



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2006

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:23 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, Hull, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann
O'Neil, Ruane, Wagner, Wong

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

Council Member Evans moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. Second by Council Member Caplan.

Edward Kelley, presiding

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

Council Members absent: None

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

Topic of discussion, lease of public property.

Executive Session concluded at 7:30 p.m.

Committee of the Whole resumed and adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:39 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, Wong

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Monday, November 6, 2006 were signed by Mayor Kelley along with the ordinances and resolutions passed at that meeting.

“My name is Lita Gonzalez and I’ve lived at 2971 Scarborough Road for eleven years. I am the project coordinator for PATH. PATH stands for Parent Ambassadors to Heights and it is one of the many community and parent organizations, organizations like Reaching Heights, Kindernet, Heights Arts Collaborative, Heights Community Congress, and the PTA, who are working positively to promote and market our district’s public schools. I want to thank City Council for giving me the opportunity to update you on what PATH has been working on for the 2006/2007 school year. As you know, PATH is a volunteer, parent-led initiative that works to promote the school district’s high school and three middle-schools to prospective families and to the community at large. It’s mission is simple, to change the community’s perception of our schools by offering perspective families and community members the opportunity to take personalized tours of the schools while they are in session and to discuss their concerns and questions with a parent whose child is presently at the school. After a year of planning, the PATH Project was officially launched in September, 2003. Since 2003, PATH has received the support of two important community partners, Heights Community Congress and Reaching Heights, as well as the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District. The parent-volunteer tour guides who give their time and expertise and energy to lead tours of the schools act as PATH advisory committee. What makes PATH so successful, is that it provides families with the information they need to make informed decisions about the educational options available for their children. Options that should include the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools. PATH does this by capitalizing on the experience and expertise of parent volunteers who realistically and positively share their personal stories. It looks at the schools not through rosy-colored glasses, but through the realistic frames of parents who have been actively engaged in the middle-school and high school experience with their own children. It works to change the communities perception of our schools, one person at a time.

During the last four years PATH has actively worked to reach out to perspective families and to residents in Cleveland Heights. For instance, this year PATH - every year PATH contacts private schools that end in eighth grade and sends them information cards about touring the high school. These can be passed out to parents that live in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District. A PATH representative and a Small Schools Coordinator also attend any information nights the private schools host for 8th grade parents beginning to look at high school options. This year we attended the information night at Ruffing Montessori School. We were the only public high school to be there. The written feed back that we receive on the post-tour survey sent out by Heights Community Congress and Reaching Heights, as well as anecdotal comments, indicate that PATH is accomplishing what it sets out to do - change the community’s perception of our schools. After touring Heights High recently, a parent who is an alumnus of Heights High and whose child is in an area private school, commented, ‘Thank you for taking the time this morning to show us around Heights High. It seems the small school system is having a positive impact on the environment and we left with a favorable impression of Heights. The school even looked cleaner than when I was there.’ Last year over 100 perspective parents, community leaders, community residents, realtors, alumni, and CHUH elementary and middle-school staff were taken on personalized individual or group tours of the high school. Dozens more contacted PATH for information about the high school or were present at community or school meetings and events at which PATH volunteers spoke. With PATH’s help, the Cleveland Heights office of Howard Hanna, Smythe Cramer held their branch meeting at the high school. After the twenty real estate agents took their parent-led tours they came back together for a question and answer session with the high school administrators. They gave a resounding yes when asked if their impressions of the high school had

changed. This year we're hoping to invite more area realtors into the schools.

