

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Monday, November 23, 2020

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:21 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: I'd like to make a motion to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for November 9, 2020 for the city of Garfield Heights as written.

CLMN DONAHUE: Second, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by myself and seconded by Clmn Donahue. Barb, could you take up a roll call vote.

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the city of Garfield Heights for Monday, November 9, 2020 passes with seven yes votes. And at this time, I'd like to make a motion to accept the Special Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday October 29 2020 as written.

CLMN DONAHUE: Mr. President,

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes.

CLMN DONAHUE: That is not the amended version.

PRESIDENT BURKE: I'm sorry. What did you say?

CLMN DONAHUE: What are we voting on now?

PRESIDENT BURKE: This is the Special Council Meeting Minutes for the city of Garfield Heights.

CLMN DONAHUE: I did the same thing I did last time. I'm sorry. I did. I jumped in here when I shouldn't have. I'll second that.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Okay. On the motion by myself and seconded by Clmn Donahue to accept the Special Council Meeting Minutes for the city of Garfield Heights for Thursday, October 29, 2020. Barb, could you please take a roll call vote.

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that the Special Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 29th passes with seven yes votes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL:

PRESIDENT BURKE: Okay. Do we have any written communications to Council this evening?

CLERK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have two.

PRESIDENT BURKE: If you could go ahead and read those letters.

CLERK: Yes. The first letter is dated November 22, 2020 and it is from Sandra Douglas, who lives at 13665 Hathaway Road.

"I would like to express how much the Garfield Heights Police Department means to me. I have lived in the city for 18 years. In that time, I personally have needed the assistance of the department a handful of times. One of those calls was when the front of our house was shot at with a BB gun by kids driving by. The officers responded quickly and were able to locate the car and the kids responsible. That is only one incident I have needed them for. Words cannot express my deepest gratitude for their dedication, despite the danger and criticism they constantly face. Thank you for your service and keeping our community safe."

The second letter is dated Monday, November 23, 2020 It is from James S. Feeney, the President of Garfield Heights United, who lives at 5355 East 124th Street.

"I recently went for a ride along with one of our officers on a Friday night, and I stayed for 11 hours. During the night many stops were made, but one stop in the early morning I wish to discuss. The officer stopped this particular vehicle and started to run the plates and while doing so another officer pulled up to assist. Upon approaching the driver's side, the other officer approached the passenger side as well. One officer was talking to the driver as the other one noticed the passenger was acting very suspicious. So this officer asked the passenger to please step out of the vehicle, which he did. Officer asked the passenger if he had any weapons or anything that would hurt the officer or himself and the passenger said no. Officer asked the passenger several times to keep his hands on the roof of the car so he could pat him down. The kid kept reaching for his pants, so the officer insisted he keep his hands on the car. Upon patting the teen down, he felt what he knew was a gun in the front of the kid's pants. He cuffed the person and pulled out a black semiautomatic pistol and placed it on the vehicle.

The kid then tells the officer that it's not a real gun and it's only a pellet gun. Placing the kid into the police vehicle for everyone's safety he then grabbed the pistol to examine it. Officer comes over to the police vehicle to show me and asked me to make a split decision and what would I

do in the second they get to react. It was a black pistol with Glock second generation written on it and also had a tactical flashlight attached to it. I started to think that if this kid would have pulled that out of his pants, he would have been shot, justifiably and that one split second decision our officers have to make would give the community a lifetime to criticize.

When residents and some Council Members talk about police reform they need to close their eyes and think about that officer and the one second they get to make a life decision. Every time that officer leaves the safety of the vehicle, they are putting their lives at risk. And for what a community of people they don't know and for many people who don't appreciate them doing their jobs. If shots were fired this story would be all that everyone talked about but the news would never mention that the same officer gave some teens a ride home when he pulled them over and she was driving past the hours of operation for a temporary permit. Also without an adult in the car. Or that this officer gave out several please drive more careful warnings instead of tickets.

Actions such as these will never make the news or be of any interest to people but the one second life decision will forever be yours to criticize from the safety of your home or office. Police reform is not the problem here. What we need is citizen reform. So the next time you see a police officer, remember they don't expect a thanks or a hug. They are just here to do their job, which is keeping strangers safe. And remember if that would have been a real Glock nine millimeter with a tactical flashlight pointing at you, what would you do? As a licensed CCW carrier I know what I would have done. Thank you and to all the Garfield Heights Police Department. Remember not everyone is against you.”

And that is the end of the letter, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Barb.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PRESIDENT BURKE: Do we have any Committee Reports?

CLMN BLAKE: Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Go ahead. Mr. Blake.

CLMN BLAKE: I did have a report from the school system. At this time, Miss Millette King is here. I would like to give the floor to her so she can give the report. Miss King, you go ahead and have the floor.

Ms. Millette King. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening. Good evening, everyone. Garfield Heights City Schools will remain remote until at least January 4, 2021 because of the increased number of COVID-19 cases in the State and the County. Garfield Heights City School winter sports and extracurricular activities are postponed until at least January 4, 2021 because of the increased number of COVID-19 cases in the State and the County.

The school board will have a work session on Monday, December 14th at 7 p.m. and a board meeting on December 21st. Both meetings can be viewed via the district's YouTube channel. On behalf of the Garfield Heights School Board of Education. I'd like to wish everyone a safe and joyous Thanksgiving holiday. That's my report. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Miss King. Are there any other committee reports?

CLMN NENADOVICH: I'd just like to reiterate the December 2nd meeting for the Legislative Committee to discuss Chapter 136. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Nenadovich. We'll move on now to the report of the Mayor. Mayor. Do you have a report this evening?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do. Thank you. I wanted to start off tonight's report by reading from the Cuyahoga County, the Long Term Care Community Forums that are coming up in December. Join the Cuyahoga Job and Family Service Specialized Medicaid Benefits Center for long-term care updates, including information sharing and communication efforts, and an overview of services and resources from the city of Cleveland Department of Aging. Like the data registered point of the virtual Microsoft team live sessions, you will receive instructions for joining the sessions after registering. To register, you would reach out to Outreach at jfs.ohio.gov. And the dates and times are Tuesday, December 8th, 9:30 a.m., to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 9th, from 9:30 to 11:30. This is going to be very informative. It's a big day for the Seniors and so Council if you know of anybody that would be interested, they could reach out to my office to get whatever information we may have.

And next I want to talk about the Cuyahoga County Board of Health is putting out some COVID-19 community testings. The first one I want to read is hosted at Shaker Heights Fire Department, 17000 Chagrin Boulevard, Shaker Heights. You must be pre-registered to get tested. Register by calling 216-957-3939 from Tuesday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to call to register. The dates are Wednesday, December 2nd from 9 a.m. to noon. The second date is Wednesday, December 16th, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The final date is Wednesday, December 30th 9 a.m. to noon.

There's also going to be a COVID community testing hosted at John Glenn Smith Health Center located at 11100 St. Clair Avenue. Call this number 169573939. To register, call from Tuesday through Friday 8:30 to 4:00 p.m. These testing times are Thursday, December 3rd, 9 a.m., to 12 p.m., Thursday, December 10th 9 a.m., to 12 p.m. and Thursday, December 17th 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. to get tested. I think it's a good idea for people to get tested as bad as things are getting. Those are some ideal spots to do it for free.

With that, I want to talk a little bit about the Community Relations Committee that we have been talking about. I've had some people contact me about being on that committee. So I told them to hang loose until I get the final word from Council of how they're going to go about having people apply for this. So at some point, Council, if you could come out with that information, I'm sure we're going to get quite a few people applying.

And before I get into tonight's legislation, I want to make sure to remember to tell everybody have a Happy and safe Thanksgiving. Stay home, eat turkey with your family, don't go out. Enjoy Thanksgiving as best as we can, but certainly be safe. Things are really getting bad and I know cities are starting to close down recreation centers and schools are closing. We don't want to have to do that here in Garfield Heights. So please abide by all the rules and regulations for this COVID and be safe.

That said, I'll get into tonight's legislation. Ordinance number 81-2020 is to ask for a change of zoning for these four parcels, so that the Sunoco on the corner of Rockside and Turney can expand. Ordinance number 45. We will be amending some provisions of the Charter to confirm what State law Ordinances number 8687-88 and 89 is to approve 3% increases to dispatch, jailers, record keepers asked me and then your employees. And I just want to say that in the 11 years that I've been there, there has never been a 3% increase. It's always been 1% at the most or it's been zero. These workers have suffered through like many of us had, and I believe that they are really entitled to 3% and I would urge Council to support this legislation. Ordinance number 82-2020. This is about a house that's on Orchard Road. We got a call about a year ago about this house that is built near a creek and the house is so close the erosion is causing the house to be right on the edge of the creek. And there's only a matter of time before that house ends up in the creek. We have had numerous engineers go out and look at it, we put out bids to see if anybody could fix it. We reached out to the County. They agreed to pay for fixing this at no cost to the city during that time, because we couldn't get any bids back and the situation was getting worse and worse. We went to plan B, we are hiring a company to relocate the owner of that home who's been extremely patient. I don't know if I could have been as patient as she has been. She's been really remarkable through this. She has agreed to relocate, this company will come in under this ordinance, there will be enough money we hope to relocate, knock her house down, and at no expense to the city. So I'm really urging Council for this resident's sake to support this legislation.

