I want to talk a little bit about the Garfield Heights Halloween and Harvest Costume Parade. The Garfield Heights Halloween and Harvest Costume Parade is Sunday October 25th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. It's in the Civic Center complex, 5407 Turney Road. Everyone is encouraged to wear a costume. Treats are available for children 12 and under while supplies last. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Covid 19 safety (*inaudible*) and six-foot social distancing, masks required. Parking available at the Cuyahoga County Library. Parade will begin at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center. There will be four stops: the Recreation Center, the Civic Center, the library and the Historical House. We are trying to get as much candy and as much treats as we can for the kids. I urge Council if you can, if you haven't already, please donate what you can. Let's make this a fantastic affair for all the children in Garfield Heights.

As was stated earlier by Clmn Vaughn, there was some confusion. The regular trick or treat will take place on October 31st from 6:00-8:00 p.m. As long as the residents who want to distribute candy, turn your light on. If you don't want to distribute candy you feel uncomfortable because of the virus, just leave your light off. And the parents, it's also up to them whether they want to send the kids out or not. But once again, we're going to have a good Halloween parade and I urge everyone to be involved.

With that said, I want to get into tonight's legislation. Ordinance 75 is in regards to resurfacing Broadway from where it begins to where it ends in Garfield Heights. Long overdue. Ordinance 76—an ordinance authorizing Dave Krock, City Engineer, to prepare the necessary plans and specifications for the Midwest Neighborhood Storm/Sanitary Sewer System Reconstruction Project Phase 3. Ordinance 77. We are going to enter into a contract once again with Cuyahoga County Board of Health for 2021 at a cost of \$157,227.00.

Mr. Chairman, you have my report.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mayor Collova. Starting with Ward 1 Clmn Dudley, do you have any questions for the Mayor on his report this evening?

CLMN DUDLEY: No. I have no questions for the Mayor this evening, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Clmn Donahue, do you have any questions for the Mayor on his report this evening?

CLMN DONAHUE: I have no questions for the Mayor, Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Clmn Nenadovich. Do you have any questions for the Mayor on his report?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Yes. Would you repeat the date for that ACA meeting and what time it was?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: The ACA meeting?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Garfield Heights ACA is where you respond with a gmail. For housing with the Judge.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: That's the tenant forum?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Yes, Sir.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: And what were you asking Mike? I'm sorry.

CLMN NENADOVICH: The date and time again and where it's going to be held. Is it on-line?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: October 20th from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

CLMN NENADOVICH: OK. And that will be on-line?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: It's going to be a Zoom, Facebook. I would suggest just because there's a lot to read here, I would suggest you contact Pat Salemi because she has all the information.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Clwn Davis, do you have any questions for the Mayor on his report?

CLWN DAVIS: Yes, Mayor Collova, can you restate when the candy needs to be donated by and who we should donate that to because I would like to donate candy?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: As soon as you can, get it here because we distribute on the 25th but we will take candy right up to that day. We would bring it to the Rec Center. Mary Nichols inside the office will be taking care of it.

CLWN DAVIS: OK. I will have something dropped off on Thursday. Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you, Shayla.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Clmn Blake, do you have any questions for the Mayor on his report?

CLMN BLAKE: No questions this evening, thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: I also do not have any questions. Clmn Vaughn, do you have any questions for the Mayor on his report?

CLMN VAUGHN: No, I'm good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. We will move on to communications from citizens specifically on tonight's agenda, which includes the three ordinances at hand. Will the Clerk please read the rule?

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON THE AGENDA:

CLERK: Comments shall be strictly limited to brief statements not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to legislation on the current evening's agenda. No citizen shall speak more than once.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Do we have any citizens in the audience who would like to speak specifically on tonight's agenda? OK. If there are none we will move on to tonight's agenda beginning with Ordinance number 75-2020. Will the Clerk please read the title?