In 2006, PATH successfully launched a major expansion project and started offering personalized tours at each of the middle-schools for families of elementary school students. While developing the middle-school PATH expansion project, the middle-school coordinators and I worked over the summer to write and design a middle-school family handbook which describes the middle-school experience. It gives information about the three middle-schools and provides families with important contact numbers and suggestions to help them navigate the middle-school experience. We wrote the handbook in family-friendly language and always from the perspective of what we wanted to know when we were parents of incoming sixth grades. What I passed out to you is only a sample of what is in that handbook. I'm happy to say that last week it went to the printer and will be ready for distribution in late November. This is a marketing tool that PATH will be using, not only with the families that it takes on tours, but also throughout the community. They'll be given to families asking for information about out middle-schools and at the information sessions that the middle-schools host for families of incoming sixth graders. We'll distribute them in the elementary schools to help families understand the next step in their children's educational journey and we'll be distributing them to realtors and through the Cleveland Heights Housing Service and Public Relations Department. The high school PATH volunteers have now turned their attention to developing a similar family handbook for the high school. It will show exciting aspects of the Small Schools at Heights High and of course be written by parents for parents. We hope to have this handbook completed by the end of the year.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the staff at Cleveland Heights City Hall for supporting a recent PATH Outreach Pilot Project which will bring together the high schools' career technology classes and the Senior Center at the city's community center. This project will take place in December and it gives senior citizens, sixty and over, the opportunity to sign up to bring their cars into the auto technology class and have them checked over by students, to make sure, for instance; their lights are working, their tires are inflated properly, their oil, water, washer fluids are at correct levels. While waiting, the seniors can have their blood pressure taken by the students of the health career classes and have some refreshments provided by the students in the family and consumer sciences' classes. What a positive way for students to give back to the community and for the community to meet some of the wonderful students at our community high school.

The year is only three months old and yet PATH has already made great strides in meeting the ambitious marketing plan, goal, and projects it's set for the 2006/2007 school year. Underlying all of PATH's work is the understanding that we as parents must be diligent about improving the community's perceptions of our schools and that misconceptions can be changed one person at a time, one parent at a time. We have to actively and positively share our stories and experiences with neighbors, friends, and other parents and we need to work cooperatively to support the entire Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District and the over 65,000 residents it serves. Parents, truly the best ambassadors for our schools and the communities they exist in. Thank you, so much."

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Congratulations. It's a series of excellent initiatives that you told us about."

Ms. Gonzales replied, "They are very exciting projects."

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Downey stated, "Thank you very much, your Honor. I have just one item this evening. In accordance with Section 179.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights, I have

given notice to the Clerk that the following banks have been designated as depositories of the City's Active Deposits: Charter One Bank, Fifth Third Bank & Trust, Key Bank, Metropolitan Bank, JP Morgan Chase Bank, National City Bank, Third Federal Savings & Loan, the Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., and US Bank. This designation shall be for a five year period having commenced November 1, 2006 and ending October 31, 2011. Your Honor, I need to make this a matter of record."

Mayor Kelley made it a matter of record.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mr. Malone stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I need to notify Council that one resolution of the Board of Zoning Appeals has been received pertaining to a variance in the Zoning Code and is requested by the following: BZA Calendar No. 3117 Coventry Rehab, Inc., 1726 Coventry Road, off-street parking regulations. Your Honor, I need to make this a matter of record."

Mayor Kelley made it a matter of record and referred it to the Planning and Development Committee of Council for disposition at the Monday, December 4, 2006 Council meeting.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council Member Wilcox stated, "As you have said, the Board of Zoning Appeals Calendar No. 3117 will be heard on December 4th. There is no legislation in front of this committee tonight, but other than talking about football, I just wanted to wish everybody a happy Thanksgiving and hope that it is a healthy and happy one for everyone and I just wanted to also mention that I think we should all give thanks and thank those families that have loved ones overseas and hope that next year that they'll be back with their families safe and sound.

I also wanted to make just one comment about as the holiday season approaches and I guess the biggest shopping day is the day after Thanksgiving, to just encourage our residents, all of you, think about Cleveland Heights' merchants as you do your shopping. Not only is it convenient and saves time and perhaps money in gasoline, and so forth, but it also supports our local merchants. Residents often come to Cleveland Heights because they like our walkable neighborhoods and pedestrian-friendly commercial areas, so now is the time to support those merchants at this time of the year when they need it the most. Again, not only is it convenient and great for our community but it helps our local merchants. So I encourage you to do that and in light of that also I just wanted to announce that on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 5:30 the Marc's on Coventry will be having a grand opening and invite everyone to that and obviously when you are up there on Coventry you can shop at some of the other merchants and so we hope to see you there on December 4 at 5:30 and that concludes my report."