Resolution Number 22-2020. We discussed long and hard in Caucus. I just want to say I am in favor of 99% of this legislation. I believe that this racism that goes on in the country and everywhere throughout the country, including Garfield Heights, needs to be corrected. There's no question in my mind. There is a portion of this legislation that I do not approve and I would like to see removed, but that is on me not on anybody else. I only could see at this point in time with that language I cannot support this legislation. With that, Mr. Chairman, Council, Staff, residents, everyone Happy Thanksgiving and be safe. Mr. Chairman, you have my report.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mayor Collova. We'll start with Clmn Dudley Ward 1. Do you have any questions for the Mayor on his report?

CLMN DUDLEY: I want to speak on that Ordinance 19-2020. I'm very familiar with that house. The individual is part of the Ward 1 family. She's nice as you can be. I can remember that the house faces to the creek. You walk down the side of the house, it was maybe about eight feet or more of land away from that Creek. And if you went there, like yesterday or tomorrow, you will see that the erosion has caused the creek wall to come right up to her basement wall where you can see it dropping down. You can see the foundation shifted. And they tried to fix but nothing could be done with that. So I'm so glad they done something because this has been an ongoing issue for quite a while But like I say it. The County stepped in and has not been a cost. I'm not sure that there was no cost. Correct, Mayor? I believe it's no cost to us on that piece. But I'm so glad they're doing something for this one. Like I say it was eight feet and the Mayor still there?. Did you think we lost him? Mr. Chairman? Okay, Mr. Chairman, can you hear me?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Yes, Mike, you're right. At this point in time, it looks like there will be no cost to the city, unless it's something really extreme happens that we haven't, you know, accounted for but right now, I would say 90% chance no cost to the city.

CLMN DUDLEY: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Mr. Donahue?

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Donahue. Mr. Nenadovich. Do you have any questions for the Mayor on his report?

CLMN NENADOVICH: No, Mr. Chairman, I have none. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Miss Davis. Did you have any questions for the Mayor?

CLWN DAVIS: Yes. Mayor Collova, would you happen to know what our Covid numbers are in terms of the city as it relates to the overall County from the Board of Health? I did look on their Website and I tried to reach out because the residents did ask me what our numbers were. But I don't know that and I didn't really know where to locate it there.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Yes, Clwn Davis. I do have the numbers. I don't have them in front of me now. If you reach out to me tomorrow, I can get them for you because they send out notifications on a weekly basis. I do have them somewhere but not right in front of me.

CLWN DAVIS: Okay, I will do that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Miss Davis. Mr. Blake.

CLMN BLAKE: I have no questions for the Mayor.

PRESIDENT BURKE: I, too, don't have any questions for the Mayor. Mr. Vaughn, do you have any questions for the Mayor this evening?

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: All right. Thank you. We will move on now to Communications from Citizens specifically on tonight's agenda. Will the Clerk please read the rules?

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: Okay. Is there anybody that is on the phone portion of this call that would like to speak specifically on tonight's agenda?

CLMN BLAKE: Mr. Chairman?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes, Mr. Blake.

CLMN BLAKE: Ms. Yolanda Hamilton has her hand raised.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes, I see that. Miss Hamilton, if you would unmute yourself, you have the floor.

Yolanda Hamilton: Good evening, everyone. I just wanted to share my comments to say that I am very pleased that the city of Garfield Heights is introducing this legislation to introduce racism to declare racism as a public health crisis. And I think that while there's been discussions regarding the verbiage and the semantics of the way the legislation is written, if we were to take a look at legislation, similar legislation that other cities have come out with, you will see that there's not really a differentiation in the language to clearly communicate the commitment to institutionalizing practices that dismantle systemic racism. I do agree with the comments of Clwn Davis in terms of understanding what structural racism is.

In the couple of Council Meetings that I have attended. There just seems that there's not necessarily the common understanding. Nevertheless, I think that this type of legislation being introduced by our City Council is setting us as a leader in Northeast Ohio to recognize these issues and to begin to implement systemic practices to actually see change. I personally am a business owner in the city of Garfield Heights, and I work with the Garfield Heights City School District, and I definitely look forward to future opportunities that will reduce barriers for potentials to do business with the city. Thank you. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mrs. Hamilton. Can you give your address for the record?

MS. HAMILTON: I reside on Garfield Drive. Is that sufficient for you?

PRESIDENT BURKE: We actually need a home address.

MS. HAMILTON: 10013 Garfield Drive.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you

MS. HAMILTON: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. And it looks like Mr. Cox has his hand up. Is that correct?

Mr. Cox: Yes. Thank you very, very much.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Mr. Cox. Can you please just state your address for the record also?

MR. COX: 10920 Elmwood Avenue. Okay. And I'm going to put my little watch on here to make sure I don't go over my five minutes because I'm a little bit frustrated. This is about tonight's agenda, which. About what about but I've heard tonight. I've been on since seven o'clock. Okay, because the first guy

got five minutes. Right. Well, if it's on tonight, if it's on the ordinances and resolution that we have, otherwise we do. That's what I'm speaking to. That's what I'm speaking to. Okay, so I got five minutes. Right. Absolutely.

The first order of business is the legislation that was brought up by Clwn Davis. I believe that for us not to be supported by our Mayor because of a piece of a sentence. To me, that's unacceptable, because I believe that we've had ample enough time to not be supported because of a sentence and to say it's my fault and to present that was offensive to me.

That's number one. It's time out for us holding up the last minute excuses of not passing legislation that has been on the table for some time. That is unacceptable. And that I mean, to whoever's fault it is, that it should not be the fault of the citizens, because it seems like that the Councilwoman took the time out to make sure her verbiage was correct and presented it in a timely fashion. But because of a sentence, it's being overlooked or it's being not supported by our Mayor.

That's that and then I also heard of the other Councilmen who didn't side with the Mayor, after the meeting went back and forth about the time that was allotted for them to actually go ahead and make the corrections that were needed to be made before it came on to the table. So that right there is inexcusable.

To the letter that was that was read in the beginning. I respect the fact of the lady's concern and passion about what she felt about the arrest of that young man who had a gun, which was a pellet gun. But there were two things that was misconstrued that we overlook. The gun was not pointed at an officer. The officer did retain the gun. I have five minutes, Donna. Yeah, yeah.

PRESIDENT BURKE: If I just pause you for one second, I just have to make sure that I put on record that what you're talking about now does not have to do with our legislation. However, I will give you that time to go ahead and talk because that is referring to a letter that the resident wrote in, and usually we discuss those in miscellaneous business or comments by citizens after we vote on the legislation. But I will go ahead and you continue, go ahead.

MR. COX: Okay, because that's the only reason why I'm responding to it, because that's what I heard. And so I thought that was on the tape. I apologize. I apologize. So understanding I thank you for keeping that in perspective. But let's consider, as we move forward to help, we need to be transparent about wrongdoing in our city and Garfield Heights, we do cover up our transparency, we will not offer an opinion because of what's going on in Court. Now, because of a lack of understanding is why we have come to the problems that we're facing today. It does not take feelings to know the difference between right and wrong. We only have 48 to 50 officers in our department, and we have complained about the wrongdoing of some of them to no avail or relief. Therefore we are getting more complaints because it feels like we're not being heard. To acknowledge wrongdoing is the first step. But many of us have many of you as our leaders refuse to even acknowledge the wrongdoing. And it seems like you hide behind the cloak of Court process. This is not new, is routine, especially for Black people.

Well, well, this is I got the floor can some whoever, whoever spoke, I don't have the floor. So it's my time to talk. Am I right? And if I'm looking at my time, and I want to reclaim my time, I still got about 48 seconds. Yes. Okay, let's go ahead. So Black people fill our jails. We are treated differently. And we have drastic incidents to prove wrong doing. The issue is not funding the police. Because the police had a lack of funding before George Floyd, before Tamir Rice, before all of that even before the brother up at CVS that was mentally disabled, they got mishandled. We know it because every year we get mailers and calls from the people who try to tip to get us to help to fund the police to put decals in our windows, defunding the police came from a term of being frustrated and not heard other races of fear of

not being protected. And I respect that. But Black people are being overcharged, arrested, locked up and unfortunately, at some times killed, we must come to an agreement that wrong is wrong. And then to proceed to do something about it, because we do have the power to change it. And to keep saying that we have to wait until it goes out into a Court. Well, that's not working for Black people either. The question is, what is our proposal as racism being a public health problem? Is that that we're all against? The second question is what are we personally and collectively going to do about it and put it in writing and change it? We can no longer wait. We can't wait because our children are the ones on cold slabs, not yours. Our children are the ones filling the jails to a higher percentage, not yours. Please hear us is what I'm saying. Because protests, riots, violence concerning all of these matters come from the voices of people not being heard. I'm done.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Cox. I see Miss King, you have your hand up. Millette.

