

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:29 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

Council Members present: Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow

Staff present: Briley, Juliano, Raguz

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

Council Committee of the Whole concluded at 6:45 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

Council Members present: Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow

Staff present: Briley, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Raguz, Robertson, Wagner, Williams, Wong

Vice Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening. My name is Cheryl Stephens and I'm the Vice Mayor of Cleveland Heights. I want to welcome you to our first meeting of the year of 2016. It's a pretty exciting year for some of us. We had an election last fall and one person was elected newly to Council and two members were reelected. We have received the results from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. That was an election held on November 3, 2015 at which Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe and Kahlil Seren were elected as Council members. The next order of business will be to swear these Council members in and we'll do that in alphabetical order. However, first I was told by one of my colleagues that Rob Fisher, a professor at Case Western Reserve, brought a group of Boy Scouts from St. Paul's Church to work on their Community Merit Badge this evening to witness government in action. Where are the Boy Scouts?" (Applause.) "Yes, in Cleveland Heights we believe in getting them involved in government early. Okay. Yes, thank you."

Tom Raguz stated, "I have received the results from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections that at the election held on November 3, 2015 at which Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe and Kahlil Seren were elected as Council members."

Vice Mayor Stephens stated, "The first person we should swear in is Mary Dunbar. Yes. If you would step over if you're involved with Mary's swearing in. Oh, I'm sorry. We did forget something - the national anthem." (Laughter.) "Yes, this is America. This is an American process. To sing the national anthem for us will be the Young family. For those of you who remember the first time I was sworn in, the Youngs came and they're part of my family. It's my mother's sister, Sylvia, and her children, LaShaun, Latrice, Lisa, Ladonna and John."

(Singing of "The Star Spangled Banner.")

Vice Mayor Stephens stated, "Now we get to swear Mary in? Jim, now we get to swear Mary in?"

Jim Juliano stated, "Please."

Vice Mayor Stephens stated, "Mary Dunbar has asked her treasurer the amazingly wonderful Bonnie Baker and those are Mary's exact words. She treasures you Mary and Mary treasures Bonnie. In addition, her husband Rob Dunbar - Mary says that she - being married to Rob is the best thing that ever happened to her and even better, she'd marry him - even more - she thinks that's better than being elected to City Council twice."

Bonnie Baker stated, "I (then state your name)."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I, Mary Dunbar,"

Bonnie Baker stated, "Solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States of America."

Bonnie Baker stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Bonnie Baker stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Bonnie Baker stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold a position as Council member."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold a position as Council member."

Bonnie Baker stated, "I will honestly, faithfully and impartially."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I will honestly, faithfully and impartially."

Bonnie Baker stated, "Discharge the duties of that office to the best of my ability."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Discharge the duties of that office to the best of my ability."

(Applause)

Vice Mayor Stephens stated, "Next Carol Roe will be sworn in. Carol, if you would step up to the microphone. Swearing Carol in will be Judge Solomon Oliver who is a resident of Cleveland Heights. Judge Solomon Oliver is the Chief Judge for the Northern District U.S. Court. Judy Beeler. Judy is a family registered nurse practitioner" (later identified as a registered nurse) "who's been a colleague and friend

of Carol's and she is a long term member of Cleveland Heights as well and Harriet Wadsworth who's a church family member with Carol will be standing in support of her. Judge Oliver."

Judge Oliver stated, "I."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "I, Carol,"

Judge Oliver stated, "Solemnly affirm."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Solemnly affirm."

Judge Oliver stated, "That I will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "That I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States of America."

Judge Oliver stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Judge Oliver stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "The charter and the ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Judge Oliver stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold a position as Council member."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold a position as Council member."

Judge Oliver stated, "I will honestly."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "I will honestly."

Judge Oliver stated, "Faithfully."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Faithfully."

Judge Oliver stated, "And impartially."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "And impartially."

Judge Oliver stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Judge Oliver stated, "To the best of my ability."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "To the best of my ability."