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE NO. 75-2020

PRELIMINARY LEGISLATION BETWEEN THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS AND ODOT TO RESURFACE BROADWAY AVENUE (SR-14) FROM THE WESTERN CORPORATION LIMIT TO THE EASTERN CORPORATION LIMIT.

Moved by BURKE to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake
Ordinance 75-2020 passes with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 76-2020

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING DAVID KROCK, CITY ENGINEER, TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, PER THE OHM ADVISORS PROPOSAL, FOR THE MIDWEST NEIGHBORHOOD STORM/SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – PHASE 3, AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF COSTS THRU FUNDING BY THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY STORM SEWER FUNDS

Moved by BURKE to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake
Ordinance 76-2020 passes with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 77-2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT TO PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES TO THIS CITY FOR THE YEAR 2021

Moved by BURKE to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

Ordinance 77-2020 passes with 7 Yes votes.

Let the record show that Ordinance Number 77-2020 passes with 7 Yes votes. That concludes our Ordinances and Resolutions for this evening.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT BURKE: We will move on now to comments by citizens. Would the Clerk please read the rule?

CLERK: Comments shall be restricted to any problem a citizen has which has previously been submitted to his/her Councilperson or to the city hall department directly involved. If submission of a problem to a city hall department or a Councilperson is made and there is a lack of service rendered in this regard, the problem may then be presented during Comments from Citizens at a future meeting. It is the intention of this rule that no request of a first nature is presented on the floor at this time. Comments shall be limited to five minutes. No citizen shall be heard more than once.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Are there any residents in attendance that would like to make a comment to Council this evening?

James Fruits, 13600 York Blvd.

PRESIDENT BURKE: OK, Mr. Fruits. You have the floor.

MR. FRUITS: Thank you very much. My thanks for what Clmn Vaughn shared about the public Safety Committee on this coming Monday. I am thankful to have that so that our residents can see that this is officially and formally on the agenda.

I have a couple other questions and a couple other statements that I would like to make as well. I would also like to see the Council. Many other cities around us have resolutions and legislation declaring racism a public health crisis, passing anti-racism anti-hatred resolutions. some of those communities that we would recognize. The city of Cleveland, city of Columbus, Maple Heights, Richmond Heights, Shaker Heights, Akron, Lakewood and the State of Ohio are all municipalities or organizations that have already passed similar legislation. So I would like to see that formally considered by our City Council recognizing that this is a critical community concern in light of events that happened this year.

I would even like to see the past issues in our community specifically with redlining and schooling. I'd like to see those specifically addressed in that legislation acknowledging those things even though we are past those things today. Those are part of our history. We need to recognize that and strike at pain that has caused and formally denounce it, move on from that. So that is one thing that I am bringing and asking as I have through communications through e-mail and phone calls all this week with Members of Council. That's one thing I would like to see.

One of my questions is is there a Diversity or Inclusion Committee on our City Council? If not I would like to see our City Council implement that as one of the committees that are among our City Council.

One of the questions I have for the Mayor. In Article 48 of our Charter it tells about the Civil Service Commission. The way I understand it the Civil Service Commission will be part of selecting our new Police Chief. Three electors of the city not holding municipal office to be appointed by the Mayor for terms of six years. Who are those three electors on the Civil Service Commission? Will they participate in the process of electing our new Police Chief?

My last question and comment is for Clmn Vaughn. Could you clarify what Monday night's meeting will look like? Will there be a chance for residents to share their experiences and thoughts on the issues of systemic racism, non-inclusive bias and racial inequities? That's all we did at The Rock Church you were at.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Is that all, Mr. Fruits?

MR. FRUITS: Yes.

PRESIDENT BURKE: OK. Thank you. I can tell you from my experience here, Mr. Fruits, that when I guess what I want to say is that when we come out with a Safety Committee Meeting much like Clmn Vaughn did to talk about the topic of trick or treat, say? When they placed it on the agenda, that's really all we can talk about on that agenda. It's only because you won't blindsides people and just come out and say we're going to talk about trick or treat and then talk about something totally different. Because then you have residents that say well I missed the

meeting and I wish I wouldn't have missed it. I didn't know they were going to talk about this or that so specifically that's why it would not have been on that particular agenda and I think Clmn Vaughn has brought that to my attention as well.