MS. KING: 9615 McCracken Boulevard. Okay. I am just very hopeful that our city will support Councilwoman's legislation on declaring racism as a public health crisis. I have been on several calls over the last month where it has been discussed and supported by our City Council. So I am hoping that you will continue to support this piece of legislation this evening. I think it is very important for it to pass and finally come to fruition so that we can continue to move our city forward. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Miss King. Do we have anybody else that would like to specifically talk about tonight's agenda? Okay. We'll move on now to ordinances and resolutions beginning with ordinance number 81-2020. Will the Clerk please read the title.

ORDINANCE NO. 81-2020 (WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, KNOWN AS ORDINANCE NO. 121-1962, PROVIDING FOR THE REVISION OF THE BUILDING ZONE MAP BY CHANGING THE ZONING OF CERTAIN PARCELS AS FOLLOWS:

Moved by DUDLEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion by BURKE to pull Ordinance No. 81-2020 out of the Ways and Means Committee and place it on tonight's agenda.

Seconded by VAUGHN

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

Motion by DUDLEY to place Ordinance No. 81-2020 to pass for a second reading:

Seconded by BURKE

AYES: Dudley, Donahue, Davis, Blake, Burke

NAYS: Nenadovich, Vaughn

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that Ordinance No. 81-2020 will be placed for a second reading with a vote of 5 yeas and 2 nays.

ORDINANCE NO. 84-2020

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES PURSUANT TO SECTION 17 OF THE CHARTER

Moved by VAUGHN to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion by BURKE to pass Ordinance No. 84-2020 for a second reading.

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

NAYS: Burke

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that Ordinance No. 84-2020 will be placed for a second reading with six yes votes and one no vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 85-2020

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES PURSUANT TO SECTION 17 OF THE CHARTER

Moved by VAUGHN to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion by BURKE to pass for a second reading.

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

NAYS: Burke

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that Ordinance No. 85-2020 is placed for a second reading on the next council meeting with a vote of six yes and one nay.

ORDINANCE NO. 86-2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS AND LOCAL 2729 AND COUNCIL 8 AFSCME, AFLO-CIO

Moved by NENADOVICH to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that Ordinance 86-2020 passes with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 87-2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE (FOP), OHIO LABOR COUNCIL, INC - SAFETY DISPATCHERS

Moved by VAUGHN to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that Ordinance No. 87-2020 passes with 7 yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 88-2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE (FOP), OHIO LABOR COUNCIL, INC - JAILERS/RECORDS CLERKS

Moved by BLAKE to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that Ordinance No. 88-2020 passes with 7 yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 89-2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE 74-2020, THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS' PLAN OF CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION OF NON-UNION PAY POSITIONS

Moved by NENADOVICH to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that Ordinance No. 89-2020 passes with 7 yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 90-2020

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH O.R. COLAN ASSOCIATES, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING THE HOMEOWNERS LOCATED AT 4909 ORCHARD ROAD

Moved by DUDLEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that Ordinance No. 90-2020 passes with 7 yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2020

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS AND TO RECOMMIT OUR FULL ATTENTION TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR BLACK AND ANY OTHER MARGINALIZED RESIDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY BY URGING THE ADMINISTRATIVE BODY OF OUR CITY TO DEVELOP A FIVE- YEAR STRATEGIC EQUITY PLAN AND SUBMITTING COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO AREA LEADERS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, CLERGY, AND BUSINESSES

Moved by DAVIS to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

PRESIDENT BURKE: At this time, I'd like to make a motion to amend Resolution 20-2020 on the second page of the piece of legislation, on the ninth Whereas, I would like to strike where it says "eliminating preferential treatment for the majority while subjecting the minority to increased hardships by committing to" so that the piece of legislation would read, "Whereas, the members of Garfield Heights City Council have steadfastly supported efforts that focus on improving the quality of life and equity for each Garfield Heights resident, as well as small and minority-owned businesses in the city. Further, Garfield Heights City Council believes the City should commit to making an effort to provide minority-owned businesses with opportunities to contract with the City." Do I have a second?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to second that motion.

PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by myself and seconded by Clmn Nenadovich to amend this piece of legislation, would the Clerk please take a roll call vote.

CLWN DAVIS: Before I vote, I would like to say I cannot in good consciousness vote yes to this. I was very intentional when I wrote this. Because it is extremely important that during these times we work on efforts to bring the community together. What has been happening for the last five months is continued divisiveness. And as leaders, it has to stop. I've listened to the residents and I've tried to do my best to be engaged in the community as well as a leader and hear what they had to say to do what I believe is best for the community. With that I vote no.

CLMN BLAKE: Before I vote, Clmn Burke just read the statement that he would like amended. It does not state "Further Garfield Heights City Council believes the city should commit to eliminating their preferential treatment". It just states a generality. And with that, I vote no.

AYES: Donahue, Nenadovich, Burke, Vaughn

NAYS: Davis, Blake, Dudley

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let the record show that on the amendment. There were 4 yes votes and 3 no votes.

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

PRESIDENT BURKE: Before I vote, I just want to say I understand everybody's concern here and I agree that this piece of legislation is much needed. I want to thank Clwn Davis for her hard work on this. I know that she spent a lot of time. I'm a little disappointed in how things go. But I think in our world, and if we truly want to be a community that works for the people, we have to learn to compromise with one another. We have to learn to work together. And that's the reason why I made that amendment. And with that, I vote yes.

CLMN VAUGHN: Before I vote, I'd just like to say I echo Mr. Burke's thoughts. And with that I vote yes.

CLMN DUDLEY: Before I vote, I have no problem with compromise. But I believe the compromise you have made was unfair to the originality of the resolution put forth by Clwn Shayla Davis. I agree that something has to be done, but dissected and the way we've dissected it took away some of the meaning within it. And I cannot support the changes that was put there. I support the resolution. I'm making it very clear that I support the resolution in its originality. But I cannot support the resolution with the changes made because we had plenty of time to discuss this and not bring it at the last minute. And with that I cannot support the changes made to this resolution. I believe it's a slap in the face to the community. And with that, I have to vote no.

CLMN DONAHUE: Before I vote. I do have a question. Because it was 4 Yes and 3 No does that pass? We had a vote once before it was 4 Yes 3 No and they said it had to be 5 to 2 for it to pass. So does this really pass? And then I need an answer for I believe on this on the amendment a 4 to 3 vote passes the amendment. Are you on the phone? Can you add to that?

LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY: I believe a 4-3 vote on an amendment is fine. Only when you're suspending the rules you need a 5.

CLMN DONAHUE: Okay. I'm sorry, Shayla. Yes.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Before I vote, again, I reiterate. It's a long time coming. And it's due. And I think it's a good piece of legislation. But what was brought to light tonight, I did not catch. It's my fault. I apologize. But I have to go with the amendment that Matt made and I thank him for that. And I vote yes.

CLWN DAVIS: Before I vote, I'd like to say to Clmn Donahue, you don't owe me any apology. I mean, you have a right to state how you feel. This is a democracy. I don't have an issue with that. I'm not

taking this part of it personally. My intent in writing the piece of legislation was extremely personal. Because I'm on the other side of these experiences like many other people on the phone or those that understand. So, you know, I'm perfectly fine with that. With that, I think I'm going to vote no.

CLMN BLAKE: Before I vote. I just would like to also say that I 100% support the resolution as it was previously written. And with that I vote no.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Okay, let the record show the Resolution No. 20- 2020 passes with 4 yes votes, and 3 no votes.

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Donahue, Nenadovich

NAYS: Dudley, Davis, Blake

And that concludes our resolutions and ordinances for this evening.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT BURKE: We will move on now to comments by citizens.

CLERK: Comments shall be restricted to any problem the 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: It looks like we have Mr. Cox. Do you still have your hand up?

MR. COX: I apologize. I didn't know. I lower my hand. But it's something that I believe we all have to really kind of come back to the table if we need to. Because I think we need to. Because when we do our homework, we can't just be we can't just be voting on one side of the path. And that's what it seems like it's happening.

And I'm not, I don't mean to be so passionate that I am. But I'm raising children in this neighborhood. And I have my own experiences. And so I just want us to really, really make a concerted effort, because I know you all that voted against or the amendments that you voted for. I know that that was because of the lens that you see it through. But what I want you all to consider is start walking in my shoes.

Because that's the only way you're going to ever even attempt to even try to understand because you can't even see it. It's almost like it's oblivious to everybody, but we agree with it and then vote against it. That doesn't make sense to me. So and then to apologize all over the place about not having the time to read it. That is almost like you come in saying my dog ate my homework.

That's unfair to the people you serve. We put you in that office to go through those documents before they come to the table. That's what I thought. So for them to have it done at the very last minute when you vote on it, because you said you didn't go through it, or you had a meeting where you didn't get to it. That's not fair to us, the ones that are actually being the ones that are actually crying out for this equality and equitable stand. So to all--love to all of you, I appreciate your time that you put in on it. But I think you need to go back to the table and start here and not some of us who are really speaking from a place of personal experience, and also from a place of being residents in this city. Because it seems like you hear some of us, but you don't hear all of us. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Cox. Miss Bolton. Could you please state your name and address for the record?

