



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2003

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:26 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

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

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Malone, Niermann O'Neil, Ruane, L. Wagner, R. Wagner, Wong, Zins

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

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:38 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

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

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Malone, Niermann O'Neil, Ruane, L. Wagner, R. Wagner, Wong, Zins

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Monday, April 7, 2003 were approved and signed by Vice Mayor Montlack along with the ordinances and resolutions passed at that meeting. The approved minutes of March 17, 2003 along with the ordinances and resolution passed at that meeting were signed by Mayor Kelley.

"My name is Cassandra Wyssbrod and this is Sari Wyssbrod."

"I'm Lucky Harris and I'm sorry I have a bad voice today."

"And I'm Barbara Gibson."

Mrs. Wyssbrod continued, "We came here tonight. I'm the wife of a military reservist who is stationed in Kuwait and the others are both mothers of service people. We are here just to voice our concern and just ask - well, first of all we know that you passed a resolution. We're not here to debate that, but in that resolution, about the conflict in Iraq, you expressed that it was honorable to serve in the military and that you supported our troops. Basically, we're coming here to see if City Council would

find a way that would be appropriate and agreeable to show support for the numerous families right here in Cleveland Heights who either have brothers, sisters, sons, daughters or in my case, husbands who are gone - serving our country during this conflict. For me, personally, one of the major things I noticed - I recently took a trip down to Florida with just the two kids and all along the way I saw flags everywhere. It was very uplifting, as a military family, just to see that. When I came back into Cleveland Heights, after my two weeks [sic], I was shocked at the absence of American flags throughout the city not only on public property but also on residences. So one of the things I would like to ask and I'm just coming here as an individual representing my family that perhaps City Council consider introducing a resolution to encourage the flying of the flag throughout the City of Cleveland Heights. I know Lucky had an idea or two as well."

Lucky Harris spoke, "Also, my daughter is in the military. She is in South Korea now and my concern was when she was home in January - I am member of the Community Center and I go up to the Pavilion to exercise and my daughter attended with me and we told the lady at the desk that she is in the military and they insisted - and I know that those are the rules - that she would pay as a visitor - as a guest of mine and she was only here for about three weeks. If there is any way that we know that our military are coming home on leave and we also know that they must stay in shape in order to protect us, if there is a way that we could waive or make it less costly for them to use our facilities because she still lives in Cleveland Heights and she is a graduate of Heights High School. So, if there is any way that council can find a way for our military when they come home to be able to use our facilities that would also show support for them, also."

Mayor Kelly responded, "As far as the flag - if you've driven up and down Mayfield Road since last Friday you'll see flags prominently displayed from Severance all the way down to Lakeview Cemetery. I believe we are displaying flags on Lee Road and the Cedar-Fairmount Business District. We've also ordered, I believe, another 200 to 300 more flags to display prominently throughout the city. Every year we have a Memorial Day Parade, that steps off at City Hall and goes down to our brand new memorial monument. We will be doing something in a very small way, but it is part of our Memorial Day program. We certainly have not forgotten the troops that are serving us so well and that was as you, Cassandra, correctly pointed out, that was the first order of business in our anti-war legislation that we did. We certainly will take your idea about what to do for the military people that are back here temporarily visiting family and friends and maybe get an idea on how to open up the Community Center more for them. We will probably talk about that next week as one of our items for one of our committees, even though it is an Administrative Services Committee [item]. We will take that idea because we certainly want to do something that we can accommodate these people that are here that want to avail themselves to the Community Center. They certainly can't buy a yearly pass, 'cause they are only here a few weeks of the year. We thank you for your suggestion. But if you drive up and down Mayfield Road, Lee Road, the Cedar-Fairmount Business District, probably Coventry Road when it gets done you'll see these flags and we're one of the few cities as you probably pointed out when you came back from Florida - maybe South Euclid around Green Road has them. I believe Warrensville Center has them in Warrensville Heights. We probably put up last Thursday and Friday, close to 200 flags and we will continue to do it and we did it before the war and we'll do it after the war, but we're very proud of it, but we can look at doing even more. Can you tell us about the program you started?"