Judge Oliver stated, "So help me God."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "So help me God."

(Applause.)

Vice Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Next Kahlil Seren will be sworn in by our Law Director Jim Juliano and holding - supporting him and witnessing him today will be his son Blue McDaniel."

Jim Juliano stated, "I, Kahlil Seren."

Councilman Seren stated, "I, Kahlil Seren,"

Jim Juliano stated, "Do solemnly swear."

Councilman Seren stated, "Do solemnly swear."

Jim Juliano stated, "That I will support."

Councilman Seren stated, "That I will support."

Jim Juliano stated, "The Constitution and the laws of the United States of America."

Councilman Seren stated, "The Constitution and laws of the United States of America."

Jim Juliano stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Councilman Seren stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Jim Juliano stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Councilman Seren stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Jim Juliano stated, "And that so long as I continue."

Councilman Seren stated, "And that so long as I continue."

Jim Juliano stated, "To hold a position as Council member."

Councilman Seren stated, "To hold a position as Council member."

Jim Juliano stated, "I will honestly."

Councilman Seren stated, "I will honestly."

Jim Juliano stated, "Faithfully."

Councilman Seren stated, "Faithfully."

Jim Juliano stated, "And impartially."

Councilman Seren stated, "And impartially."

Jim Juliano stated, "Discharge the duties of that office

Councilman Seren stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Jim Juliano stated, "To the best of my ability."

Councilman Seren stated, "To the best of my ability."

Jim Juliano stated, "Congratulations."

(Applause)

Vice Mayor Stephens stated, "If the Clerk of Council would please call the roll."

Council Members present: Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow

Tom Raguz stated, "All present."

Vice Mayor Stephens stated, "All right, that's a little different because we like to say present or here. We'll work on that. Okay. We're all here. The next item on the agenda is to request nominations for the Office of President of Council which in Cleveland Heights is the Mayor. I open the floor for nominations. Mr. Stein."

Councilman Stein stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. It's my honor to nominate Cheryl Stevens for Mayor. Cheryl brings a perspective the Council that is invaluable. She began her Cleveland Heights career as a staff member and then as Director of Planning and Development Department. Now, as a member of Council and Vice Mayor, she brings years of experience and skills to the legislative body. In the four plus years I have served on Council with Cheryl, I have had the benefit and pleasure of seeing her leadership skills. She is hardworking, very intelligent, creative and a collaborative member of Council. Cheryl has a passion for public service and specifically to serve the residents of Cleveland Heights. I'm proud to nominate Cheryl for Mayor of Cleveland Heights and I look for a second."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Second."

Vice Mayor Stephens stated, "Are there any other nominee names for nomination? If there are no other names for nomination, I will close the nomination process. Mr. Clerk, do we need a vote?" (Inaudible.) "Okay. Will you call the roll?"

Roll Call: Ayes: Roe, Seren, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow, Dunbar

Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, "Six ayes, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. I think I just became Mayor." (Applause.) "To swear me in – it takes a village to raise a child, but to raise a Mayor, it takes all the lot. My first friend and personal elected official, Barbara Boyd is going to stand with me. So Barbara, if you would roll forward a little bit. Ed Kelley - his advice in the last six years and longer has been invaluable, but when somebody puts their arm around you; when they are encouraging me to run for Council, and they basically say, 'Vote for Cheryl,' and you get the most votes of anybody else running besides them, you know that you've been truly endorsed. I have a friend who served as Mayor before I even thought Cleveland Heights was a good place to hang out. I think I saw him come in - Alan Rappaport. I'm going to have a circle of mayors support me as I move forward. And last but not least, my friend and colleague until 15 minutes ago, Dennis Wilcox will swear me in, but nothing is complete without my dad and my brother. So, Daddy please come forward." (Applause.) And in order to get here, I just wanted to make Cleveland Heights a better place. I knew that there was a vacancy on Council and I had this little bias that I could serve well. Okay, serve better than some other folks that were out there. So I created this thing called Team Cheryl and a lot of people put time, energy and money into Team Cheryl. If the team would stand up who helped get me here in the first place. Sally - who lived across the street and literally adopted me. My grandmother couldn't have campaigned better for me. She walked her dog and everybody she met walking her dog, 'You gotta vote for Cheryl Stephens.' Hugh - who took off time in transition between jobs. I have such fabulous friends. Mike Unger – who did the first fundraiser for me. Would you all please stand and help me get sworn in as Mayor - a place I didn't expect to get? Dennis."

