



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2006

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:15 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Gibbon, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann O'Neil, Ruane, Wagner

Topic of discussion included general information pertaining to the City Manager's weekly memo.

Council Member Caplan moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. Second by Council Member Tumeo.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Gibbon, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann O'Neil, Ruane, Wagner

Topic of discussion included land acquisition and development.

Executive Session concluded at 7:18 p.m. and resumed into Committee of the Whole adjourning at 7:35 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:46 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Gibbon, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann O'Neil, Ruane, Tomaro, Wagner

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Tuesday, February 21, 2006 were signed by Mayor Kelley along with the ordinance and resolutions passed at that meeting.

"My name is Gabe Schaffer. I live at 2781 Hampshire Road. Well, it seems I must apologize. My remarks last time made it seem like I was calling the police terrorists. I guess I just didn't think it through enough and it came out wrong. It's simply not the case with all the police are bad. In fact, I've lived here long enough to even meet some good ones, but my point here is not to tell you what I think, I'm here to tell you what other people think of the police. When I spoke to one friend who grew up here and moved away, she said she would never move back and she tries to not even visit because of the police. The reason she didn't feel safe at night isn't because she was afraid of the criminals, she was afraid of the police. Another person who used to love taking his family to Coventry says he's actually boycotting the whole city. He just got too many tickets one week. Somebody else I know went so far as to say that he avoids Cleveland Heights because of the police and he used the word that I guess I shouldn't use, but I don't come here to hurl insults or call anybody names, I just want to live in a city where my girlfriend isn't afraid of the police, and she is. I mean I can either leave and not come back like my friends or I can try to make things better. I figure a good way to start is by telling you how many people perceive that there's a problem, not with all the police, but with some of them. Anyway, please don't shoot the messenger. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Downey stated, "Thank you very much, your Honor. I have several items to report this evening. In your packet the Council has received a copy of the bid tabulation and the award of contract of the following: Bid Document No. 2006-01, the purchase of strash bags, approximately 600,000. The successful bidder is Central Poly in the amount of \$70,800.00; Bid Document No. 2006-02, the purchase of Kraft bags, approximately 70,000. Dano Enterprises is the lowest bidder in the amount of \$18,130.00; Bid Document No. 2006-09, catch basin cleaning. The lowest bidder is AAA Pipe Cleaning in the amount of \$54,648.00; and Bid Document No. 2006-10, the purchase of trees. The purchase of tree bid will be divided up between four companies: Davis Tree Farm, Klyn Nurseries, NLCI Land Management, and Davey Tree Farm. Your Honor, I would request that these bid tabulations and the award of contract be made a matter of record."

Mayor Kelley made them a matter of record.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mr. Malone stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have no report tonight."

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Council Member Evans stated, "Thank you. I'd like to present Ordinance No. 21-2006(PSH), amending specified sections of Part Three, Traffic Code, and Part Five, General Offenses Code to conform such Ordinances to current State Law; and declaring an emergency. Whereas, in the best interest of the City and its residents to amend certain provisions of Part Three, Traffic Code, and Part Five, General Offenses Code, to conform to changes in the comparable State Statutes. This is something our law department reviews annually and decides what needs to be amended.

Section 1 states that the following sections and chapters shall be, and hereby are amended to conform in changes to State Law as summarized in Exhibit "B" so that henceforth said provisions of the Codified Ordinances shall read as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein: Under Traffic Code there are six different sections that five of them need to be amended entitled: Stopping for School Bus, Commercial Drivers' Definitions, Prerequisites to Operation of a Commercial Motor Vehicle, Commercial Drivers Criminal Offenses and All-Purpose Vehicle Definitions which are to be amended and one, Exemptions, that will be repealed. Under the General Offenses Code there are four, three of which are recommended to be amended: Criminal Law Jurisdiction, Falsification, and Public Indecency and one, titled, Identity Fraud, which is repealed. Section 2 states the aforementioned amendments to the Codified Ordinances, as revised, recodified and consolidated into component codes, titles, chapters and sections within the 2006 Replacement Pages to the Codified Ordinances, are hereby approved and adopted. Section 3 is notice of passage and Section 4 states that this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to distribute current replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

There is a lot really to read, and for those of you who have an interest I would refer you to the Clerk of Council's office to receive a copy. With that, I would like to submit Ordinance No. 21-2006(PSH) for passage this evening."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 21-2006(PSH) for passage.