Mayor, did you want to address anything about the Civil Service Commission?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Yes, I will say that the Civil Service Commission plays a big part in the testing and selection of the testing process to be administered to anybody running for any promotional position, including Chief, and they do it under every single circumstance. After that is done, they present everything to the city at that time. James, if you'd like to put an e-mail to me of what your requests are as far as names, when their expiration dates are, when they run again, I am more than happy to answer those questions for you. Just send me off an e-mail.

MR. FRUITS: Thank you, Mayor.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Clmn Vaughn, did you want to address anything further about the meeting on the 19th?

CLMN VAUGHN: This meeting on the 19th is to move forward. This is the meeting that we can discuss what we can do to improve relations within the Police Department. We discussed at great length at the meeting at The Rock some of the issues. You have asked that a meeting be held to discuss some of those and that's what we are going to do. Mr. Fruits, it was very important that we got everybody together and that's why this took a little time. You have to realize we have a new Police Chief taking over. We had to give him some time. As I explained to you the other day, we also have to talk with the Unions. We have to talk to everybody involved. What we're hoping to do Monday night is to collaborate and to come up with some ideas such as you suggested tonight to move forward in the city. There might be more meetings after that, I'm sure. We won't be able to solve this problem in one night. It's too big. It's historically too big. It's going to take some time and consideration. We're also going to have to follow whatever the State tells us as well as the Federal Government. Does that kind of help you out, Mr. Fruits?

MR. FRUITS: Yes. So community members will be able to voice their experiences and their thoughts?

CLMN VAUGHN: I thought we already went through the experience part at The Rock.

MR. FRUITS: I don't think we're ever done listening to the experiences of our residents. I think as you mentioned one meeting isn't going to get that accomplished. If you feel like you've heard everything that's fine. I was asking for clarification on what Monday night's meeting will look like.

CLMN VAUGHN: That's what we're going to do. Were going to talk about what we're going to do to improve things.

MR. FRUITS: OK. So community members will have an opportunity to have a voice in that?

CLMN VAUGHN: Oh, definitely.

MR. FRUITS: OK. That's what I'm asking to clarify because I do understand that we have to stick to things that are on the agenda. I'm trying to deduce what that agenda is. I am very appreciative that this meeting is taking place. Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Chairman, if I may, may I address Mr. Fruits one more time?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes, Mr. Mayor, go ahead.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: James, I just want you to know that. You know it sounded like you've been trying to put something together to get the city to act. I don't want you to think we've been sitting back idly trying to wait for a meeting. We have done several things for this community problem that exists. I have met along with Clmn Dudley several meetings with area pastors to go over some of their ideas about what can be done to help. We had the Police Department meet with residents—go to their houses in Ward 1 where they've been having some difficulties. We've also had our insurance company putting together a diversity program for our staff. So we are moving forward in all of this. I don't want you to make it sound like you know you are presenting this and we were trying to hide from it. We have been actively pursuing this ever since that first incident began.

MR. FRUITS: I appreciate that. My sense is not that nothing has been done but nothing has been on any formal agendas so those things haven't been able to come out so our residents are unaware of that so to residents that I have spoken with they feel like the leadership as a whole is just waiting for this issue to blow over. That's why I'm encouraged that it's on a proper agenda. There's a paper trail to this as well. I appreciate everyone's input--the things that you guys are doing. Those are the things that I'm asking. What is being done? That is my question. When will we take action? So we are already on that path and this meeting on Monday is another part of that. I'm grateful for it. So I'm not trying to say that people aren't doing anything. What I'm trying to say is I'm glad to see it on a formal agenda and four people will show up to the meeting.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Does anyone else have anything that they want to bring to Council?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Mr. Chairman, this is Clmn Nenadovich speaking.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes, Clmn Nenadovich. You will have some time during your Miscellaneous Business, if that will be OK?