The former Mayor Dennis Wilcox stated, "Is everybody ready? You ready?"

Mayor Stephens stated, "I'm ready."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "I."

Mayor Stephens stated, "I, Cheryl Stephens,"

Mayor Wilcox stated, "Do solemnly swear."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Do solemnly swear."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "That I will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America."

Mayor Stephens stated, "That I will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Mayor Stephens stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Mayor Stephens stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold the position of Mayor and President of Council."

Mayor Stephens stated, "And that as long as I continue to hold the position as Mayor and President of Council."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "I will honestly."

Mayor Stephens stated, "I will honestly."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "Faithfully."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Faithfully."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "And impartially."

Mayor Stephens stated, "And impartially."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Discharge the duties of that office."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "To the best of my ability."

Mayor Stephens stated, "To the best of my ability."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "Congratulations."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "A little photo opportunity. How many mayors do we have here now? Five. Too many."

(Applause.)

Mayor Stephens stated, "I'd like to reopen the floor for nominations for Vice Mayor. Do I hear any nominations?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I nominate Jason Stein for Vice Mayor. Let me just say that Jason has proven a valuable and intelligent member of City Council. I have discussed a wide range of issues with Jason and others on City Council and I believe that all Council members are committed to working with the staff for the greater good of Cleveland Heights."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there a second? Thank you. Are there any other nominations? Hearing no other nominations, I'd like to call the roll, Mr. Clerk. Yes." (Inaudible.) "Thank you. I will make a motion that we accept; close the nominations elect Mr. Stein by acclamation."

Roll Call: Ayes: Seren, Stein, Stephens, Yasinow, Dunbar, Roe

Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, "That's six ayes, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. If we can now swear Mr. Stein in as Vice Mayor. Who are you having swear you in?"

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "I'm having my wife, Shimona, my boys Eliezer, Yaakov, Aharon, Moshe and Avraham and my little girl Leah and also my cousin is here. He's going to be up with me also, Shaul and his son Ezra."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you and Janine Boyd will be providing him with the oath of office; our State Representative and former colleague."

(Applause.)

Representative Boyd stated, "I"

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "I, Jason Stein."

Representative Boyd stated, "Do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution."

Councilman Stein stated, "Do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution."

Representative Boyd stated, "And the laws of the United States of America."

Councilman Stein stated, "And the laws of the United States of America."

Representative Boyd stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Councilman Stein stated, "The Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio."

Representative Boyd stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Councilman Stein stated, "The charter and ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights."

Representative Boyd stated, "And that so long as I continue to hold the position of Vice Mayor."

Councilman Stein stated, "And that as long as I continue to hold the position as Vice Mayor."

Representative Boyd stated, "And Vice President of Council."

Councilman Stein stated, "And Vice President of Council."

Representative Boyd stated, "I will honestly, faithfully and impartially."

Councilman Stein stated, "I will honestly, faithfully and impartially."

Representative Boyd stated, "Discharge the duties of that office to the best of my ability."

Councilman Stein stated, "Discharge the duties of that office to the best of my ability."

Representative Boyd stated, "Congratulations."

(Applause.)

Mayor Stephens stated, "You don't always wear your faith on your sleeve, but your faith is part of who you are and believing is something both Jason and I do - a little differently; but believe it or not, both of us on the Sabbath sometimes. So, the pastor from the church that my father attends when he's here regularly Reverend Jerome Hearst of the Southeast Seventh Day Adventist and Rabbi Sruly Wolf. Rabbi Sruly, where are you? Who after I got elected began to call me once a month just check on me, so I have my own Rabbi. So, if these two gentlemen are going to give us a Bible verse and pray for Jason and I. Jason, if you'll step forward with me to accept their prayers and the Bible verse."