Mrs. Wyssbrod responded, "Yes. I started a program called, 'Operation Home Link'. It is a program of the USO. I work entirely as a volunteer and basically the goal of Operation Home Link is to provide support to our military families that are left behind. Also, there are a lot of people in the community who may not even have a member serving in the military but they want to find a concrete way to show their support through the military. So we have arranged various support groups, some of which do meet here in Cleveland Heights and it's for families throughout northeast Ohio. We're pro-

viding family support groups, birthing coaches, handyman repair, care packages. What we're doing is we're giving families care packages like bags of goods that they can send themselves to their loved ones because the Department of Defense has asked that people don't send unsolicited packages, but this way we can provide the families that might not have the money to fill up care packages with different items. So that is the goal of Operation Home Link."

Mayor Kelley said, "And if you're fine with that, if it continues to grow, even though Iraq is rebuilding, if you need space - I'm sure you are in your homes now and doing different things - but if you need space to meet at City Hall or something we'll be more than happy to provide you with room."

Mrs. Wyssbrod replied, "Thank you. And we might very well ask you. Because even though the war phase is coming to an end, there is going to be a lengthily rebuilding and there are going to be a lot of reservists that are going to be gone for a long time. I expect my husband to be gone the entire year. There will be a need, even if it's not on the news, there are still going to be families in need."

Mayor Kelley answered, "We're here to work with you."

Mrs. Wyssbrod answered, "We appreciate that."

Mayor Kelley continued, "We're going to take your idea into committee next week and talk about it and how we can maybe accommodate people who are here for a short time."

Ms. Gibson said, "I also started a support group for mothers. Mothers of the Military called "MOM" and we are doing the same thing for the mothers."

Mayor Kelley said, "Sure, and if you need some space and you feel your group is getting too big for your living room or where ever you're meeting, we'll be more than happy to work with you to provide some room for you."

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "I'm sure I speak for all of us on Council in saying, "Thank you to you, your children, your adult children, your spouse, your families for your service."

All three thanked the Vice Mayor.

"My name is Mary Seawright, 15654 Forest Hills Boulevard. I had to call the police for a matter. The police told me in Cleveland Heights that the East Cleveland police are in charge of the section of Cleveland Heights that I live in. I pay taxes to Cleveland Heights. I vote in Cleveland Heights, but I can't get help from the police, but I have to go make a police report tonight and I have called up here and nobody seems to know - the police want to know that I live in Cleveland Heights before they can handle the case for me and the complaint. So, I pay 1,900 [dollars] every six months to live at 15654 Forest Hills Boulevard. My husband is just deceased last week."

Mayor Kelley interjected, "Very sorry for your loss."

Mrs. Seawright continued, "Of course, I am so frustrated. I called and everybody is giving me the run around."

Mayor Kelley suggested, "Susanna - we'll take you right now in front of the police department. First off and most importantly, sorry for your loss. Mrs. O'Neil will take you down and get it straightened out right now. You can go right with her. Very sorry for your loss."

Mrs. Seawright thanked the Mayor.

Marianna Stein, 2727 Lancashire Road, "I'd like to wish everybody happy holidays, both Easter and Passover and I'm glad to see that someone is here who can use some of the bread I have for their group. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mrs. Ruane stated, "Your Honor, there is no report from the City Manager this evening."

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mr. Malone stated, "Your Honor, I have no report tonight."

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Caplan stated, "Thank you. I have no legislation this evening, but I do have several things to tell you and one is that you will be getting in the mail, within the next couple of days, our new parks and recreation brochure for the summer 2003 and it displays all the programs that are available - some of the Cain Park things that go on, but mostly it's to register for classes for programs and swimming and tennis and ball teams of various kinds and computer classes and youth sports and teen/family. So do look for it and look inside and see all the wonderful things that are going on. There is safety town registration. There is a tennis tournament. So all of the things that are going to be going on this summer are in this book, so do pay attention.