Renaë Bolton, 5749 Turney Road. I just have a couple of things that I wanted to say as it relates to the amending of the verbiage for Clwn Davis's proposed legislation regarding racism. I sincerely feel that the amendment legislation removes any active participation from the City Council and the city of Garfield Heights, to make real strides toward reversing the tide of racism in our city. And it's very discouraging. When I sat on this call, and I listened to so many members of City Council apologize. It boggles my mind. I almost don't even have words, for what just happened here. Because your apology to me is saying I'm sorry, I'm not doing my part to reverse racism in our city. I'm sorry for that. It is a slap in the face to all minority citizens in this community, the city of Garfield Heights. Furthermore, he is not our Mayor. The city of Garfield Heights is all of the businesses that are actively selling, buying in this community. So for the Mayor to say, I want to take this part of this legislation out, because I never did this. I never said that. The Mayor is not the city of Garfield Heights, that wordage would encompass the whole of the city, not one person. And it's very sad that you all are sitting here acting like this is perfectly okay.

And you Mr. Burke, I am extremely disappointed that you are spearheading to take out this verbiage that means so much to minority members of this community, business owners in this community of which I am one. That verbiage was very important, to people who look like me. And it's very sad to me that you all decided to take that verbiage out.

Finally, I would like to say to Clwn Davis, thank you very much for all that you have done to try and bring our voice to the City Council. Clearly, our voice does not want to be heard in the City Council. But I appreciate everything you did and I want you to know, I know I'm not the only one who appreciates everything that you've done. Thank you very much for my time.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mrs. Bolton. Stephanie Howse, you have your hand up.

REP. HOWSE: Hi, good evening everyone. This is Stephanie Howse, State Representative. My address is 1220 Spring Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109. So I just want to express some of my frustrations, being a person who has introduced this resolution on the state level HCR 31. And who I haven't even gotten here and on it, and listening to the conversations just want to state level and then coming home, to listen to the conversations that has just took place. I'm here in Garfield heights.

While it may, and I listen, you know, you listen completely about the preference of the Mayor and talking about him in his tenure of 11 years. And while that may be, that is not why it may be, it is absolutely the case, when you look at systematic racism, and is looking at the whole continuum of a local community. And so, seeing that Garfield Heights was established in 1919, I guess, moving, just general question, I guess, the question I will pose to the City Council members, in what year since the founding of Garfield Heights, have you centered your policies rooted to ensuring equity for Black people? They're in Garfield Heights. That's a question that I hope that you answer since its founding?

Do you all actually like track, I'm like, looking at contracts. From the contracts from the city, when you look at, you know, educational performances of young people and the city, when you look at you know, housing, I mean, there, you can go on and on and on. It's just problematic, you know, what I'm saying? It's like people who don't want to, like it is this very negative reaction to really having open and honest conversations? About what, like the system of racism, white supremacy, whatever you will. And other things like many White people just are not, they just don't want to have a conversation. And people get very defensive like, well, I didn't do it. Again, like take a step back. Like legit, Garfield Heights, established in 1990, we had 2020--101 years, how many of the 101 years of Garfield Heights have Black people and other people of color been censored in your policies? And if you don't know, that's problematic, and if there are more years, where they haven't been censored, versus when they have been, just maybe, maybe some of the people will happen to open the city's eyes. So how to create a path. It's not just about equal, it's about restoring damages and harms that government entities have played a part in the unequal conditions of Black people in other communities of color.

And a lot of times, a lot of the pushback does come from White men who are leading this country. And you know, it's so frustrating to be on the receiving end as a Black woman, as Black elected leaders to try to talk to people who are in the majority, we might know something of what we're talking about partnering on us, centering our voice, so that we can help not have the division. Then you know, there was a conversation of compromise, there should be absolutely no compromise when it comes to eradicating systematic racism. There is no compromise. And I want to make that very, very clear. There is no compromise.

And when people are talking about their frustration, people are tired, absolutely tired. And coming up with these lame freaking excuses of why you cannot do right to look beyond your own personal sick circumstance to put government entities on the pathway to do right by people, all people. It's just very frustrating. It is offensive. You just have to get it together, you absolutely have to get it together to see like the outcome of it of the three people that actually sponsored the legislation voted against it. And the other people who didn't do it already tells you it is jacked up. Y'all got to do better. And I've been listening to these conversations. And a lot of times you want to try to just hold your thoughts in and stuff like that, you know what I'm saying? Like, have some conversation beyond conversations, like do the work, and listen to why people are saying, you know, doing things.

So this is all I wanted to say, but I would be remiss, it would be a derelict, my duty, you know, as a person who is trying to push this resolution on a State level, and I'm hearing some of the same conversations, you know, what I'm saying, I'm here back at home on a State level about why people won't do this or can't do this. And we want to make adjustments. Many of y'all will never know what it is, like, ever. You'll never know what this is like to try to beg people that you think are your allies, like, let's just do the work.

To try to truly, you know, make this city, this State, this country, a place where people are welcome and it's demonstrated in policies. No one's a lot of times we got here was because of government policies. They created this system of oppression that Black people when other people have communities of color have our experiences. That is all I want to say for Clwn Davis.

Councilwoman, Clmn Dudley and Clmn Blake, I thank you all. For the rest of y'all. We don't have we could absolutely have some conversations because if you don't understand, my phone call is always available. Let's talk about it. Because whoever's laughing, we hear you, whoever's laughing, we hear you. Please mute your phone. We hear you laughing at the lady. We hear you, baby. It's all good. Again, my phone number is very public. It is very public. I'm absolutely committed to this. And again, there is no compromise when it comes to I'm fighting back against a systematic oppression. Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Chairman, if I could respond, please.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Go ahead.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Just let me respond briefly. Sure. I understand your passion. And I know there's not much I could say that's going to change your mind. But I think you were probably on the clock. That's why you brought this up. In this piece of legislation and language, it says the city should commit to eliminating preferential treatment for the majority. My opinion means that we're trying to eliminate it, because we were given preferential treatment. In my 11 years as Mayor, I never gave preferential treatments to one business over another. I understand it could be taking place throughout the world, but I personally never did it whether you want to believe it or not. So my only thing was take that out and say anything else that but that modification could have been settled today. This would have been passed. It would have been no problem. All I wanted out was that referring to me having preferential treatment or city and Council having preferential treatment over minority businesses. And I know you don't understand, I know you don't agree, but I wanted you to know what my side of the story was. To think you understand that and then I feel like I'm responding. I understand what you're saying. And I'm not I'm not discrediting that I did take that into total account. And you are speaking from your personal experience.

Representative Howse, I respect everything you said and I respect you as a person. I always have. I just have one question. When you present something to us or to the State, do we not have reason to question what you're presenting? Or is the fact that even though we agree with 99% of this that's not enough? Because we should agree with whatever is presented as it is? Is that your thoughts? To the Mayor? That is absolutely not the case?

REP. HOWSE: Of course, you, you have conversations and you debate on the whole contents of it. But what has occurred just based on my observation and the conversation that I had tonight, from the time that this resolution was presented in committee, the thoughts never came up, or what the changes or sort of compromise didn't come up in committee, because from what I've heard, people didn't read it, or you didn't notice it. Okay, so that's the first thing. And then it was brought up today, in the ninth hour, where knowing what was discussed to change the content of the resolution, we will ask the sponsor and co-sponsors indicated, we'll change the substance of the resolution, that is the issue. So again, there's absolutely nothing wrong with presenting things and having a full and thorough debate about it. But to do it at the last minute, having to understand in the context that we are having a full conversation and the back and forth when it comes to race relations, systematic racism and all that type of stuff. It is absolutely, you know, what I'm saying there is was a failure on the part of the City Council here. Absolutely a failure. So that's what I'm bringing up.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, representative.

REP. HOWSE: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Mr. Fruits. I know you have your hand up.

Mr. James Fruits, 13600 York Boulevard. I'd like to state that I'm very, very, very troubled by what has happened tonight. I know that I really need the video recording from the Legislative meeting about this legislation. Because during that meeting, nobody brought up anything. It was just all glowing like Mr. Clmn Nenadovich loved it. Clmn Burke loved it. Everybody loved it. And nobody had any kind of pushback to say, in the in the legislative meeting. So I want to know why this wasn't brought up there.

And if there were issues, why wasn't it sent back to the legislative committee? Why is this such an issue?

Mr. Mayor, I'd like to speak to what you said about why you wanted the revisions. Everything you said was about you. And Mr. Mayor, this is not about you, when people write in, you have talked on Council meetings about people calling you a racist, and you have made this about you, when people call you a racist. Racism is an issue. This isn't about you. But you are in a position of leadership. So that language in there didn't have anything to do with you. But you wanted it changed, because you've never, you've never discriminated against somebody. And, Mr. Mayor, I think we've all had, like we, we all have biases. And so to think that you've never discriminated against anybody. I think that we need to confront ourselves about that and say, that's probably not true about any of us, and that we need to be confronting our own thoughts on that for each of us. And so I'd like to say, based on tonight's meeting, Mr. Mayor, a couple months ago, you said to me that I have caused the most division ever in the city of Garfield Heights, about the issue of racism? Well, tonight, you take that title, you get that back, you've caused division over this. I can't believe that legislation was passed about racism. And our two Black City Council members voted against it because of the changes that were made and the attitudes. And the discussion that's been had, has been heinous. At best, it's extremely troubling. And I think that tonight just shows that we've still got so much work to do. We left that legislative meeting with everybody loving this piece of legislation. And so excited about it.