"As you were sworn in, you placed your hands on the Bible and a text comes to my mind found in the book Micah, the sixth chapter, verse number eight. It says, 'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. I believe it was four years ago both of you – while it was upstairs in the little room, when you were sworn in as Council people and you put your hands on the Bible and it must be that you followed these principles for those of this great city to elect you or to choose you to serve in the position that you now serve, so continue to follow and follow those principles that are laid out in the prophet of Micah and I believe God will continue to bless you and this City. Let us pray.

God of each of us and God of us all, we trust that you are present with the leaders of this city as they go about their important work. We pray that they use the gifts, the talents and intelligence that you have given them to faithfully weight courses of action and make decisions. May your Spirit give them your heart for justice and mercy so they need to seek you daily as they lead. Grant them wisdom to know that all power comes from You. Instill in them the humility that you show in the life of Jesus. Give us all a Spirit of hope to work together for good, a Spirit of cooperation drawing strength from what unites us instead of dwelling on what divides us and give us the courage to always do just, to love and to walk humbly for You and may we all love each of our brothers and sisters who are your children. In Jesus name I pray. Amen."

Rabbi Sruly stated, "Almighty G-d, we are gathered here today for the inauguration of our new Mayor Cheryl Stephens, Vice Mayor Jason Stein who so mindfully – we are citizens of the great city that nourishes the rich tourism and diversity of our country. We are people come together of multiple backgrounds, racial, religious, cultural and social with varied interests, occupations and manner of living. We ask You to bless the community as we seek always to respect each other. Bless those You recruit with the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, so that we may truly reflect in our lives what we know in our hearts – that we are all brothers and sisters. In one or another sense, we are all your children. Our newly elected Mayor Cheryl Stephens and Vice Mayor Jason Stein will assume responsibility to lead our great city. We ask an outpouring of gifts that are yours alone to give – wisdom and understanding, counsel and fortitude. May we always see in our dedication to the service of this

diverse community and shall You always see the willingness to work with heart. We also pray for our City Council, our City Manager and all public officials of our great City.”

(Applause.)

Mayor Stephens stated, “Our first official moment of business is that the City Manager receive the resignation of Councilmember Jeff Coryell that became effective at 5:00 p.m. on December 31, 2015. May I please receive in motion to accept Mr. Coryell’s resignation?”

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “So moved.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Is there a second?”

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, “Second.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Mr. Clerk, would you call the roll please?”

Roll Call: Ayes: Stein, Stephens, Yasinow, Dunbar, Roe, Seren

 Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, “That’s six ayes, Your Honor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. His resignation is accepted. Next I will announce the committee assignments – Chair, Vice Chair, plus a member of the various Committees of Council, but these assignments were provided to the members of Council in our work session prior to the official meeting. Administrative Services Committee will be chaired by Carol Roe. As you noticed, we have a vacancy on Council with Mr. Coryell’s resignation, so the Vice Chair of that committee will remain vacant temporarily. The member of that committee will be Mary Dunbar. The Community Relations and Recreation Committee is vacant currently. The Vice Chair will be Melissa Yasinow and the member, Kahlil Seren. Finance Committee will be chaired by Jason Stein, Vice Chair, Mary Dunbar and member, Melissa Yasinow. Municipal Services Committee will be chaired by Melissa Yasinow, Vice Chair Carol Roe and they will receive a new member sometime in the near future. Planning and Development Committee will be chaired by Mary Dunbar, Vice Chair Kahlil Seren and member Jason Stein. The Public Safety Committee will be chaired by Kahlil Seren, Vice Chair Jason Stein and member Carol Roe. Thank you. Those are your primary committee assignments. We will work to assign members of Council to attend various committees, subcommittees, ad hoc committees, neighborhood groups and the Special Improvement Districts meetings on a regular basis. At this time, we will accept comments from the community and personal recognition. Did I miss something?” (Inaudible.) “Oh yes. Approval of the minutes. That’s a specialty. We have the minutes from our last meeting which was December 21, 2015. Were there any corrections to this, Mary? Did anybody else have corrections? And Mary’s our official scribe. With that, I’d like to ask the member to approve these minutes and I will sign them at the end of the meeting. Do we need to call roll for that?”