Talking about parks and recreation, this coming Friday and the following Friday are going to be teen nights at the Community Center. It's the first time we've tried this. Usually on Friday nights we do have ice skating for our teens. In addition, these two Friday nights - this Friday night will be for middle school teens and there will be other kinds of activities in addition to ice skating. So, we're inviting all the teens that live in our community or go to school in our community and we have a variety of schools. So all of those students who go to our schools are welcome to come. They need some kind of form of identification whether it is a school id or a Cleveland Heights id or something that shows that they go to a school in our community. So, we invite middle school teens this Friday and high school teens the following Friday from 7:00 to 9:00. It's free [except] ice skating is the usual fee [for the] Friday nights, but the rest of the activities are free. So we hope to see lots of young people in the Community Center.

The other thing that is going on is on May 6, Election Day. We have two issues on the ballot that affect our community and I'll tell you about them in a moment, but if you are uncomfortable getting to the poles that day for one reason or another, you can get an absentee ballot. It is very easy to do. Just call 443-3231 and ask for an absentee ballot. You really do need to do it very soon because there is a little turn-around time. So you have to call to get an absentee ballot and vote at home, because there are two issues on the ballot. One is the school levy for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools, even the Sun Press endorses the levy for the schools and I encourage everybody to vote yes on the school levy. The other is Issue 15, which is to help the Human Services Levy. It is the safety net for our community. Without it, all of the money will go away if this levy does not pass before December. So we are hoping to pass it now and let's do it and let's provide a safety net for the people in our community. It provides services such as adoption, foster care, services for children. There is help for seniors to stay in their own homes. The critical health services at Metro Health and a whole range of services; Mental Health Services and other kind of supportive services for our community. I encourage people to exercise the freedom that we are working to help other countries achieve, to exercise their freedom and their

responsibility to vote on May 6. That's all I have. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There is no legislation from the Finance Committee tonight, but I also wanted to talk about the levies that are up and remind everyone to vote on May 6. Again, I think it's important to support Issue 15, but I also want to remind people that the voters in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district will once again have a choice to decide whether or not to support our public schools by voting for an operating levy or forcing our schools to consider cuts in educational programs. I believe the levy should be supported for a number of reasons. First, there is a financial need. Despite court litigation over school funding in Ohio over the last several years, local school districts still rely principally upon voter approved local property taxes to fund operating expenses. In fact, the state recently cut funding to public schools further for the fiscal year ending June 30th. For all the talk of a commitment to public education there is relatively little help from the federal or state government to back that stated commitment. In addition, because of House Bill 920, even though housing values have increased since the time of the last operating levy, the schools do not receive any additional tax revenue as a result of the increases in value. This forces nearly all school districts in Ohio to come to the voters every three years or so and ask for additional funds even in tough economic times such as we're in right now. School districts are especially susceptible because most of their budget goes to salary and benefits and we all know that the cost of health care benefits have increased over the last several years at a rate greater than that of inflation. Secondly, I believe our schools do, do a good job of educating our children and provide a quality education for our public school children. While the proficiency results may look worse than they were the year before, in an apples to apples comparison the school district actually did better on the proficiency test than the year before. The state chose to score the results of the test differently than in previous years by dropping categories from the proficiency rankings in which our schools were proficient. The fact is that the longer children stay in our school system the better they perform on the proficiency test. Cutting teachers and increasing class size will not help continue that improvement. Moreover our schools provide a well-rounded education where diversity and extra-curricular activities are an important part of the educational process. The recent Reaching Heights program at Severance Hall is evidence of the excellent music program that our school provides. Finally, commitment of a community to its children is reflected in support of school levies. This community has had a reputation for supporting its public schools. Without that continued support our community will suffer by cuts in educational programs which will surely follow. I urge everyone to vote on May 6th to support this important levy so that we continue to show that we are committed to our schools and our children and our future. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Hicks stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have several pieces of legislation this evening. First I have Resolution No. 55-2003(MS), authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Central Engineering, Inc. for a waterline survey; providing compensation therefor, and declaring an emergency. The City Manager is authorized to enter into an agreement with Central Engineering, Inc. for the performance of a waterline survey of the City's water distribution system in accordance with Central Engineering's proposal dated March 12, 2003. The fees for such services shall be at the Engineer's usual hourly rates, plus expenses, with total fees and costs not to exceed the sum of Twenty-nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$29,925.00). The agreement and all accompanying documents shall be approved as to form by the Director of Law. Your Honor, I offer Resolution No. 55-2003(MS) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 55-2003(MS) for passage.