And there's this other issue with the public relations committee. I'm here to tell you, that's very suspect now because of what's happened tonight, because it doesn't really sound like our city leadership, wants to make changes or wants to even acknowledge that real changes and real problems with racism are happening. And so we talk about unity. And here's what I'm noticing. White people want unity. And we want unity, because we don't want to be uncomfortable confronting our own privilege and our own biases that need to change in our system. In our city. We've got a racism problem in our city. I thought. I thought we had acknowledged that and it seems like we've taken.

PRESIDENT BURKE: About one minute left.

MR. FRUITS: Thank you, Clmn Burke. It seems like we've taken huge, huge steps back. Trust has not been built up tonight. Trust has been eroded tonight. And now our city leadership has you guys having even more work to do. I honestly have felt like this committee and I'm not pointing this at Clmn Blake who brought this committee idea up. But I have all along, thought this committee was to pass the buck. So that City Council wouldn't have to do the hard work that we need to do in our city. And I again, I think we've taken steps back tonight. I'm extremely disappointed.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I can respond?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Go ahead, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Fruits, you embellished a little bit. You said that it's always about me, that I'm not racism. And you know, all I said tonight was for about the third or fourth time was that I have never been biased towards a minority business since I've been the Mayor. Now, because of that. And

because I didn't bring that up sooner, I should live with the fact that somebody could read this and say the city of Garfield Heights was a VIP club whose Mayor was, in fact, biased towards businesses, and I should agree to that, because I certainly don't want to upset James Fruits.

All I said, very basically, we agreed to 99% of this. I agree the 99%. And you're saying that I don't believe that there's a problem. That's what you just got finished saying, basically. James, you've got to look at the issue. And the issue only, I know, you have a few minutes to speak. And maybe you feel powerful, because you could speak but stick to the effect. I'm not trying to be defensive. I'm not trying to yell at you. I'm just saying that I'm sitting here taking a beating. And you're saying that, you know, I'm a bad leader? I should accept it?. I can't do that. And whether you believe it or not, did I have biases in my life? I probably did. Was I ever racial? I don't believe I was. Do I ever think that there's racism in a country? I certainly do as in the city of Garfield Heights, and certainly is I don't believe I'm a part of it. But I can go along with the fact that maybe I didn't experience what many of the minorities experience.

But every time you get on this phone, you tell me what a terrible guy I am. Because I don't do exactly what James Fruits says. Come on, man, get to it. I'm not opposed to anything on here, but one sentence and that's too much. That's too much. And because I did not bring it up sooner, I should live with it. Maybe you're right? I just didn't feel that way. And you have to understand. You have your opinion. Even Shayla, Councilwoman Davis has her opinion. I respect it. Representative Howse has her opinion. I respect it. But Mayor Collova can't have one. He's defensive--a racist.

I can't buy into that, James. I'm sorry. I have to tell you what I think. And that's what I'm doing. I'm doing everything I can do right now to try to make this city right. I'm meeting with the pastors. We're talking about ideas. We're doing all these things to try to correct what's in Garfield Heights. But if I'm not 100%, in agreement with you, it's not good enough. Thank you.

MR. FRUITS: May I respond to that?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Mr. Fruits? I'll give you one minute. But we do have other people that would like to speak as well. So you have one minute.

MR. FRUITS: Okay. Well, Mr. Mayor, you just proved my point, you made it about you, it is about you, you don't want someone to look at this legislation and say Vic Collova was a racist. That's not what this legislation said, but you changed it to make it about you. And I don't feel powerful. If I felt powerful, I feel like I'd be making a difference about this issue in our community. And we're not making a difference. We're going backwards tonight. And you're you, you're making this personal. And what I'm begging you to do is to listen to that. Listen to the residents. The residents, and there's a whole lot of residents out there, and many of them have a different opinion than you, as a Mayor to listen to. Many of them are racist.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Miss Hamilton --have your hand up?

MS. HAMILTON: Yes. I just wanted to make some comments on the discourse, the discourse that's happening here. And I know that again, back to the language and the verbiage around the legislation in

the preferential right, the word preferential. So is it possible does the city keep records in terms of tracking supplier diversity, so that we could maybe see as a community, these are the amount of NBA minority business enterprise business enterprises, so that we can take a look and see historically right, not just during the terms of the Mayor's tenure with the city, but beyond that, and looking historically, how has Garfield Heights engaged, for example, with minority business contractors, that would be a start. So if I had to hypothesize, I would say that that number is probably disproportionately lower than how we have contracted with other business owners. So if that was the case, and my hypothesis was accurate, that would mean that there has been some sort of bias in terms of how we have engaged with minority business owners rather than I'm consist of us accepting contracts for those that apply through bidding, right? Or whether it's on behalf of the City with it not being necessarily any intentional practice of reaching out to entities to see what type of procurement opportunities there are with minority businesses. I would like for this committee to and Council to consider in your future sessions coming up or with some type of tracking some type of data, because sometimes I feel that in these conversations, it's implied that what's being presented is anecdotal, when we know there has to be some data around what we're what we're discussing from the city standpoint. So I posed that question, is there you know, data, is there something documenting these practices, for example, and this is just one example, just because I know of the word preferential, where we could look at this in a historical context to actually see the numbers. Is that something that would be accessible to the public?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Ma'am?

MS. HAMILTON: May Yeah, I'm not. I'm not sure if I mean, I'm certain somehow we could research and get that.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Some kind of figure to you. But let me just give an example and President of Council Burke, can attest to this, I think we had a major project, a major flooring project done at the Rec Center, just a couple of months ago. And the very first contractor we reached out to was a minority group. They refused it. And we went on from there. And I don't mind if they refused it. And I'm not trying to share we asked him first, but I don't know that I would have a record anywhere saying we asked them first. So that it would be hard to come up with some records. President Burke, can you can you expand on that?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes, I was actually going to say that in my miscellaneous business tonight. But I did I when, when the Mayor asked me to get involved with consultant on the flooring, that is the new flooring around the ice rink. First of all, the, it's important to know that that flooring is something that is manufactured by a company that I have no contact with, but when I looked at that project, I said, I'm going to go out and try to find minority contractors to bid on it. Because, you know, I felt very strongly about, you know, the systemic racism that exists. A lot of times minorities don't get a chance to bid on stuff, because they don't know about it. And of course, you know, the argument is always well, they don't know about it, we post it out there, how come they don't check, and I'm like, Listen, you know, if we take a proactive approach, you know, and go out and try to find it, just try to find some minority contractors to bid on this, I think it would be a step in the right direction, it would show leadership, it would show that we're heading the right way. However, when I did, and I actually found two African American contractors too, you know, one company was right here in Garfield Heights, a local company,

Corporate Floors. And then everybody's heard of National Design Mart. They have a commercial division and they bid on the job. And you know, that Corporate Floors said, I don't want to do this job. There's too many things wrong with the concrete and it would just be way too much. And then the other minority contractor, he never even submitted a bid. And I think looking at it, when he came to look at it, he probably felt the same way. A few others would have felt that it was just way too much, and to do the right job, you know, I'd have to do it. You know, it would be it would be too big for me to do it. You know, and one of my good friends who I've known for probably 20 years in the floor covering business, a very good friend of mine, who is Black. He doesn't go by African American because he's Black and I respect that. He said he would bid on the job. Well, he did not get the job, you know why? He was \$23,000 higher than the next guy and from a city standpoint and from you know, and I know, the Mayor has said it before, from a city standpoint, if you don't have the money, we owe it to the residents not to overspend on something. And so, but he was very appreciative that I quote, got him in the game, because he never had a chance to bid on that before. You know, so that that's where the Mayor was going out with that, Miss Hamilton.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA; Thank you for sharing. Ms. Hamilton, if I could just say that the reason is not to say, the reason I brought this up is not to say we didn't go to African Americans or minorities, or that we did. What I'm saying is, is that, if you check, the record, would show a White contractor did it, we would have no record to say that we asked these two other companies, and they turned it down. So to look at the records, as much as I'd like to open a door, I'm not sure it's going to tell a true story. But I'm more than welcome to check for it. But I just, I just given you another side, that's all. And I do, I appreciate that, if that if I could respond. And I think that, I wasn't trying to comment on like, okay, we went to this person, or we went to that person, but it comes down to our business policy and, and protocol, right. And so just for the sake of timing, I probably need to reach out to have maybe a conversation with City Council or with the Mayor to share some further thoughts around the discussions that have happened. But I think that we need to have the mindset of what are the solution based approaches, but we can't get to that until we all have a common understanding of what is being communicated. And so I'll leave that as for my comments for tonight, and thank you for your consideration of everything I shared.

MAYOR COLLOVA: Thank you. And I would say please reach out to me and I'm glad to have a conversation with you, either on a phone or you can come into the office, whatever you prefer.

MS. HAMILTON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Ms. Hamilton, I would like to say to you know, I had a chance to work a little bit on the strategic planning meeting that I attended a few weeks back. And I actually sent an email to the superintendent asking for your information. So if you could, you know, I would like to speak to you more about what you do. And, you know, just to have that conversation with you. Thank you.

Hazel Feeney. Mrs. Feeney, you have your hand up?