(Inaudible.)

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "I move we approve the minutes."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens, "Thank you. Did I have a roll call now?"

Roll Call: Ayes: Stephens, Yasinow, Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein

Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, "Six ayes, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. The minutes from the meetings are approved. No, we get the chance for members of Council to make comments; especially those who have been recently elected. Mary, would you like to start us out?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Yes. I want to again thank everyone who contributed to my campaign, posted yard signs and voted for me. I really appreciate your support and I would like acknowledge how much I have learned from those that have gone before me on City Council; especially those in the front row – Ed Kelley and Dennis Wilcox and also those on City staff who - the truth of the matter is – do all of the work. I believe that Cheryl Stephens has a good background to contribute positively to our City as our new Mayor. She was formerly an employee of the City of Cleveland Heights in an Economic Development role. Her subsequent experience in a variety of settings including most recently working for the Cuyahoga County Land Bank and serving as a member of Cleveland Heights City Council for six years, the longest of any of us currently serving on Council, all contribute to the base she brings. I know all of us on City Council will work as a team with our very good staff to secure a bright future for our City. I've already said a few words about Jason and his contributions, so I'm looking forward to working with him in a Vice Mayor role.

I also want to say I'm excited by the new committee roles, my new committee roles. I'll be chairing the Planning and Development Committee and we have excellent opportunities for improvements in several areas of this committee's responsibilities. The Planning and Development Committee has an oversight responsibility for the commercial on-street parking program. The Community Development Block Grant Program where we are extremely ably assisted by the Citizens Advisory Committee. We also are responsible for economic development and the off-street parking program, physical planning, public construction and the zoning code. I'll be the Vice Chair of the Finance Committee. All I can say about that committee is that the more minds we bring to bear on municipal finances, the better because collectively with our able staff, we will get it right. Finally, I'll be a member of the Administrative Services Committee. Perhaps the most important aspect of this committee is the opportunity it presents for encouraging citizen engagement. Getting people involved in our City who can make a positive difference is critically important. We've been blessed with excellent residents who care about this place and have acted to build on our opportunities. We have a lot of success stories in enhancing a diverse community and everyone should know these stories. And I do mean everyone in the entire world. In Cleveland Heights, we have many assets, both tangible and intangible to build on. I'm

often asked about the future of Cleveland Heights. I don't underestimate our challenges, but we also have great opportunities and I'm committed to doing what I can to help us and our staff take advantage of those opportunities, so it's onward and upward."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you Mary. I'd like to recognize Carol Roe next."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "It would be impossible to thank everyone who contributed to my being here this evening in this capacity. I am truly humbled by the assistance of those who helped in my campaign. Some people I know are with me in spirit - my late husband, my parents and my youngest brother. My other brother and sister and son were not able to be here, but I know I am in their thoughts. I have two other important families. My nurse family is with me this evening and many of these people have worked with me for over 20 years and I have appreciated their support in all those endeavors. My Church of the Covenant family was another important support and many of the individual members of our church are here tonight. Our current pastor, Amy Starr Redwine, I think is somewhere in the audience as well as our former pastor, Bert Campbell. They prayed with me a lot. My employer, The Centers for Dialysis Care, provided flexibility in my schedule and some of my work colleagues are also here and I thank them. Bonnie Caplan and Jeff Coryell provided wise counsel, sympathetic ears, timely reviews, sometimes critical of my performance as a candidate, and I thank them. Other very helpful people were Cheryl Stephens, Dennis Wilcox, Barbara Boyd, Janine Boyd and Melissa Yasinow. Thanks also to Judge Solomon Oliver and his wife Louisa for being here. Judge Oliver did not assist in my campaign, but is the person most responsible for my finishing law school. Thank you all so much and I will do my best to live up to your expectations and I am looking forward to more adventures with my new colleagues."