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Hicks continued, "Resolution No. 56-2003(MS), amending Resolution No. 9-2001 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with CT Consultants, Inc. for engineering and support services for the 2001 street resurfacing program to provide for supplemental services; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. Resolution No. 9-2001 shall be amended to provide for payment to the Engineer of Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Dollars and eighty-six cents (\$4,960.86) for additional services requested by the City. Total compensation under the contract authorized by Resolution No. 9-2001 shall now equal the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-four Dollars and twenty-five cents (\$105,694.25). Your Honor, I offer Resolution No. 56-2003(MS) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 56-2003(MS) for passage.

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Hicks continued, "Thank you, your Honor. I have Resolution No. 57-2003(MS), authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with HGR Industrial Surplus of Euclid, Ohio for the sale of a Zamboni and piano; declaring an emergency. The City Manager is authorized to enter into an agreement. The agreement shall provide for HGR Industrial Surplus to receive a fifty percent (50%) commission if they sell the property, and shall contain such further terms as recommended by the City Manager. The agreement and all related documents shall be approved as to form by the Director of Law. Your Honor, I offer Resolution No. 57-2003(MS) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 57-2003(MS) for passage.

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Hicks continued, "Thank you. I have Resolution No. 58-2003(MS), approving a Change Order with Osterland Company for the Year 2000 Street Resurfacing Program; providing compensation therefor, and declaring an emergency. There is an adjustment in the work that was done in 2000. The increase amount for the adjustment was a total of \$28,598.44. The original contract amount was at \$1,021,946.45, with the increase the new total sum will be \$1,050,544.89. Your Honor, I offer Resolution No. 58-2003(MS) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 58-2003(MS) for passage.

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Hicks continued, "Ordinance No. 59-2003(MS), amending Ordinance No. 163-2002 authorizing the purchase of twenty-five (25) leased City vehicles; providing compensation there-

for, and declaring an emergency. Ordinance No. 163-2002 is amended to increase the cost of the referenced twenty-five (25) vehicles from One Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Dollars (\$132,000.00) to One Hundred Thirty-six Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$136,800.00), with all other terms of the agreement authorized therein to remain the same. Your Honor, I offer Ordinance No. 59-2003(MS) for passage.”

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 59-2003(MS) for passage.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Hicks continued, “Thank you, your Honor. Even though the season is over I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and also compel everyone to vote yes for the school levy that is coming up in this upcoming election. That’s all I have.”

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, “Thank you, your Honor. There is one piece of legislation from this committee. It is Resolution No. 60-2003(PD), authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement pursuant to the City’s Apartment Renovation Rebate Program with Paul E. Sherlock Properties, LLC for assistance with exterior renovations on the seven suite apartment building located at 2676 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency.

The ARRP supported by various resolutions uses block grant funds to encourage not only the upgrade of the exterior of apartment buildings, multi-suite buildings but also interior renovations that go to the benefit of the tenants there. Noble Road is in one of a few special target areas that is so designated by Council where the pot is sweetened a little bit in which the city contributes fifty percent (50%) in a grant to the project costs as well as a loan. All of this requires matching funds by the apartment owner, but the results are already evident on Noble Road and other areas where the ARRP is at work. Just as an historical note, the very first place that the program applied to many years ago were to the streets off of Coventry; Hampshire, Lancashire and the like. The results were quite dramatic and that’s one of the reasons why the city has expanded the program and it continues to succeed.