CLMN NENADOVICH: That will be fine. I'll comment at that time. Thank you, Matt.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Are there any other residents wishing to address Council at this time? OK. If there are none, we will move on to Miscellaneous Business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT BURKE: Will the Clerk please read the rules?

CLERK: This involves the business of Council in the legislative function; any other problems should be directly dealt with by the department involved. This area of the agenda shall be limited to legislative business, Ward business, lack of attention to Ward problems, etc.

PRESIDENT BURKE: We will begin with Ward 1 Councilman, Clmn Mike Dudley. You have the floor.

CLMN DUDLEY: I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. I want to say first of all racism is a health hazard. I been dealt with my share of racism and I think you understand that there's nothing that I haven't had to deal with in my lifetime even as I got older in life. I wanted to say that since all this happened we have had several meetings. The first meeting I took because I have pastors and sometimes I tell people living in Ward 1 some of the issues that I had to deal with you can't experience that unless you lived it. I got with the Mayor and the reason why I brought these pastors in and I didn't make a public thing because I'm not looking for publicity on it. I told the residents every day that call me about the city not every day but several times. These individuals live in the city of Garfield Heights. Dr. Bradford, Pastor Falkner, Minister McHenry and we turned around and we had also Pastor Snell, who don't live here. He was a former moderator for the Calvary Hill District, which is like seven/eight churches in Cleveland. So we met with the Mayor. I realized that something had to be done and we had to have these conversations. What these pastors bring to the conversation is that they have their congregations and they speak with their congregations and some time when you want to resolve an issue you don't need 40/50 people sitting there. Sometimes the smaller the group is, (and these are all Black pastors), the smaller the group is the more we can get to the heart of some issues. Sometime you have to meet in a small group. We talked about the police officer situation. We talked about how people felt and some of the stuff people had to deal with. I tell people until you experience racism you don't have a clue how I felt. It's absolutely painful. I dealt with it in the military. I done dealt with it at jobs when I been passed over. I been dealt with it in politics. There's no shame in saying that. I have faced it everywhere.

So my first meeting was held with the Mayor and I may need a few extra minutes, my colleagues, maybe three extra. We done three meetings. The first one was August 3, 2020. Like I said we had Pastor Bradford, Pastor Falkner we had McHenry and myself and Snell. We met two times since then.

I also have met with these pastors when we sat down we had conversation with Chief and Lt. Dale. Like I say, I wanted to get everybody out of their comfort zone. So I know my residents should have been there and having their complaints instead of having these meetings and having an officer sit up there. I took four of the officers and the Chief out to the people. We went through Ward 1 community. We sat on porches with the residents and allowed them to speak freely about their concerns and to have their questions answered. We walked the streets of Ward 1 after being on several porches. We talked to people as they was walking. We went up to the businesses in the business part of the community. We spoke with a lot of people in the stores and out the stores. It made it better for them because sometime when you in the big environment and everybody raising their hands some time people are afraid to talk how they really wasn't to because they're concerned about being judged by their peers. So sometimes that can be good--sometime you need to lean back off that. So we done that and like I said to the Chief and the other ones it was real good. It was very positive. So we continued that and

we haven't stopped, so you didn't see me publicizing it. You didn't see me putting no Facebook. It's never about publicity. It was about working on resolving a issue.

I can complain about a issue all I want. At the end of the day people want to know (especially in my Ward) what are we doing to resolve this issue? You got to keep a place at the table. Some people understand that but people are African-American and White people understand what I'm saying. Even Dr. King mentioned that. You have to maintain a place at the table. You never stop negotiating. You never stop bringing the issue forward. We was able to work on various things. We were able to move in a positive direction. I take it back to the community.