Roll Call: Ayes: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Nays: None **Ordinance passed**

Council Member Evans continued, "Next is Resolution No. 22-2006(PSH), declaring the property at 1622 Coventry Road to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance; and declaring an emergency. The City Manager and the Certified Building Official have reported to this Council that the residential property known as 1622 Coventry Road owned by Michael L. Thomas has not been maintained for a number of years and is in a state of severe disrepair. This particular property has had numerous housing code violations on the property over the past ten years and that no progress has been made on this property. The Certified Building Official, accompanied by representatives of the mortgagee bank, has inspected the property and determined that the cost of rehabilitation and repair exceeds the value of the property and thus the property should be razed. It has further been reported that the property has deteriorated over the years to the point that it is a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the occupants and the public and is a blighting and deteriorating factor in the neighborhood adversely affecting the value of neighboring property.

It is always unfortunate when it becomes necessary to recommend that a property be razed, but there is no question that this property cannot be rehabbed to make it liveable for anyone.

I would like to submit Resolution No. 22-2006(PSH) for passage this evening."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 22-2006(PSH) for passage.

Roll Call: Ayes: Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan

Nays: None **Resolution passed**

Council Member Evans added, "I would just like to take a moment to read a letter written by a long-time resident of Cleveland Heights who states that she has been here for twenty years and in that time she's never taken the opportunity to commend Chief Lentz and the officers on the fine work done in the community to make this a safe place in which to live. She says that this letter is long overdue, 'As a former director of elementary ed in one of the neighboring cities, I know that in leadership roles such as yours you get the complaints but rarely the compliments. Recently, as you're well-aware, there was an armed robbery,' and she had the opportunity to speak with Detective Mark Schmitt at the beginning and throughout the investigation. She would like to commend Detective Schmitt for the way in which he communicated and the personal attention that he gave to her concerns. She stated that they were scared and he assured them that they were safe. She feels that his honesty, directness and courteous responses were extremely appreciated. 'Detective Schmitt told me that Chief Lentz had directed the efforts of the police force to solve this case,' and she thanks everyone for the leadership and the support on the part of the officers who worked so hard to solve the case. It is signed by one of our long-time residents and I think it's kind of important to - . You know, we get the different perspectives from both ends and I think it's important for people to know that we get complimentary letters for the police force as well as complaints. I think these are nice to hear.

This one is a little different. It's also directed to the Chief. 'I'd like to thank you for the courtesies and assistance extended to me during the compliance survey conducted at the Cleveland Heights Police Academy on February 9, 2006. Please pass on my thanks to certifying officials, Captain Cannon, Lieutenant Shaffer and Officer Mecklenburg for an excellent performance. Captain Cannon and his staff also should be commended for maintaining control of the attendance policy. This indicates that there is a great teamwork involved at your academy and a commitment to excellence in serving our veterans and other eligible persons. Once again, the US Department of Veterans Affairs appreciates the educational opportunity that your school provides to veterans and other eligible persons. The discussions that were held with Captain Cannon and your staff were beneficial to our office. I hope that adequate assistance will also be rendered to your staff. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any other questions or concerns or need further help in the future.' This is signed Harry Dulik, Education and Compliance Survey Specialist with the Department of Veterans Affairs. That concludes my report for the evening."

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Tumeo stated, "Thank you. I have two pieces of legislation for tonight. First, Ordinance No. 23-2006(AS), to approve current replacement pages to the Cleveland Heights Codified Ordinances; and declaring an emergency. Over the past year Council passed various ordinances of a general and permanent nature that need to be included into the Codified Ordinances; and as you know in January we entered into a contract with Walter H. Drane Company to prepare and publish these kinds of revisions. There are seven that need to be included and this will authorize the company to go ahead and put those in. So, with that, your Honor, I'd like to introduce Ordinance No. 23-2006(AS) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 23-2006(AS) for passage.