Mrs. Feeney, 5355 East 124th Street. I just had a question. Who made Mr. Fruits to advocate for racism? I'm kind of offended that he's given himself, as a White person, that advocacy for minorities.

Systemic racism is not just for Black people, as it's being made out to be solely in Garfield Heights. I too, am a minority, and I'm offended. I've been fortunate to not have experienced any myself nor my children. However, if you truly want to stop racism, it needs to start at home, stop raising these Black children thinking the rest of the world owes them something. Raise them as human beings, not always including the color of their skin. We all have the same opportunities growing up. It's up to you to make those opportunities available to your children as I have myself. And this racism will stop.

And from the legislation, from my understanding the verbiage was changed in the legislation about bias only towards minority businesses. But if that were left in place, it would be reverse racism which also occurs, but nobody wants to talk about that. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mrs. Feeney. Anybody else like to make any comments to Council at this time?

Ms. Leonard, 4893 East 84th Street. And I have a few different comments. I am in agreement with most of the comments that were made tonight regarding the legislation that wasn't passed. But I will talk about that in a second. So the first thing I want to say Clmn Burke, is I sent you an email. It seems like you guys are still having trouble with your email system. I'm assuming you didn't receive it. Yeah.

PRESIDENT BURKE: When did you send it?

MS. LEONARD: Last week, so maybe I can reach out to you directly. I just had some questions for you about the Community Relations Committee, as far as I know, at the last Legislative meeting, you were upset that you only had received two inquiries about people, you know, wanting to participate. And I didn't realize that that was even open yet. I know that the Mayor also mentioned today that he has had a few inquiries as to how the process is going to go. So I was a little bit confused. I didn't think the position or the opportunity was even open to the community yet. And then I also wanted to know with that, how is that going to be advertised? Because for you to only receive two, I'm assuming that's because it hasn't been communicated with anyone. And I'm sure there's quite a bit of interest. So that was my question. But you and I can, you know, connect sometime later on. And I will also bring that up at the Legislative meeting, this coming Tuesday or Thursday, when we meet about that. So that's, you know, one piece of what I wanted to say.

I also just wanted to mention, and kind of just echo what everyone has said about the Mayor's comments about the legislation from Shayla, as far as you know, it's quite offensive that he hasn't taken the time to read it. It was introduced at least, I feel like at least one month ago, if my timing is off, then I'm sorry, I apologize for that. But I feel like it's been introduced several weeks ago. And for him not to have read it. But yet, I sat here on this call today for over an hour and heard you guys pass all these other legislative pieces and ordinances and all these other resolutions. But yet, everything else was read and thoroughly assessed and taken the time by everyone to look into. But for some reason, I find it funny that this bit, you know was just, you know, misplaced, or put to the backburner or whatever by the Mayor.

So that is quite offensive. And I personally am White. And I don't speak for Black people. But as a White person, I feel like that is very offensive to everyone. The fact that it wasn't read and it wasn't taken seriously, is very disturbing, as a citizen of this community. And I just want to say also, and this is, you know, not a personal attack against you, Mayor, I know, you apologize, I know that you truly are sorry. But that just goes and plays into the whole idea of biases, that oftentimes we don't know what our biases are. And you know, you might not have read it because it was a stressful concept, or a stressful idea, or this whole situation. And bringing this up brings about a lot of different feelings and emotions for a lot of people. And that might have been an unconscious reason why you didn't read it and why you didn't take the time. Again, these biases are often unconscious, and that goes into the whole idea of racism is oftentimes racism is occurring in our community. When people aren't aware of it, they're not purposely doing it. They're not purposely treating people differently. They're not purposely discriminating, it's unconscious, and it's part of their bias. And racism is so entrenched in our community and our history in the history of Garfield, the history of the United States, that people often feel personally attacked, when we bring up racism.

And it's not a personal attack against you, Mayor or against the Council people. It's an attack against racism within itself. And we all need to unite to work together to bring about justice and bring about social reform, bring about police reform, and all of these things so that we can work together. But if we keep feeling like we're personally attacked, and it's against us, we're never going to get anywhere. It's not a personal attack against you. It's a personal attack against racism. So if we all work together, we can work on healing, you know, the crises in our community health disparities, based on racism, the disparities in the criminal justice system, the disparities in the sentencing and their arrests that occur in our community.

And someone asked earlier, you know, how many Black people are committing crime as well, that's not always the case. So Black people are getting arrested more. You know, if you look at crime statistics, you'll see that White people are committing more crimes. If you look at income statistics, you'll see that a Black person makes less money than a White person with the same, you know, education. And so there's huge racial disparities. There's huge systematic racism going on in our country--in our city. And if we don't work together to address it, we're going to keep you know, keep it going. And it's up to each and every one of us to make that happen. So real quick, I know I only have 20 seconds .It's okay. All right. Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Chairman. Just a quick response. I just wanted to say that I certainly didn't take what he did today was out of the ordinary, we have amended and modified legislation throughout the years at the Caucus meetings for different reasons. I know this reason is very important. And I know it you know, touches a soft spot in a lot of people. And I understand that. But I didn't think I did that much wrong. Through the years if you've been involved with Council at all. I've had meetings a couple of days prior to Council when everybody on Council agrees on something. And when it gets to the floor, they have changed their mind, or they have added different things. So what I did, even though I apologize, and I was wrong. And I'll admit it again, I didn't think was out of the ordinary. But for those people that think it's out of the ordinary. All I could say is I apologize.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Okay, Mrs. King, you have your hand up.

MS KING: I just want to make a statement in regards to a statement that was made just a little while ago. And it really placed in fact that we have a lot of work and a lot of healing to do in our city. The comment made that it's not because our children are Black they need to be raised better at home, I really do take offense to that. I believe that I have done an excellent job raising my young man and my young woman. And they've never been in trouble in school, they've never been in trouble with the law. However, my son, this is and it did not happen in Garfield Heights, I want to preface that my son was walking down the street doing a job next to his White counterpart who was on the other side of the street, he had three cop cars that pulled up on him. And they all drew their guns out at him and made him get on the ground. Because they said he fit the description. So it doesn't matter how I raise my child at home, which I feel I did a great job. It still is the color of his skin that others react the way they do. So I think it is completely unfair and uncalled for, to say that Black children need to be raised better in their homes, all children, no matter what color it needs to start in, in the home, not just Black, not White, not any other color. It all starts at home. So to point out that it should be Black children and that's what we need to look at. I completely take offense to that, and just had to put that on the record. And that's why I think it's very important for us to work to heal and move forward. We have to move forward and do better. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

PRESIDENT BURKE: I don't see anybody else with their hand up. So at this time, we'll move on to our miscellaneous business. Will the clerk please read the rule.

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: Okay, tonight, we'll start with Ward 1 Clmn Mike Dudley.

CLMN DUDLEY: First of all, I'm going to stop and I am wishing everybody a Happy Thanksgiving. And a safe one. We realize that COVID-19 is alive and well. You don't take lightly when they talk about you shouldn't bring everybody that you know over to your house and eat but it's your choice. But we might ask and we got a policy if you don't live here during this time frame. We were not doing that really entertainment up in the home. It's safe to flourish. And that's what I believe. When I visit Seniors in the community, I do not go in. I stand at the bottom of the steps and talk to them up on a porch because I am concerned about their safety.

And I just want to mention to anybody to know when we can raise nine children in this community and like let's say it one thing is how you to teach your children, that children are not taught to be racist, they are taught that they can accomplish something. Not one time has a police officer ever come to my house for nine kids we raised as young as 18 and 19 in any way, or have somebody complain that they are just struggling with anything else. And that's the way we raised them. Because I think of what I've been through. And I'm not going to go through all that.

But everybody knows, I've been adamant on some of the stuff I do. But I didn't do racism more to the point that I remember days, I came home, and I almost had tears in my eyes, because of what I had to deal with. And I just talked about a private jet. I'm talking about I don't know, as an elected official what people have seen. But when the next day when I'm coming, I'm not a person to hold grudges and stuff. But I'll tell you what, if you want to know how I feel, or have a conversation, I'm open for somebody to come and talk to me. And the biggest thing that we have is nobody really understands racism, and then the other group of people do not care to understand it. It is and if you deal with it, it wears down. It burns down. And you just can't be just as strong. You have to be strong in order to survive.

And like I say, you know, my friends, even from the military, and anybody that likes to say once again an adult what man stuff? No, I have, like other people. You know, your time people don't know what it is a job and all like people in the community. And I tell so many young people, I know what it is. They say, Mr. Dudley, no, that should have been my job. I know what it is to be a foreman, Oh, I know what it feels to be a senior person and to go down to the bottom of the ladder for some guy to break in and that person become my boss. I know what it is when people have the mindset that it's okay for me to walk behind you. It's okay for me to walk beside you. But you will be you know what, if you're going to have me over, you might want to ask questions about racism. It's not nothing that's going to go away. If you call yourself truly each friend, you call a person who is your friend, or maybe our minority, but we got to remember, minorities are treated differently. And when you talk about racism, there's a lot of people will often be happy with anybody living next door to them instead of a Black person. But we have to have these conversations.