But I want to share this with you too. This is why I touch my heart. The Chief and I knowed the other previous Chiefs. The Mayor is aware of this. If you ever notice Mike Dudley, he's surrounded by a lot of pastors. A lot of my friends are deacons or pastors. I could name 20 in a row.

In the late part of the '90s and early 2000's I was on Stokes Boulevard coming from University Hospital. Several people know it. I mentioned to one of my friends the other day and it blew his mind. A officer made a turn in the opposite direction of University Circle. He tried to read my plates when he was going the wrong way. All of a sudden I found myself being pulled over and I got guns pointed at me. My family are aware that this happens to a lot of my friends. I don't have a clue what is going on. When they did that, I'm getting out the car I don't know whether somebody is getting trigger happy or something. The thing was a sergeant came up when I was standing and looking at the other officer and he run my plates again and he said I'm sorry, Mr. Dudley. I'm real sorry. The officer read your plates going in the opposite direction. I asked why didn't the officer turn around and read them from the back of the car. That situation could have turned out bad. That's one instance.

Another instance--I never had handcuffs, never been arrested in my life. Until there was a error made when I was stopped for a ticket and the ticket showed that I showed no proof of insurance. Again somebody took the wrong (*inaudible*) insurance showing to the State. So my license was suspended. This happened in 2000. I'm driving down the road and all of a sudden I'm being pulled over. See two officers coming over their hands on a gun. I got my wife, my daughters and my sons. They were little kids then in the car. I don't have a clue what happened. They come back to the car. They ask me to step out. All of a sudden I'm being arrested for something I should have never been arrested for. I have never in my life saw the inside of a jail cell until that day. That's when I saw the inside of a jail cell. I was looking at my kids and not figuring out what's going on. I explained I don't have clue what you're doing at the time. I went to Court. Judge told me get my license back, etc. It was a clerical error and it should have never happened. (*music*) I could not file a police complaint in that city at that time and I challenged that.

A Captain came out and asked me what was wrong. I was so hurt. When you been discriminated against sometimes you got tears rolling out of your eyes. Not tears of fear. Tears because you are so hurt that you might want to hurt somebody and not get yourself in trouble. You don't know what that's like. A lot of people don't have a clue. If you talk to me everyday and see my composure out here, you see how I do officers. I wanted to get that officer. People don't even know what happened to me and some people when they find out say how can you

be nice to them. Because everybody didn't do that to me. (*music*) I would not give nobody the pleasure of (*music*) and I don't sleep good. (*music*). I hear somebody playing music.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes, I muted it.

CLMN DUDLEY: OK. I was hearing the music. I want to tell people that. Even though I experienced that when you see me interact with officers. It don't matter what their nationality. You don't see the hatred in me. We do got a problem

That's what I put together and Father Davis called me today because he wants to be a part of the same group from Holy Spirit. We are gaining ground and when we do will invite the community to come in and be able to listen to it. Right now, it's all about substance. It's about giving the people something to show that we done made some results. That we done gained some ground. So just because I don't have a open forum and I don't invite everybody it don't mean I wasn't working. I started working on this from day 1 and I'll continue to work on it. I am gaining ground. I want to thank those pastors who had the time. I want to thank people who are being patient, but we know that things have to change. We know that there's a disparity out there. We know we got good and bad officers in every city. You got some terrible ones. But you got some who is not doing that. I wish they would tell on the other ones but it ain't happening right now. You can't punish everybody for what some do. Many don't want to hear that. We got to keep our foot to the metal and on that pedal and do bring attention to those who are not acting right, who continue to become officers for the wrong reason. Don't take it out on everybody. Don't let the hatred last so long that you don't live your own life. You have to understand. Everybody did not do it. We have to bring attention to the officers who did do it. Don't let up on the ones who are wrong. Don't punish everybody. Everybody don't want to hear that message. I appreciate the pastors.