Roll Call: Ayes: Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Tumeo continued, "The second issue is Ordinance No. 24-2006(AS), first reading only. It is not for passage tonight. An ordinance of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, establishing salary schedules, position classifications and other compensation for officers and employees of the City; and declaring an emergency. There are a couple of things that this ordinance does. The first is, it states the minimum and maximum amount for the salary ranges for all the various positions in the city. Under this ordinance the minimum salary for each job category has been raised by two percent (2%) and the maximum would be raised by three (3%). What is being arranged is that there will be pay increases for employees of two percent (2%) except for those employees who are earning less than \$30,000.00 annually, and those employees will receive a three percent (3%) salary increase. In addition, this legislation will ratify the contract with the police union, that has agreed to a three (3) year contract. It is referred to in Section 2, Page 14 of the ordinance. The new terms include a salary increase in 2006 of three percent (3%) and in 2007 of three percent (3%) and in 2008 of three and a half percent (3 1/2%). Also, the police will be required to assume the same co-pays and deductibles for health care coverage as the public works and city hall employees. I introduce Ordinance No. 24-2006(AS), first reading."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 24-2006(AS), first reading only.

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Dietrich stated, "Thank you. I have one piece of legislation tonight which is Resolution No. 25-2006(CRR), recognizing March, 2006 as American Red Cross; and declaring an emergency.

With all the coverage over these past few months about Katrina we do get daily reminders of the importance of the work of all the helping agencies.

Red Cross Month was first declared in 1943, by FDR to recognize the volunteers who assisted the armed forces and their families during World War II. Today, in the Cleveland area there are almost two thousand Red Cross volunteers and staff members who do things like tend to families of disasters like fires, who expedite quick communication between military families and the military when there is an emergency. They do instruction in first aid, safety education, and as you all know, one of the most visible things they do is hold local blood drives. We join with other communities throughout the nation in recognizing March, 2006 as American Red Cross Month and this will be passed as an emergency."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 25-2006(CRR) for passage.

Council Member Tumeo commented, "Passing a resolution to recognize a month of an organization, I think, a lot of city councils do it and it's relatively routine, but I think it's important to recognize that it is a statement. The American Red Cross is an excellent organization that serves this country well in lots of instances. I think the most notable thing that we all recognize is the blood drive and the fact that they do important things with that, although there are some rules and policies that prevent me, for example as a gay man from participating in that. However, I think that the issue at hand is the actions and response of the American Red Cross in the Katrina disaster recently. They are being investigated by Congress. There are some very serious questions about their management and about their ability and willingness to step up to this kind of major disaster and serve local communities. For that reason, without condemning or in anyway saying negative things about

the American Red Cross, I don't think it's appropriate for us to honor them in this way and I will be voting against this resolution."

Council Member Wilcox stated, "It's kind of unusual for us to have some controversy over a resolution like this, but I thought I should respond to that and indicate that I will be supporting the resolution and primarily because it does recognize the efforts of the two thousand local volunteers in our community. I think this is as much recognizing their efforts and what they do - again, volunteering, to help others that we want to recognize here, not ignoring the fact that there are issues and problems perhaps at the national level of the Red Cross, but I will be supporting the volunteers of that organization by voting for this resolution."

Mayor Kelley added, "I, too, will be voting for the Resolution No. 25-2006(CRR), and while some of us or all of us may not be happy with the American Red Cross in the aftermath of the hurricane down in Louisiana and the surrounding two states, let us not forget that FEMA and recently we heard our esteemed president of these United States were warned hours if not days before the impending hurricane of what was going to happen and actually what did happen and if anybody really dropped the ball here, it was the people from our government and from FEMA and maybe not our friend, I believe his name was - Mr. Brown, who ran FEMA at the time. If you can believe what you see on tv which I believe. So, we may not have been happy with what the American Red Cross did there, but certainly our government and FEMA let us down more so than this non-profit organization who has been with us over 60 some years and doing what they do in our community. I will be supporting Resolution No. 25-2006(CRR)."