Just like tonight just because the Mayor didn't like nothing, it did not prevent the members of Council from voting for the same piece of legislation that they said was okay a while back. But that is done. So I'm not going to argue with that. I don't want to talk about it. Because like I say, I do feel hurt. And I don't think everybody can feel the pain I have right now. But like I said, Everybody has a right to a decision. They have a right to their choice and everything. But like I say if you if you really can't, if you really had a heart, and I call nobody heartless here, because sometimes you understand how people fail. And I don't think it's too many people when you look at some older fellows, and I tell you, we had a meeting about bringing pastors up to the city and stuff. We don't go in there just to joke around. I have a pastor who's Black, who would be African American, but she wants to get it on my meetings. And she's a Black pastor who will be joining that group.

And some of the stories that I've heard from people in that congregation trying to find some type of resolution because we all can sort of BIM people will say it's not happening, but it is really happening. I can complain all day. But just like this piece of legislation that the councilwoman put together, it was part of a resolution hopefully to resolve a problem that we all know exists. And that's bring it to the floor to have the discussion. And I think that we should have had that discussion during all the time frame. We had to resolve submission, but once again, everybody makes their own decision. And if somebody didn't like it, it didn't stop. Anybody else did like it from voting on moving them forward. And then we move forward and say it got to the Mayor's office, he doesn't like it. And he had a choice to make when he want a choice. But as a Councilman, I think that we owe that to the people and I can't make this decision. I don't make the decision for me. But I'm going to tell you what it was heard for tonight.

But you know, what? I can't say that I didn't think that it wasn't going to happen. Because in all honesty, I just knew something was going to go wrong. It was something that wasn't going to go right and stuff like that. But like I say, everybody's entitled to their own opinion, just as I am. But I tell you, Councilwoman, you've done a good job of putting that together. And I appreciate that effort in and you know, you have my support. And if a local member of Council would have put that together, they would also have supported it. And Shayla, now, it wasn't about the color, the person who brought the resolution forward. And I just say that I think we could have done better. And this but I'm, I'm kind of shocked that it made it through.

I looked at John Lewis tonight, and I'm looking at one of the documentaries before. Can I tell you what? I wasn't shocked at the knee thing that happened, and I just did the shot.

But I don't mean that I don't love people. And I don't care about people? Absolutely not. If anybody know me, I love it. But I'd say it's time for change. To take a look and see that we are going in a bad direction. And this is something that just happened. It's something I've seen in the city for a while. We got good people, we got bad people, the majority of people in Garfield Heights are good people, and they want something done. And the majority of my not racist individuals now sitting. But we have a group that continues to make it harder for us. But I wish we would have took any problems in these issues before they even came to the floor.

With that once again, Happy Thanksgiving to everybody. And thank you. Clwn Davis for bringing that to the floor and the resolution. I thank you for your support. Clmn Blake and everything, but time will tell and I believe we're going to have another opportunity because I'm not a quitter, and I don't go.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I want to just say that, you know, children are good children, but it is a disproportionate amount when we talk about Blacks are being rated compared to anybody else. And that's not me speaking--Judges say that. Even you know, judging, we all know who said that too. And that's stuff we got to work on and got to change as well. But ladies, no, I had a chance to consider it in consideration. Should have been better. We should have made some corrections before it got to the floor instead of putting it out with that.

Everybody have a Happy Thanksgiving, everybody. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Mr. Donahue.

CLMN DONAHUE: Hey, I just have a few things. Like everybody's going to say, I hope everybody does have a nice Thanksgiving. I just want to wish everybody a Happy and safe Thanksgiving. As Clmn Dudley said, with the COVID you got to be careful even though you're inviting people in.

The Thanksgiving gift card contest I had. It went great. Fifteen gift cards went two; three gift cards went toward six. One gift of seven. I'm planning something for Christmas. This will happen probably at our Special Council Meeting. I'll do a little blurb on that. Plus, it'll be on Next Door online. And it'll be in the Neighborhood News, not this week, but starting next week. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Mr. Donahue. Mr. Nenadovich, you have the floor.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Okay. Am I good? Yep. Okay, thank you. Well, first of all, I want to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving. I hope it's a safe one and I hope you and your families can visit in a safe manner. I also want to say don't forget, before our next Council Meeting, December 7th. The day they bombed Pearl Harbor today when we lost a lot of Veterans. And that's coming up before next Council Meeting. Don't forget to say a prayer for all those that lost their lives. So that we can have these meetings and disagree, you know, in a safe and fashionable way. Not fashionable, but safe in a respectable way.

At this time, I would like you to know there's been a change in the Web page. You can now go to Garfield Heights, a Web page. And where it says City of Garfield Heights Breaking News, you can click on it, at the bottom of the first paragraph, and get all the upcoming meetings that are going to happen in the city, the past ones that you may have missed.

I thank our technology and Mr. Burke would know more about this than I would, that on the Council minutes note, we can read your notes and it's possible to where we can have the Zoom meetings made accessible on our Web page. I'd like for you to research that if you can. And let me know what you think.

I'm now getting on to a few of the things that happened tonight. Very briefly, everybody says the Mayor, the Mayor is Garfield Heights. Because if something goes wrong at the police, what's the Mayor doing? What's the Mayor doing? If there's something with the roads, what's the Mayor doing? Where's our money being spent? What's the Mayor doing? The Mayor is Garfield Heights. He just has a name that is Collova. And I'm sticking up for him because he is my friend, but he's also my Mayor. And he's not the leader of Council, Matt Burke is. We have to listen to the input from the Mayor and make our decisions accordingly. And this piece of legislation. I didn't read it as that first off. But I don't want to see Garfield Heights cast in a bad light. And it rocked my attention. I was ready to vote for this tonight until that was brought up. But a lot of government agencies, they do have a 13th hour decision to make. And it happens all through government. And we're human and we make mistakes. And that's what makes my reason for doing what I did tonight. And another thing I heard about a group that meets with the Mayor, and it's run by Mr. Dudley, I heard it's a very, very progressive group. It's doing a great job with the city and these pastors have all good, concise opinions. I think Mike's working on the right line. I think these pastors they ought to be a subgroup of this community advisory committee because according to the Mayor, they have some very, very good input.

One thing I would like to say about bids, I think we should start keeping a list of all bids on projects. So we can justify that we are very, very equal in it in the division of jobs. But again, you have to remember, we are compelled to take the lowest bids. Like Matt says, \$23,000. That's quite a big jump, and we don't have it. So people just take that into consideration.

And as far as what Mrs. King said, she raised her boys, they did a good job. And she does have a problem. They are singled out many, many times. But I also go with Mr. Dudley, who has raised nine children. And I seen these boys from when they grew up when they were six and seven years old, for

the past 12 years. And I've always told Mike, Mike, your boys are the most well behaved children in a public situation where they come to meetings, they come to City Hall, and all you do is you look at them and it stops if they get a little bit out of hand. They respect you as a father and I respect you as a man, you are raising a good family. And again, I wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you, Mr. Burke.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Nenadovich. Clwn Davis, you're up.

CLWN DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pretty much like all of my colleagues have stated, I want to wish everyone in the community a Happy Thanksgiving, try to make the best of it. While we remain safe. This is a very tough time with COVID, with the numbers being elevated. So I believe a lot of us are just having challenges, challenges on, you know how to even be thankful and celebrate, but we're still here. So that's the best part. So I'll leave that there.

I would like to respond, unfortunately, to several comments that were made about certain people on Council wanting to reform the police. And I'm just interested in who those several people are because I have not heard that discussion from any one Councilperson to date. In the past five months, what I've actually seen is several Council people, including myself, constantly working with our Police Department to try to bring true unity to the community. I'm now going to solely speak for myself, I speak to the police chief quite often. We have several conversations. There are several programs and ideas that are in the works so I meet with him with other residents in the community who have this resistance and who aren't comfortable with the police for whatever their experiences have been to try to minimize some of this.

We had a prayer when George Floyd was killed. And I do recall many of us saying how great Garfield Heights was, and we didn't have these issues. But we do have issues as the Mayor and everyone else has said it is not to blame or accuse anyone of anything. It's just stating the mere fact. And if anyone in this community really loves this community, then it will be about us coming together even with our differences and trying to figure out what to do. What I'm curious about from everyone is, where's the work? Where's the conversation about the work, this should not be a battle one against the other. And there's absolutely no disagreement on my end about our need for the police.

I did ride alongs with the police. The day that the videotape was released, I immediately called the police chief myself and Clwn Burke sat down with the police chief to have a better understanding of what was going on. I am about bringing change, positive change and moving forward pointing fingers micro-aggressions accusing someone of something. It's just inappropriate. And it's ridiculous. And it continues to keep us divided. The reason I decided to draft that resolution is because I continued to hear from the community for the past five months. I put my heart into that. And it may not mean anything to anyone else on the phone, but it means everything to me. Everything. Do I have a problem with the changes? Yes. Did I express that? Absolutely. But this is a democracy. This is what happened. Okay. I thought I was speaking on behalf of the community based on what I heard. And from what I've heard tonight, I actually did that. But we still need to move forward. What's in that piece of legislation is talking about a strategic plan as it relates to equity, bringing us together. If we don't want to have conversations about that, then we want to continue the divisiveness and I don't think that's what

Garfield Heights is about. So we should stop there. We really should. It's been enough time for each and every one of us to take responsibility at that prayer rally.