Mr. Chairman, Members of Council, I appreciate you giving me that additional time. I do want to let you all know so when you see me interact, I been through it. I know what it feels like. I know the tears in my eyes because I been arrested in front of my family and found out I was right I should have never been arrested. Until that happens to you, you can never say you know how Mike Dudley feels because you don't. But I'm not going to punish everybody for that. I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you all for your patience with me.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Dudley. Mr. Donahue, do you have anything?

CLMN DONAHUE: No, I have nothing at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: OK. Mr. Nenadovich, do you have anything you'd like to share?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do have one/two comments to make. I very wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Dudley that we got to take care of the people that are doing wrong and not crucify everyone else. But I would like to comment that when The Rock Church had that meeting we heard the experiences that the people did go through and they were legitimate experiences that they had. I don't think anyone made any stories up and I do believe every one of them.

But what I think we failed to do at that meeting was to hear the police officers' side on what they would see when they do make a traffic stop. And the other good citizens and the good police officers who abide by the rules. Nobody ever looked at the cop and said what do you expect when you stop a car? Instead of getting backtalk, why did you stop me, I wasn't doing anything wrong? Is it racial profiling? Am I too old? Am I too slow? Am I a woman? Think of what the cop has to go through. He's walking up in this day and age on a car. He doesn't know if he's going to get shot and there are bad people out there. It seems like they're becoming more prevalent in today's society because everybody is thinking the cops are wrong so we are skeptical about being stopped by police. But I think at this meeting we should have some police officers that go through their experiences so that we can see what they go up against every day. I, myself, could never be a police officer. I don't like being talked over and I don't like people being rude to me so I avoided that. I became an electrician. That was shocking enough, no play.

At this meeting, I would like to have consideration and have some police officers to tell this is what we like to see when we come to a car. I get stopped. I have a CCP and I have been stopped. A lot of times it's my car looked like somebody else. Not very often. But we got to listen to the people. We have to listen to the police too because they're the ones we're asking to protect them and if they're on edge they get jumpy.

Like Mr. Donahue said before, we've all been in the service. Most of us on Council. Mr. Dudley, Mr. Donahue, myself, the Mayor's been on. We know what it's like to be in a situation where you don't know if you're going to make it. Please have some consideration. Mr. Vaughn, when you do have a meeting and set it up, give police officers uninterrupted time to speak and relate their experiences too because we can't have just the one sided conversation where the police are wrong, police are wrong, police are wrong and we don't hear any feedback about the people that they run across. Mr. Chairman, that's all I have. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Nenadovich. Clwn Davis, do you have anything you'd like to share?

CLWN DAVIS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clmn Vaughn, I'd like to say thank you for putting together the public Safety Committee meeting. The residents have been requesting it and asking for it. I do understand that many of us have had discussions in the background as we're trying to be progressive and do the right thing at the right time as it relates to community and police relations. Now is the time that we move forward so I appreciate you for having that meeting and being the Chair of that.

Additionally, I would like to speak to the virtual Tenant Landlord Forum that the Mayor spoke about. I apologize the flyer that I did submit to the city is the incorrect flyer. The actual e-mail address is garfieldhtsmcac@gmail.com. The forum was put together from the Garfield Heights Municipal Court Advisory Committee that Judge Nicastro put together after the Citywide Prayer Movement. I am one of the committee members. We had a conversation. We meet every other Tuesday discussing what we could do to support individuals who could potentially end up having unstable housing as we move into the winter months.

After a lot of discussion, we decided to come up with this effort and ask the Cleveland Housing Network to join as they received millions of dollars in Federal funding to stabilize housing. We thought that this would be a great opportunity for our community to be aware and understand what their rights are and for landlords to understand what services and resources are available. With that, Mr. Chairman, you have my report. I hope everyone remains safe and have a great night. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Clwn Davis. Clmn Blake, do you have anything you'd like to share?

CLMN BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. First, I'd like to say thank you to Clmn Dudley for his efforts with the group of pastors that he has been meeting with. I had the opportunity to (*inaudible*) last week when they were coming out of the meeting so I know Clmn Dudley is really working hard to make a positive impact with those gentlemen.