Roll Call: Ayes: Kelley, Wilcox, Dietrich, Evans

Nays: Montlack, Tumeo, Caplan **Resolution passed**

Resolution No. 25-2006(CRR) did not pass as an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

Council Member Dietrich continued, "I have a few announcements to make about things that are coming up in March. I don't know what we did before we had the community center, because the community center is just hopping. Everything that I have to report on practically is taking place at our community center. This Thursday night, which is March 9th, Heights Community Congress and the school district will be presenting a forum on the small schools initiative. This is a chance to hear about the organizational changes that have transformed Heights High School from one large school of almost two thousand students into five smaller schools within a school with the help of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This is all in an attempt to bring more personalization to the school with the philosophy that achievement improves when the students feel connected. This will take place 7:00 this Thursday night at the community center.

The following night, Friday, the 10th, at the community center is our final middle-school night for this school year. We've had really successful middle-school nights this year. Between 150 and 200 kids have been coming from many of the middle schools in Cleveland Heights and University Heights, public, private, parochial schools. This is from 7:00 - 9:00. It only costs \$1.00 to come in. The kids ice skate and they play pool and table tennis and foosball and karaoke and have pizza. What they do have to bring with them is either a recreation ID or a school ID or a report card, something that shows they go to middle-school in Cleveland Heights or University Heights. Later in the month, is the Raymond Robinson Hockey Tournament. That starts Wednesday, the 15th and extends until Sunday, the 19th. It runs day and evening - those five days and if you are a

hockey family you know that this is one of the best run hockey tournaments that you will go to all year.

My final thing is just a small note about the Civility Project that is that Mayor Kelley has offered to host a breakfast for clergy members to help them brainstorm and discuss how their congregations can become involved in the Civility Project. He will be doing that on Wednesday, March 29th. That will be at City Hall at 8:00 a.m. To our clergy members, watch for your invitation to that event and we hope that we will see you there. That's all that I have."

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There is one piece of legislation from this committee, it is Resolution No. 26-2006(F), authorizing the reprogramming and reallocation of Community Development Block Grant Funds; and declaring an emergency.

Many of you have followed the saga of Community Development Block Grant funding along with other domestic programs and you know that the total amount budgeted for all areas was reduced and now we have been told that the reduced amount is to be reduced somewhat more and for Cleveland Heights that further reduction is in the sum of \$34,578.00. The question of how to realign the block grant budget was studied by the Citizens Advisory Committee, as well as the staff and those two groups made a recommendation that is captured in this Resolution No. 26-2006(F).

The legislation is as follows, that the Council approves the reduction of the FY 2006 allocation to the Mixed Use Commercial Redevelopment program in the sum of \$5,998.00. That's a program that gives assistance in upgrading commercial buildings and introducing a Mixed Use situation, generally commercial on the ground floor and residential above, which of course is quite an expensive undertaking. The second aspect of the reduction to make up for the \$34,578.00 is that the Contingency, that slight amount for the whole budget that was left in a fund to cover unexpected events. The Contingency amount of \$28,689.00 (I should say now, former Contingency) taken from the Contingency Fund and put into an Exterior Paint Programing and together that makes up for the short fall. We simply note, that this is another indication of the federal administrations' plan to starve the beast. The beast in this case being human and urban development and the other beast that are going to be starved will include education and the internal security in our nation. This is one small piece of that and Cleveland Heights will get along. Resolution No. 26-2006(F) is introduced on first reading for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 26-2006(F).