Therefor, under Section 1, the City Manager is authorized to enter into an agreement that I just described, in an amount not to exceed Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$17,500.00). Other terms of the rebate agreement shall be as set forth in Resolution No. 40-1996 and prior resolutions. This relates to the seven-suite apartment building at that address. So Resolution No. 60-2003(PD) is presented on first reading for passage tonight.”

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 60-2003(PD) for passage.

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Vice Mayor Montlack concluded, “Thank you. I would just like to add my voice to those others on this Council in supporting the levy which unfortunately needs to be on the ballot for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools and the reasons have been provided very well so far and at the same time certainly to ask that we all throughout the county vote to support Issue 15. Those monies are

absolutely necessary. In the end we just have to provide for those who truly are not able to provide for themselves. This is especially so in these tough times and remember this, as has been pointed out, in one of the meetings that I was at, if Issue 15 goes down, we're going to go down to defeat [too] and I don't think it will. I think this county will come through. But, if it were, one way or another, we will feel the effects, both as a result of funds that aren't provided and the funds that may have to come from other county programs. Because I think few of us recognize or realize just how much the county does in collaborative efforts with all of the cities, we are certainly in this together. That concludes this report. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Council Member Evans stated, "Thank you, your Honor. The next two resolutions both are involved with our nuisance abatement on two different properties. Each of these properties has had a number of violations over the years and have been inspected and reinspected and the owners have not complied. So I'd like to first present Resolution No. 61-2003(PSH), declaring the property at 3198 Euclid Heights Boulevard to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance; and declaring an emergency. The City Manager and the Certified Building Official have reported that the owner of this property has been cited by the Housing Inspection Department for over two (2) years and that no progress has been made. Pursuant to Chapter 553 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights that particular property is in such disrepair that it does constitute a health and safety hazard and a blighting influence to the neighborhood and thereby to the City. I'd like to present Resolution No. 61-2003(PSH) for passage this evening."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 61-2003(PSH) for passage.

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Evans continued, "Resolution No. 62-2003(PSH), declaring the property at 1729 Preyer Avenue to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance; and declaring an emergency. This property has not been maintained for a number of years and is also in a state of disrepair. There are numerous violations on the property and we believe that the condition of the property needs to be improved because at the present time it is a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood. As we all know, once these resolutions are passed the owners are given thirty days to make the repairs. If they don't make the repairs within that time then the City does go ahead and abate the nuisance and the cost of taking care of these problems does come back to the city by being attached to the tax duplicate. So it is not that we just go around and take on properties at our expense, the money does come back eventually. I would like to present Resolution No. 62-2003(PSH) for passage this evening."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 62-2003(PSH) for passage.

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Evans concluded, "I would like to take a minute to congratulate Vicki Copeland who is a public school activist on being named this year's recipient of the Reaching Heights Friend of Public Education Award. The award recognizes Vicki's support for children in our school district and her efforts to involve other parents in school activities. We are very proud of Vicki and pleased that she

is the recipient because she certainly does deserve this award. She worked for many, many years in the schools and I'm sure all of us have appreciated her hard work.

I, too, support the school levy that's going to be on the ballot and I'm not going to go into all the reasons. I think you've heard a lot of supporting reasons why it's a good thing to support. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Dietrich stated, "Thank you. I also have no legislation, but you'll be surprised that I'm going to echo my colleagues in that my message tonight is about voting and it is about supporting the two issues that will require us all to dig a little deeper into our pockets to pay for the services that we and others need. Regarding Issue 15, which is the Health and Human Services levy, I think that we all know that this is a time when the county needs our tax dollars more than ever because their funding has been cut so much by the state. In addition, to all the humanity reasons, the services that this health and human services levy provides are actually cost saving in the long run. A good example of it is the services that help older people stay in their homes as opposed to going to nursing homes. It costs much less to provide somebody with some assistance in their home than it does for medicare to pay for them to be in a nursing home. I think similar programs like adoption, like the alcohol and drug rehab services really do the same. They prevent problems that can become much bigger and more expensive later. I think that the Health and Human Services levy is a good use of our tax dollars and I think it deserves our support.