(Applause.)

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Kahlil, would you like have a word?"

Councilman Seren stated, "First of all, I would like to thank my colleagues and City Manager Briley and her staff for working with me over the past eight or so months...ten months. Ten months I'm sure. And I look forward to working with you all over the next four years. I'd also like to thank my family - my wife Natalie, our son Blue, my moms Leslye and Mary and my brother-in-law Gregory for being here tonight. I appreciate it. And, you know, I'm not one to stand on ceremony. In fact, probably the people who know me best know that all of this is a bit much for me, but I appreciate all of you being here and I appreciate the interest that you're showing in our city government and I look forward to working with you all and hearing from you and working together to improve our City. Thank you."

(Applause.)

Mayor Stephens stated, "Melissa, would you like a moment with the mic?"

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "I would indeed. First off, I wanted to congratulate my colleagues - Councilpersons Dunbar, Roe and Seren as well as Vice Mayor Stein and Mayor Stephens. Congratulations to all of you for your success and I also wanted to frankly thank everybody here tonight.

It is wonderful and heartening to see that as a Council we have the support of such a wonderful intersection of our community. I think that this Council these next four years holds tremendous opportunity for the City of Cleveland Heights. I was talking with City Manager Briley just a few minutes before this event and she's worked with a lot of different cities and one of the things she said is that when you have councils that can be petty or fractious, you can still, you know, you can get the job done. You can turn on the lights; you can pay the bills, but it doesn't give you the opportunity to do things that are truly transformational. I hope you all can see here tonight that we have a Council that is strong; that though we have our differences, we work together. We communicate and are united and hopefully we will live up to our promise and potential of being the Council that helps transform the City of Cleveland Heights to be that 21st Century City on the Hill. So, thank you all for being here tonight and congratulations to my fellow Councilpersons.”

(Applause.)

Vice Mayor Stein stated, “It is a great honor to be elected Vice Mayor of the City of Cleveland Heights. I want to thank – although she’s not in the room right now, she’s with our daughter who wanted to talk a little bit, making some noises – but I want to thank my intelligent, good humored and beautiful wife Shimona. Thank you for being my best friend. Without your patience, understanding, encouragement and support, I would not be here tonight. To my children, Eliezer, Yaakov, Moshe, Aharon, Avraham and Leah - I love you all very much and I'm very proud of them. Thank you to my friends and family that came out tonight in the cold. I really appreciate it. Thank you State Representative Janine Boyd for swearing me in as Vice Mayor. You're doing great work in Columbus. Keep up the good work. We're proud of you.

I also want to thank my colleagues on Council who have shown their confidence in me to serve as Vice Mayor. To my Council colleagues - Mayor Stephens, congratulations on your election as Mayor. Also congratulations to reelected Councilpersons Mary Dunbar and Kahlil Seren and our new member on Council, Carol Roe. I look forward to working with everybody on Council to make Cleveland Heights even a better city than it is today. Thank you.”

(Applause.)

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. At this time, if you would like to make comments to Council members and to the audience at large, we always have a moment in our public process to allow personal communications from citizens and visitors, so you see the podium that Susanna has just moved forward. If you would step up to it if you'd like to make a statement. Remember to try and keep your statement under three minutes or I will try to cut you off. For the record, if you'd state your name and address.”