Mayor Kelley asked Councilman Wilcox when the Buckeyes will be playing again.

Council Member Wilcox replied that he thought it was January 8th and he didn't think they knew who they would be playing yet.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Council Member Evans stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I'd like to present Ordinance No. 130-2006(PSH), authorizing the renewal of an agreement with the Cuyahoga County General Health District for public health services; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. Whereas, Ohio Revised Code Section 3709.08 authorizes cities to enter into contracts with general health districts

for public health services. In previous years, this Council has authorized agreements with the Cuyahoga County General Health District for such health services. It would be in the best interest of the City and its residents to renew this agreement for the calendar year 2007. Section 1 reads that the City Manager is authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County General Health District for the provision of certain public health services to the City and its residents which are required to be provided under State law, including, without limitation, school health services, community health services, family health services and environmental health and sanitation services. The agreement shall be for a period of one year, commencing January 1, 2007. The fee for the basic mandated services shall be in the sum of One Hundred Seventy-nine Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-nine Dollars (\$179,849.00). The agreement shall further include an addendum which authorizes the City Manager to request certain additional, non-mandated health services to be provided by the District at its standard rates for such services, with the cost of such services not to exceed Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) without further authorization from this Council. All documents hereunder shall be in a form approved by the Director of Law. I'd like to present Ordinance No. 130-2006(PSH) for passage."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 130-2006(PSH) and stated, "Just so you know the County Board of Health was with us last Monday. I believe there were six or seven individuals that thoroughly went over the program for this service that they are providing for us and under the direction of Councilwoman Evans' committee and we spent a good time getting caught up to them. This is a valuable service that they provide for our community."

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

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Council Member Evans continued, "Resolution No. 131-2006(PSH), in support of World AIDS Day, December 1, 2006; and declaring an emergency. Whereas, World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1 to encourage action in the face of the global HIV / AIDS pandemic, and to raise awareness in local communities on every continent, and in every country. There have been over 65,000,000 cases of HIV infection around the world, over 1,000,000 in the United States, and over 4,000 in northeast Ohio, making AIDS one of the worst epidemics in human history. HIV / AIDS knows no boundaries: it affects men and women, the young and the elderly, people of all races, socioeconomic classes and sexual identities, and people from all faith traditions. In northeast Ohio, HIV / AIDS lives in tiny rural hamlets, small towns, suburbs or larger cities, and larger metropolitan areas – and for every person with HIV / AIDS there are friends, mothers, fathers, children, siblings, coworkers and classmates, and neighbors who are often personally impacted as well. The theme for World AIDS Day 2006 is "Stop AIDS – Keep the Promise," emphasizing the role that all of us can play in fighting the epidemic. The fight against HIV / AIDS globally, nationally, and in our local communities requires a commitment to education, treatment, and compassion at all levels of community life, from government to individual citizen action. The fight against HIV / AIDS also calls on us to talk about HIV / AIDS in our personal relationship, in our families, and to our children, so that we communicate factual information to those we love about the steps they can take to avoid HIV infection. The fight against HIV / AIDS also calls on us to heed the recommendation of U.S. public health officials – that all adult Americans should get the HIV antibody test – so that we can promote early access to medical care, and thereby improve medical outcomes for people now living with the virus. Therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights that this Council hereby expresses its support for World AIDS Day, December 1, 2006, reaffirms its commitment to support a compassionate community response to HIV / AIDS, and encourages its citizens to talk openly about HIV / AIDS in their homes, workplaces, schools and in faith community settings, so that together we can "keep our promise" to the next generation that we will, together, work to build a world free of HIV / AIDS. I'd like to present Resolution No. 131-2006(PSH) for passage."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 131-2006(PSH)

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Evans concluded, "As a result of Issue 5 passing on November 7th, December 7th becomes a very important day because that's the day that the Smoke Free Work Place Act becomes law. The representatives from the Health Department last week gave us information. They haven't worked out all the details about whose going to be - it's going to be enforced by the Ohio Department of Health, but they haven't worked out a good number of details. There is a web address for those people who want the full text of the law and that's smokefreeohio.org and for those people desiring more information about quitting there is an 800 number, 1-800-quitnow or 1-800-784-8669. That completes my report."