Roll Call: Ayes: Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley

Nays: None **Resolution passed**

Vice Montlack stated, "Just a comment. I don't have a letter to the police to read tonight, but I will pass along from one of my very own employees, is thank you, because his house had been burgled in South Euclid some time ago and recently he received back some of the property that was taken and this property came to him by way of the Cleveland Heights Police Department Detective Bureau, who advised him that the property was secured through a routine traffic stop and there it was sitting in somebody's car. We get a lot of communications of this kind. What's interesting about them is that the people who have had these experiences, either tell you who they are or they sign their names to letters - just maybe because of a little bit of legal training, I appreciate that more than

hearsay, where somebody tells you what somebody else might have said to that person. There is a reason why in courts of law hearsay evidence of that kind is not permitted and the reason is that it's by nature, unreliable. You cannot cross examine hearsay. Hearsay, of course, is never under oath and it doesn't wash. I think that there are some other things that can be said about this city which has been named the safest city of 50,000 plus people. I think there was one comment that caught my ear, it had to do with feeling unsafe on Coventry, which is a street I'm particularly familiar with, and I have never seen that, but I should say I have never seen that going back to the 1970s and frankly that was a time there were real safety problems. All that is in the distant past. I simply am saying that it's one thing to walk into a public arena and give assumptions and hearsay and it's quite another to see the facts on the ground. That concludes this report."

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Caplan stated, "Thank you. I have no legislation tonight and I'm not going to talk about recycling, although I'm going to keep reminding you about that, but I want to tell you that spring is coming. You may have noticed in your yards little things are coming up out of the dirt and it means that maybe some of the bulbs you planted through the years have started to peek through. On April 1st, is really the day when you know that spring is coming because on April 1st it's a Saturday and you can go to the Forest Hill Parking Lot and there will be free mulch. All you have to do - you don't even have to get a permit this year. All you have to do is go and bring a way to transport it. It's up to you whether you want to use plastic bags or you borrow somebody's pickup truck or boxes or whatever you do and go. We have fabulous mulch. In all those leaves and all that stuff we pickup from your yard, it's all been doing whatever it does and we grind it up and you can take it back. It's free. It will be April 1st so mark you calendar and then you'll know you can start working in your yards. I'm ready to do that myself. That's all I have. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have no legislation tonight, but I did want to make a few comments about a meeting we had this morning with our Tax Incentive Review Council and Housing Council that was appointed recently and to review both our tax incentives and our commercial developments and our housing projects throughout the city. We'll be getting reports from the councils later, but I just wanted to comment about some of the newer housing in the city and some of the things the city has been doing in that regard. As you all know, it's difficult in older suburbs to develop new housing because of the lack of land available, the cost of the land, and the cost sometimes of environmental remediation on the properties. Thanks to our hard work and creativity of our staff we have been able to receive Brownfield grants. We've developed a tax abatement policy and we've worked with developers to ensure that they can develop quality projects in our community by being responsive to their concerns but also being responsive to the community concerns. I think those efforts have paid off, because at the meeting this morning we reviewed since 2000 there have been 350 new housing units which have been approved and have been built or underway. There are almost a 130 of those units that have been sold and that actually comprises most of the units that have been completed. When all of the units that have been approved are completed, that's about 95 million dollars worth of new housing in our city and it will increase our taxes by 1.7 million and after any of the abatements which have been approved, that will be 2.5 million. A lot of good things happening in our city with respect to new housing. I want to thank our staff, our City Manager and everybody for their fine efforts in this regard. That completes my report."

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Kelley stated, "Just a few things. To clear up a few rumors that are out in the community, most which are good rumors. The idea of a possibility of a Marc's coming on Coventry Road certainly is a little more than a rumor, they are contemplating looking at the Medic site and that is an ongoing conversation. Nothing is permanent or set in stone at this point in time, but that is a possibility, it does exist in the community for the Coventry Business area.