Secondly, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school levy which I firmly support. I want to make two little points about misunderstandings that no matter how hard people who work for the school levy try to explain to people, people still seem to misunderstand school funding. They end up blaming the school district for asking for voters to approve a levy every few years. People don't seem to understand that is the way the Ohio school funding system is designed. It has been declared unconstitutional three or four times in the past few years, but until the state legislature decides that they can bring themselves to fix it, supporting school levies is the way Ohio schools will get funded. It is our mechanism, it requires us to have a school levy every three or four years. The cities are luckier - well institutions I should say - in that we do get increases. When your property values go up and your property taxes go up, the city does get a little bit of that increase. The schools do not share in that which is why the only way they can keep up with their inflationary costs is to go to the voters and ask for an increase every few years. They have no other way to deal with inflation. So, when people complain - people keep saying things like, 'Oh, they're always asking us for more money. They keep coming to us to increase the amount we have to pay.' Well, yes they do and they do so not because it's a failure of the school district that they are being wasteful, but because that's the way Ohio has set it up. The second thing that frustrates me around levy time are the criticisms that are just thrown at the schools in the Sun Press (I don't mean by the Sun Press) but by people who write letters to the editor to the Sun Press - by people who have never set foot in our public schools. I just feel it's so wrong to criticize them the way people do without knowledge. I urge people, before you criticize the schools, before you vote for or against the levy, go inside - visit our public schools. I have been going into Coventry every week lately, because my daughter teaches there and I can't say enough. I sound like an ad every time I leave there. It is the most superb learning environment. There is wonderful exciting learning going on in the classroom. There is wonderful interaction between the kids - it is a quiet, orderly environment. Please see for yourself and go on May 6th and continue our community support for our public schools. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Kelley stated, "I, too, want to weigh-in sort of to speak. May 6th will be a defining moment for our community and our county. Let's not lose sight of what is really at stake here. It's about our children, it's about our families, it's about our seniors, about our young children that are in need. Let's not get involved in all the rhetoric about too many administrators or the Issue 15 piece that the unions put out to vote no - about the unions not getting their fair share. It's about service to the community as far as Issue 15. Cuyahoga County has a reputation of being a strong provider for those who need the service. So, let's vote yes for Issue 15.

As far as our school levy. This is about our children first and foremost. On a quality education for all our children, that's why we need to vote yes on these two issues. The rest of the stuff as far as I'm concerned is rhetoric. Stuff that doesn't matter. Let's put our children first by our school levy and as far as Issue 15, let's put those people who need the service first and foremost and let's let the people who are on the other side of Issue 15 that want the unions and I'm usually a union person, believe me, they want their fair share before they'll put their stamp on it, or they'll stay out of supporting it because the unions aren't going to get these contracts or that - that's a bunch of hogwash. Let's put the recipients where they should be in Issue 15, first and foremost, let's keep the reputation of Cuyahoga County the way it should be, reaching out to the people that are in need whether it be mental health people, whether it be people in burn units, whether it be people in adoption, these are the people that need the services. So, let's vote yes on Issue 15 and as far as the school levy, let's keep putting our children first in a quality education for all our children. The rest of the stuff for the rest of the arguments against, are a bunch of hogwash. Let's move it forward.

I'll adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Our next meeting will be Monday, May 5, 2003. Thank you for coming."

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Kelley, Mayor
President of Council

Thomas K. Malone
Clerk of Council

/mwc