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Tumeo stated, "Thank you, your Honor. I have no legislation, but I have an appointment I would like to make. We have an opening on the Commission on Aging due to the resignation of Claudia Vondriska. We have received an application and I would like to move the appointment of Ms. Judith VanKleef, we all know her. She is a wonderful person in our community and would be an excellent addition to the Commission on Aging. Therefore, I would like to move her appointment effective immediately for a term of two years ending on June 30, 2008."

Second by Council Member Caplan.

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

Nays: None

Appointment passed

Council Member Tumeo continued, "Thank you. That completes that report. I would like to say congratulations to Lita Gonzalez for her recent award from the HCC and to thank her for bringing this information. I had the opportunity to tour the high school with one of the PATH family parents. A wonderful tour and with everything that's been going on it's great to hear this and you deserve a great deal of praise and thanks. You've been committed to the schools for a very long time and all in a very positive way. I want to make sure that you know how much we appreciate that."

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Dietrich stated, "Thank you. I have no legislation, but I did attend the Heights Community Congress' annual dinner meeting last night. As always, it's an event that always makes you feel good to be a Cleveland Heights' resident, and so I thought I would report on the awards that they give out every year at their annual dinner - it's fitting because one of them is here and spoke to you. I will start first with the Bernice and Lacy Lott Award that's presented yearly to the Citizen of the Year, as far as the HCC determines, and this was given to Viktor Schreckengost, who is an artist and an inventor and lives in Cleveland Heights and is a 100 years old and who recently was presented with the National Medal of the Arts by President Bush. The next award is the Robert Goble Award named after the late husband of the former director of the HCC and this award went to Lita Gonzalez who just presented - here to you about PATH, Parents Ambassadors to Heights. I was going to explain it, but

now I don't have to because Lita did a much better job. This is such a well-deserved award by Lita who is so dedicated to the public schools and who operates her program under the principle that once people see our public schools and go inside of them they usually are happy with what they see and she's proving that with her program, so my congratulations as well. Finally, the Community vision Award was given to The Civility Project and it was received by Ron Schmidt and Renee Cavor. Ron is one of the two co-founders of the project and Renee is one of the steering committee members and she is the Monticello Middle School principal who also has spearheaded the infusion of civility into the curriculum and the daily life of the three middle schools. Just as a reminder, the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, the night before Thanksgiving this year will also have a civility theme and that will be at 7:30, Wednesday the 22nd at Temple Emanuel on Green Road in University Heights.

There is also something that I've been kind of waiting to have time to mention to people, because I think people would like to know about this, there is something called City Wheels, it's a car sharing business venture that is the first in Cleveland of this kind and the first in Cuyahoga County. Recently University Circle, Inc., announced their partnership with City Wheels and it is something that people in Cleveland Heights can take advantage of. City Wheels provides affordable access to vehicles for people who don't own their own car or maybe for families who own only one car but occasionally need the use of another one, particularly good for students who don't have their cars here. It is sort of like time-share on a condo, you pay \$100.00 annual membership fee and then for \$7.50 an hour you can use a car for a short term round trip, day or two days, or whatever. I've been waiting to announce this, but I thought it was an environmentally friendly option to owning more cars than we need. So take advantage of City Wheels if you are one of those people who isn't over abundantly with cars.

Finally, I'd just like to say that Councilman Wilcox just noticed on this flyer about the Marc's grand opening on December 4th, that this actually is a private showing by invitation only (the store will open that week) but the thing about December 4th at 5:30 isn't really meant for public consumption, so we have to correct that and that completes my report."