Secondly, I want to say thank you to Clmn Vaughn for calling a Safety Committee Meeting. As Clwn Davis said, there have been requests for it. I think this is a positive opportunity to move forward with the community in the future.

The last thing I'd like to say is that I want to take a minute to recognize a few residents and volunteers who were a part of the Community Garden at Hy Court. Specifically I'd like to thank Donna Bell, Ina Gilbert, Jeannine Jasterbowski for their tireless efforts in harvesting over 150 pounds of produce including tomatoes, green beans and cucumbers for donations from the garden that they aptly named the Giving Garden. These three ladies got involved in late spring and ran till last week. The volunteers assisted with the donation of plants, time or any resources they had. Efforts ranged from tilling soil to general maintenance of the garden and for the last two weeks, winterizing it. The volunteers included Clmn Matt Burke, Darrell Gilbert, Ronald Williams, Janice Tubbs, Joyce Tubbs, Ada Gillespie, Anthony Gillespie, Jr., Ronald Taft, Sr., Claymont Almond and Mark Kovacs. I want to commend them for their efforts in the gardening program, which started late in the season. I look forward to seeing what they can do next year. Mr. Chairman, that's all I have.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Clmn Blake. I, too, would like to thank Clmn Vaughn for putting together a Safety Committee Meeting. I know that we've had some tough discussions here over the last few months. I will say one thing. I hope that at this meeting and any other ones he calls in regards to this topic of policing issues and systemic racism, I hope that we can come together in this community. Not to identify problems. Because I think the residents have no problem letting us know what they think the problems are. I would hope that we can come together and try to come up with some solutions to the problems. Maybe ways to work things in that will help with the problems. I'm really not interested in having a meeting or attending a meeting where we just listen to more and more of what the issue is. I would like to get to the bottom of how to solve those issues.

On October 21st at 6:30 p.m., which I believe is next Wednesday, we are having a Community Awareness Meeting via Zoom. I have as our guest speaker George Simon, who is a local

entrepreneur. He has ties to City View/Highland Park. He has ties to Valley Ranch Estates and he has ties to many, many businesses around here including Farmer Jones Market in Maple Heights. George is truly a special, special individual. I would like to just publicly thank him for some of the things that he has done to help this city of Garfield Heights. He is sort of one of those guys that floats around out there and nobody really knows who he is, but he is kind of an unsung hero in our community. So if you are interested in hearing a little bit more about what's going on around Highland Park and maybe what's going on around Garfield Heights, George can maybe help in answering some questions on what's going on over in those areas. That is all I have. I will turn it over now to Clmn Vaughn. Clmn Vaughn.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank you all for your support for these meetings that are going to be coming up. Again, I think it's more important that we talk about how to solve some of these problems to move forward. I've asked the Police Chief to be involved. It would be great if some of the officers could be on the teleconference as well. We'll be sending out notifications to everybody later this week. This is all part of a process. It's not just going to end here. It will be continual involvement.

I wanted to say to everybody, go out enjoy this good weather. I went through the park today for about a two-hour ride just to get my head together on a few issues. It's beautiful. Take time. Enjoy the parks. That's what they're there for. That's what we all pay money for. Be kind to each other.

That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. I make a motion at this time, Sir, to adjourn the Meeting.

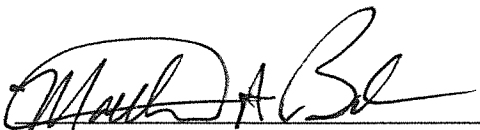
PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by Clmn Vaughn and seconded by myself to adjourn tonight's Council Meeting, would the Clerk please take a roll call vote beginning with Clmn Burke.

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record reflect that at 8:06 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 the Council Meeting stands adjourned. Thank you. Thank you all for your professionalism.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Matt Burke
President of Council



Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council