As stated, I have bias, we all have bias. And until we're willing to acknowledge and admit that, I don't understand how we're going to grow. These conversations are going to continue to be uncomfortable as they should.

But it is only when we become uncomfortable in our comfortableness, that change actually happens. And I'm absolutely okay with that. If that is what my purpose is to sit on City Council in Garfield Heights, is to push the envelope a little further to bring about change, then that's what I'm here for. And I represent everyone. There is not anyone in Garfield Heights not in my Ward, who I have not respected and been upfront and honest with. It doesn't matter what your skin color is. Am I a Black woman? Absolutely. Do I worry every day about my 23 year old soon to be Black son? Absolutely. Absolutely, because of our experiences. And I would respectfully really like someone willing to understand that. But if you don't, that's okay. There's real work to be done. And that's the work that I want to do. with that.

I hope everyone again, has a wonderful holiday. Thank you all for being on this call. We've been here maybe three, four hours now. But this is what happens when we're trying to have difficult discussions, and really work on equity and change. Thank you. I appreciate everyone's comments. Have a good night.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Clwn Davis. Clmn Blake.

CLMN BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a couple general comments. First, I'd like to thank Mark Sikon in the Service Department for their efforts to get the leaves up off the street, they've been working some extra hours, I saw them after hours in Ward 5 last week. The leaves came down a couple weeks early, the volume was up and I believe they did the best they could. They're still out. I just want to thank him for their efforts.

As everybody has said, I'd like to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving, safe Thanksgiving. I especially want to thank anybody who goes the extra mile and helps families who are in need at this time of year.

I know a lot of people do things without wanting to be acknowledged or praised. They do things, you know, discreetly. For everybody that does do things for people this time of the year, I just want to say thank you.

As COVID-19, ramps up it is getting out of control. Again, again, please take the precautions, protect yourselves, protect your family, protect the people at risk. So please again, take the precautions that are in place.

Just want to make a general comment about some of the things that were said here tonight. There were a lot of powerful things said here tonight, there are a lot of things that we need to listen to whether you agree with them or not. Whether you understand them or not. Around the time of the incident with George Floyd, I had some tough conversations with Clwn Davis. And that led me to have other

conversations with my best friend, who had never talked about race with my coworkers who I see every day. You know, we talked about a lot of different topics. And one of the topics we talked about was, you know, racism as a health issue. And when they tell me that, you know, it affects physical health, mental health, it affects everyday life of the people that are subjected to it. When these are people telling me that I know and I deal with every day, it's eye opening, and I need to listen to them. And I need to realize that it's happening to people I don't know. I did support the resolution as written. I don't have you know, everybody voted the way they felt was correct and, you know that's the right. But you know, I do think that the first step in solving a problem is identify it and then develop action plans to work towards, you know, eliminating that problem. And I think the action steps that are in the resolution Clwn Davis drafted are steps in the right direction.

When it comes to the Community Relations Committee. We know we have things to work on. We know we need to finalize the legislation, we know we need to determine a selection process and please be patient that will come. And I will work very diligently to ensure that we're not blowing anything off as I forget how it was worded earlier, but I said this before, I'm committed to making this community work, and I intend to do so. With that, Mr. Chairman, you have my comments.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Clmn Blake. I'm at a loss for words, I really don't know what to say here. I mean, I tend to look at things as a glass being half full instead of half empty. When the Mayor brought up his point tonight, at Caucus, I made it clear that I was going to make an amendment to this piece of legislation. Anybody else on this Council could have made a motion to put this back into the Legislative Committee. So to answer your question, Mr. Fruits, that could have been made, I chose to make a motion to make an amendment to try to compromise. And unfortunately, I'm learning now the compromise is not in the conversation. Apparently, that's not an important thing. And I'm looking at this piece of legislation. And I just keep reading it over like I like I did since I first got it. And we are basically, we have passed a piece of legislation tonight, that declares racism a public health crisis in the city of Garfield Heights. History has been made. But because I made an amendment to eliminate part of the sentence to try to show that I can compromise. I guess I'm the bad guy, which I guess if that's the way it's got to be, it's got to be.

Certainly, you know, this could be amended again, and put back on Council floor. You know, I mean, you could come out with the resolution. Again, there's nothing stopping that. I mean, my point here is that I think we need to look at the glass as being half full and not half empty. You know, I hear a lot of stuff about racism. And I got to tell you, I'm not a Black person. I never have been, but I'm an Asian person, you know, and I've dealt with it. But maybe not to the extent I don't know what it's like to walk in the shoes of somebody else. I only know what it's like to walk in my shoes. And to know what I've put up with and I see it all the time I do. I would have voted for this piece of legislation without that amendment. But because I made an amendment, I chose to be a leader and try to make a compromised effort here. I'm the bad guy. And I all I did was exercise my right to democracy, make an amendment and see how the votes go. And you know what, there was four votes, yes for the amendment, and three, no for the amendment. But we still adopted a piece of legislation tonight and made history. And to that, Clwn Davis, really, because she spearheaded this, she's the one who actually ignited all this, she deserves a lot of credit for that. It was hard work and I apologize if I

discredited that because that's not my intent. My intent was to make a motion to try to show that I could compromise. And everybody that voted voted and that's the democratic process. That's the way it goes. And I'm sorry, I know we can't make everybody happy. We try but we can't. It's not something that you know is that in the equation, I've been doing this for way too long to know that no matter if somebody is going to be upset with you.

Having said that, I do want to say one thing and I really appreciate everybody, all the residents out there that texted me, emailed me, called me. I am overwhelmed at how many people called me when I was diagnosed with COVID-19 back on Halloween, and I spent 10 days being positive going through some of the symptoms. But I will tell you, I am just absolutely overwhelmed by the amount of people that have reached out to me and asked me if I was doing okay. If I needed anything, and you know, when I think about society, and I think about that I think about, we do have great people in this world, and they help their neighbors out, no matter what. And when somebody is sick, we do. As human beings, we get together and we try to help them out. And I really appreciate everybody that has done that. It's hard, it goes back to when my granddaughter passed away, and Clwn Davis actually prayed with me, that meant more than anything to me. And, you know, I just think that we need to maybe start talking about the good stuff that we can all do for one another. Instead of, you know, the bad stuff that happens. I really wish we could get on to that type of conversation.

With that, I want to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving. If you're going to go out, make sure you wear a mask. I, you know, I'm here to tell you this COVID is not something that that you want. Because at whatever rate that you have it, it is not pleasant. I don't believe I had a bad run of it, but it was not pleasant either way.

So that's all that's all I have. And again, just be safe. Stay away from the COVID if you can. Clmn Vaughn.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you, Mr. Burke. I'll be brief. We're almost going on 10 o'clock here.

First of all, I want to inform everybody this past week or so one of my former firefighters passed away-- Dennis Burke. Dennis lived in Garfield Heights his entire life, corner of 105th and South Highland. He grew up in Garfield Heights, went to school in Garfield Heights, attended Holy Name High School. He always wanted to be a firefighter. That was his life dream. He became a firefighter. And he served this community for 30 some years, I would occasionally run into Dennis, and he always talked about how great he loved firefighting and the guys being in that house. And Dennis will truly be missed. And my sympathies go out to his family.

Something on a more positive note. Ward 7 Block Watch will be handing out two baskets of food to needy families in the Ward. And I am just overwhelmed by the generosity of people in Ward 7 that came to give food. We know how they could help. These baskets of food are just unbelievable. Two pies. Every fixing imaginable, foil, pans, you name it, it's in there. These people will have food for the next two weeks. Five loaves of bread. Unbelievable what went into all this--gallons of milk, dozens of eggs. Just unbelievable. And again, it shows the generosity and the caring commitment of the people of Garfield Heights. And I say thank you.

We are having a Legislative Meeting. I ask all my colleagues in the next week or so to look over that piece of legislation, tear it apart, piece by piece. If we have to be there for three, four hours, let it be. But let's get it done and get it done. Right. So we don't have a repeat of what went on tonight. I think we all have what's best for the community in mind. We all might bring different history, whatever to the table. But we're all about what's best for Garfield Heights.

At this time, I'd like to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving. I know it's a lot different than in years past, folks. But keep those masks up. Enjoy your small festivity and really sit down and think of things that we can be thankful for. I know it's hard this year, but we can do it.

Mr. Chairman, at this time at 9:58, tonight, I'd like to make a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting

CLWN DAVIS: Second.

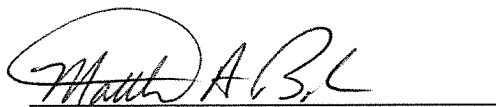
PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by Clmn Vaughn and seconded by Clwn Davis to adjourn tonight's Council Meeting, will the Clerk please take a roll call vote beginning with Clmn Vaughn.

Before I vote, I just want to remind everybody that our next Council Meeting is Monday, December 14, 2020. And with that, I vote yes. And let the record show that at 9:59 p.m. on November 23, 2020, that the Council Meeting for the city of Garfield Heights is now adjourned. Thank you, everybody. Everybody good night.

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

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Matt Burke
President of Council



Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council