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Thank you and before I start the report, remember December 4th at 5:30 is not the time to go to Marc's, we want everybody to completely erase that from your mind. We will have special patrols out there if any members of the public shows up [jokingly added].

There is one piece of legislation from this committee and it is Ordinance No. 132-2006(F), authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements with Meritech and Dollar Leasing Corporation for leasing of City Hall departmental copiers; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency.

This legislation comes via the city's participation in one of the state purchasing programs which is by statute, essentially the only alternative in this kind of a case to bidding through the normal channel, in other words the city takes whatever is the lowest price and that has happened here with the city's coping needs.

Under this system, the City Manager is authorized, when this passes, to execute the documents necessary for the lease of thirteen department copiers for City Hall from Meritech and Dollar Leasing Corporation. The lease agreement shall be for a four (4) year term, at a cost of One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-eight Dollars and Forty-eight Cents (\$1,598.48) per month, plus a cost of .006 cents per copy. The agreements and all related documents shall be approved as to form in the usual procedure. Ordinance No. 132-2006(F) is presented on first reading for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Ordinance No. 132-2006(F).

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

Nays: None

Ordinance passed

Vice Mayor Montlack continued, "Thank you. A few brief comments, not particularly related to the Finance Committee. I thought it was interesting going back to our meeting with the Cuyahoga County Health Department, that when the representatives were asked what was the most significant thing they observed in relation to Cleveland Heights particularly from that department's standpoint over the past year or so, the response was that they were impressed with the degree to which Cleveland Heights had utilized [the] lead abatement program to abate lead in housing and work, in terms of positive redevelopment of housing. I think congratulations, especially goes to Rick Wagner and our housing department for that kind of work which we hear reports on and it was nice to hear from another agency in that regard.

Second comment relates to the series of discussions which are now going on between the First Suburbs Consortium and juvenile court in regard to some rather serious problems that we have been experiencing in terms of making the relationships between the municipalities and their police departments on the one hand and juvenile court on the other, to make that relationship go more smoothly. Here again, Cleveland Heights through its staff, has done an outstanding job. In the first of two sub committee meetings, our Police Chief Martin Lentz really took a leadership role in regard to helping juvenile court establish a long overdue (in my opinion) upgrade in its data system so that information regarding youth engaged in serious misconduct, the issuance of warrants, the execution of warrants can be accomplished, something that too often has not happened in the past. Also, in order to have timely reports available to all of the police departments in regard to the status of youth involved in the juvenile court system. The latter, of course, would be on a restricted basis and other positive law enforcement developments that would come from an effective system. Chief Lentz is involved with others in what is called CRIS, Cuyahoga Regional Information System, so he was able to work with the juvenile court in offering some alternatives. I think what was most gratifying about the meeting, was the spirit of true cooperation that involved the juvenile court judges, staff, and of course our sub-committee, which was mainly composed of law enforcement officials. We have another sub-committee that is working on some other issues, but if that first meeting was an indication, this will indeed be a very successful initiative.

Finally, I would like to wish you and yours a very happy Thanksgiving, and that completes this report."

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Caplan stated, "Thank you. I have two pieces of legislation. This evening the first is Resolution No. 133-2006(MS), authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Mackay Engineering & Survey Company for professional services for the resurfacing of City Parking Lots No. 24 and 15; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency. The City intends to perform resurfacing work on City Lot No. 24 at 2768 Hampshire Road and City Lot No. 15, 1849 Coventry Road.

If you don't know where those are, they are both in the Coventry area. One is a little west of Coventry and the other is that higher lot that will now say Marc's instead of Medic, whenever it is that it opens.