A number of questions have come to my attention lately about the South Euclid-Lyndhurst-Richmond Heights Joint Recreation Project, where does Cleveland Heights stand or why is Cleveland Heights sitting idly by while these three cities are looking into this recreation idea and what has been our dialogue on this issue? Our dialogue has been that we are very interested in what is going on the South Euclid-Lyndhurst and Richmond Heights with this recreation district, to the point that we are very interested in the fact that if they do anything on indoor swimming, that we certainly would want to be somewhere at the table with them and maybe work a trade-off with our ice time or some of our other ideas or issues that we have in our community. We have forged a very good and excellent relationship with Mayor Welo and Mayor Cicero not just through the First Suburbs Consortium with the Vice Mayor, or through the issues with CMHA, but through other issues such as the joint dog park which opened late last, I believe, August or September. Rest assured, those of you who are indoor pool fans, that we are at the table with them. We will not be at the table with them in a voted issue, which is what they have to do, but the conversations continue. Just a week and a half ago on a Friday, the City Manager, Mr. Downey and myself and Susanna Niermann O'Neil met with the Mayor of South Euclid and Mayor Cicero at the South Euclid City Hall to continue these discussions. We are very interested in pursuing with them and their joint recreation idea. The idea of some type of indoor pool or aquatic center for our residents and to make sure that they certainly don't entertain the idea of building anymore ice hockey or ice rinks of that nature and to follow through that way. It may be something that we work out that would be indeed - our residents may have to pay a little bit more, but they know we are interested. They know we are at the table and the conversations continue. So those of you who feel that Cleveland Heights has been left out in the discussion, rest assured that this conversation continues and will continue.

The dog park, we had a conversation about how to spruce up the dog park. So each city, by that I mean the South Euclid-Lyndhurst and Cleveland Heights, would be responsible for bringing benches and doggy scooper bags or whatever to the table as early as April or May because we are going to jointly fix the dog park up and possibly bring water to the park and make it even better than what we saw when Councilwoman Caplan, Councilwoman Dietrich and myself were there for the grand opening. We're not done yet in making that dog park a jewel for the three cities. So, we continue to have good conversations with our neighbors and I think one thing that Councilwoman Dietrich did mention and not in a bad way, said in the upcoming Focus there will be a full page on the civility, for those of us to read to get more involved in it. As we continue to take this civility issue to gravitate and really run with it as a city and do even more things with civility and just to make Cleveland Heights more of a special place as we continue to embrace our diversity, work with our school district, with the City of University Heights and other people and our church community and other leaders that really want to tackle this issue and make Cleveland Heights a more civil place to be and really be a forerunner in this area.

Finally, I want to once again thank our Housing Director, Rick Wagner. We got the kudos in the paper about what we're doing with the agreement with CMHA, but it really, truly was Rick Wagner sitting on each and every committee. We certainly, the mayors got the glory and all that and

the quotes in the paper, but it's really Rick Wagner spearheading all the committees and making sure we met, stayed on point, drew up the Memorandum of Understanding, kept waiving it in front of us and really do it. I want to give you thanks, Rick. It seemed like you mentioned a year and a half. I think it was only a year, but it probably felt like ten or twelve dog years dealing with that, but we're not done yet. We made a lot of progress with that. Very happy with what we're doing, but the important thing, as I said, is we're really trying to make sure that we have harmonious living in our neighborhoods whether it's street by street or block by block or house by house, no matter where you come from, no matter what backgrounds.

The other thing is and I'm going to mention this and we're going to get to it, eventually we still are going to have our renters' seminar. We're looking at probably the second or third Thursday in May at the community center. It will be open for all our residents that are renters to come, not a special group or a select group. It will really be an orientation to Cleveland Heights, a Welcome Wagon to Cleveland Heights. We're going to get some of our non-profit organizations involved. We're going to get the schools involved and really more of a Welcome Wagon to Cleveland Heights, to let them know about the great things Cleveland Heights has to offer - our parks, our restaurants, our commercial areas, our community center and really do it right. It will be open to all renters, A-L-L, not a charm school. We're talking about the second or third Thursday in May, not before the primary election because we don't want to turn it into a Candidates Night for all our various people running for judges. That's pretty much where we're at.

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 20, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is adjourned at 8:27 p.m. Thank you for coming."

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Kelley, Mayor
President of Council

Thomas K. Malone
Clerk of Council

/mwc