Mackay Engineering & Survey Company has submitted a proposal to provide the necessary engineering and surveying services for this project, the terms of which are reasonable and competitive. Such services are professional services for which no bidding is necessary. Therefore, be it resolved by this City Council that the City Manager be authorized to enter into an agreement for this work and the scope of the work shall be as set forth in the Engineer's proposal dated November 10, 2006, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of Council. Compensation for such services shall be at the Engineer's usual hourly rates, with total fees and expenses not to exceed the sum of Twenty-one Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Dollars (\$21,910.00). The agreement and related documents shall be approved as to form by the Director of Law. Notice of passage shall be given and this Resolution shall be declared an emergency for passage tonight. I offer Resolution No. 133-2006(MS)."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 133-2006(MS).

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Caplan continued, "Thank you. Now I have Resolution No. 134-2006(MS), authorizing the City Manager to make application to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency for federal funding for the improvement of Taylor Road (CR26) from Euclid Heights Boulevard to the North City Limit in the City of Cleveland Heights and to comply with all requirements of the funding award; providing compensation therefor; and declaring an emergency.

The City of Cleveland Heights has determined that the public convenience and welfare require the improvement of Taylor Road (CR26) from Euclid Heights Boulevard to the North City Limit, in the City of Cleveland Heights (and if anybody has driven it they know it does need some improvement) by repair and resurfacing of pavement, replacing curbing, improving drainage, eliminating an unnecessary lane between Euclid Heights Boulevard and Mayfield Road and otherwise improving the same in accordance with Federal, State and local guidelines. The City of Cleveland Heights will complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as are required for the improvement. The construction cost for this improvement is eligible for Federal funding of up to a maximum of Eighty Percent (80%), with the balance of at least Twenty Percent (20%) being paid for from local roadway improvement funds, and no real estate being assessed. Therefore, be it resolved by this Council that the City Manger be authorized to make application to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency ("NOACA") for Federal funding for the improvement of Taylor Road from Euclid Heights Boulevard to the North City Limit in the City of Cleveland Heights. The City of Cleveland Heights will comply with any and all Federal and NOACA requirements associated with the receipt of Federal funding for this improvement (should we be so lucky). All documents related to the application and contract shall be approved as to form by the Director of Law. Notice of passage shall be given and this resolution shall be declared an emergency for passage tonight. I offer Resolution No. 134-2006(MS) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 134-2006(MS).

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

Nays: None

Resolution passed

Council Member Caplan continued, "Thank you. I do have a couple of comments and the first is that it appears that most of the deciduous trees in our community have finally dropped their leaves and our City's Public Works Department has been unbelievably fabulous in picking up those leaves and it has been the best ever and we've been lucky that there hasn't been snow which really has also been

helpful. It's been a wonderful service and thank you very much to all of those service workers. If you've watched any of it, it's an amazing process that requires a lot of people, amazing equipment and it works and when - - it's a terrible mess for a short time and when it's done, the street is clean and the leaves have disappeared and our tree lawns look pretty nice, too. So, really thank you to all of them. It's been really a terrific program this year so far.

I would like to comment the last time we had a public meeting was the day before the election and the comment I'd like to make is we haven't seen much talk about problems. I have two thoughts about this, one is I think there were some problems in some of our polling places. I think that Cleveland Heights has two of the largest polling places in the county and there were problems certainly at both of them. One of them, I know for sure, because I stood outside of one for some hours, that people left because the wait was an hour and a half and although the election this time showed that people really paid attention to who they voted for. People didn't vote straight tickets, they moved their votes around, they paid attention to the very confusing issues, they were able to use the machines for the most part, except sometimes there weren't enough machines and the machines weren't set up on time, the place that I stood outside of was not accessible for people with disabilities - the elevator broke down and I did learn about curb side voting and if you ever want to go vote and you can't access your voting place there is something called curb side voting and the judges have to come out to your car and help you vote. Actually, we were able to have that happen, but it shouldn't have happened. I think there were some problems and now we have a little time to begin to look at relocating maybe where some of the polling places are that were not adequate and looking at some of the issues that made this not the smoothest election, but I do want to say congratulations to the voters. Because I think that the voters were smart, how they voted and I'm not talking about who won and who lost, but it was in terms of paying attention, knowing the difference between the issues, really choosing what they did and how they made their choices and it was really, I thought, in that respect a good election.

Of course, with my colleagues I would like to also just say, a happy holiday. This is a special holiday that crosses every religious group that there is. This is really about being an American and we do have lots to be thankful for, and though we have some sadness about war that's going on, we are lucky to be able to be in our homes, talking about what food we're going to cook and sharing experiences with each other. Let's remember what this holiday is about. It isn't just about football games and so thank you to our citizens in this community for helping to make Cleveland Heights such a wonderful place to live and I wish everybody a good holiday. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Kelley stated, "I, too, want to compliment our city staff for the excellent leaf pickup. It was probably started about six/seven weeks ago in earnest at a slow pace, but certainly picked up around that one storm in October. It's simply amazing that they are there every week. Alex has really done an excellent job and there has been very little grumbling. I think this is the first year that I can count on my right hand just one phone call or complaint about leaf pickup and I don't want to say anymore than that, but Alex does a fantastic job.

I do want to congratulate the voters also. There will be big changes coming in the state and the Congress and I'm looking forward to it as I think my colleagues are, because we've been pinching nickels and dimes and pennies together for so long. I don't think that overnight all this money is going to be flowing back to us from the state and from the Congress, but we do have an opportunity with the major changes in the state and what happens in the Congress for some of the things that we've been sort of stuck with for the last few years, sixteen years from the state and back to 1994 from Congress, especially with our block grant funding. So hopefully some things can get changed around. What really

irritated me was at one of our Mayors and Managers meeting when Mike DeWine showed up unannounced and telling everybody how much money he gave to their cities. When he walked out, I asked him how much money he gave to Cleveland Heights in the twelve years he was there and neither one of us could recall a penny that came to Cleveland Heights from Mr. DeWine and his great administration. So I am looking forward to Sherrod Brown, working with us to possibly come up with some money for Cleveland Heights, which is one of the largest cities in Cuyahoga County. That would be fantastic, but it won't happen overnight. [I'm] willing to give these folks some time to do it, but it will be good not to be forgotten in Columbus or in Washington or as my colleague, the Vice Mayor with the First Suburbs who has been knocking on their door for ten and a half years or more trying to get a place at the table. From my point of view, with no disrespect to you, Vice Mayor, being given lip service in Columbus from the Republicans who have been in control for so many, many years that simply don't get it, what it means to be a first suburbs city, continues to cut our funding at so many levels and I think I've said enough.

This begins the holiday season, whether it's Thanksgiving or what have you or what ever you celebrate later on and I ask that everybody in our community consider at least one special thing different than what you normally do during the holiday season, whether it is to work in a soup kitchen, to call a friend or a neighbor that you haven't talked to in a while, either to be a little more civil to someone, but to reach out and do something different. This begins the holiday which will extend for some people somewhere into the middle of January or January 8th or whatever or even to Martin Luther King Day, but do one thing a little bit different. Reach out in the community. Do something. Visit the sick, visit the elderly or put some groceries in somebody's cart, an older person when they're at Johnny Zagara's store or even at the new Dave's that's coming up here at Severance. Do something special and maybe do it more than just one time. So much healing needs to happen in this community and many other communities. Just by each person doing one thing over and above that you've done before will certainly make a difference and make our community a better place. Maybe it will be contagious. So we can all do it, if we all take the time to do it and those of you who are in my situation have younger children, it will rub off on them. Do something differently. We have so many opportunities. Go and take some food to the Heights Emergency Food Center. I'm sure they'll be more than happy to use it. Get involved. Say hello to the young people in the community. Don't walk away. Don't do different things. If you are at the community center work with people, talk to people, but pick one thing out either individually or as a family. You can make a difference. It just doesn't just have to happen in Cleveland Heights, do it elsewhere. The community or the community-at-large will be a better place. I think you'll feel better at the end of the day. Again, happy Thanksgiving to everybody.

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 4, 2006. Our meeting today is adjourned at 8:27. Thank you for coming."

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Kelley, Mayor
President of Council

Thomas K. Malone
Clerk of Council

/mwc