Paula Brazil stated, “Good evening. My name is Paula Brazil and I live at 855 Montford Road in the great City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio and I am absolutely thrilled to be here today along with a good representation of the City of Cleveland Heights to congratulate my sister, my friend, the one for whom I have such great admiration and respect – Ms. Stephens. I have to chuckle as I think of how we often

jokingly refer to ourselves as Ms. Stephens and Ms. Brazil and I guess now I have to refer to you as Madam Mayor. So, Madam Mayor, I am absolutely delighted to be here this evening. When I first met you as one of my very first friends at Cleveland City Hall, I was in the Office of Mayor Voinovich and you were very conveniently located right next door in the Department of Economic Development. I knew then you were a force to be reckoned with. You were smart. You were charming. You were witty. You were insightful and you were a beautiful person on the inside and on the out. You were absolutely formidable. I now realize that the authority that you had at that time about the City of Cleveland had been fostered in only three years. We met in 1987 and it was just the other day you told me you had come to Cleveland in '84 and I thought we've known each other so long and I don't know when you would actually come to Cleveland, but in just three years, you were an authority. You would hit the ground floor running which you also done here in Cleveland Heights. I am so proud of what you have accomplished becoming Mayor of the City of Cleveland Heights. I could ask you about things back then and never did you steer me wrong. You were never petty. You were never small minded. You always filtered whatever you told me through what was right, what was moral and what was good for everyone. I guess that your life living in so very many different parts of the world with Tech Sergeant Cato Stephens taught you a world view of what it meant to have an honorable life and added with the faith that your dear beloved mom in whose honor I wear my pink today and who I know rejoices in heaven this evening. Added the faith in God that she taught you and Ta-Da - the perfect public servant was born. My family first helped to integrate the City of Cleveland Heights back 43 years ago. I knew how the city of Cleveland Heights was then and I know the challenge that exists today. As with all inner ring suburbs across the nation, the challenges are high, but like all great servant leaders, Cheryl Stephens, you eat challenges for breakfast. As this wonderful City I still call my home today, I burst with excitement for what the future holds because I know you, Mayor Stephens, know who holds the future. I know that you put others first. You seek knowledge and from that knowledge, you make wise decisions. You've never failed me. There has never been a time that I have called you when you did not give me the right answer, the right person or the right thing to do. You understand the long term view and you know how the puzzle pieces fit together and that's very important in an elected official. Sometimes in the immediate, people don't understand the decisions that are being made. I can remember when I was in Mayor Voinovich's Office and there was a certain Councilwoman who was a very determined person. She was really for her ward and she fussed and hollered about tax abatement, and I now realize homes that she complained about getting tax abatement have now been paying taxes for the last 18 years. So, you have to have the long view which Cheryl Stephens, you have, and I appreciate that and that's what's going to keep our City strong, help us growing and help us exist into the future. Combined with your benevolence and your encouraging spirit, I know that something good is going to happen here in Cleveland Heights. I thank you in advance for first being the person that I want to be when I grow up and second for all of your hard work and dedication because I do believe you are truly one of the hardest working people I know. Usually it might take you a week to call me back, but you always call me back. Everything you do is done with distinction. Years ago when you were on your way to go work for the National Development Corporation, I roasted you and put you on the Greyhound bus. I thought it would be funny to say Cheryl was going all over the nation and she would be taking the Greyhound bus to get there and I put her together a little care package of all the things she would need

on that bus. Well, I say today, I am so happy that on that bus, you had a round trip ticket that brought you back home. I ask that God may continue to bless you and may that everything you lay your hands to prospers and succeeds. May God bless you. May God bless our wonderful City of Cleveland Heights, the great State of Ohio and these our wonderful United States of America.”

(Applause.)

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Is there anyone who would like to follow Paula?”

(Laughter.)

Mayor Stephens stated, “If there are no other public comments, then I will move to the report of the City Manager.”

Report of the City Manager

Tanisha Briley stated, “I have nothing to report this evening, Your Honor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “I do like brief reports. The report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council.”

Report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council

Tom Raguz stated, “I need to notify Council that one notice has been received from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control advising that application has been made by the following: Cedar Lee Property LLC, 2179 Lee Road and Patio, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118, Transfer, D5, D6 permits from Best Thai Inc., DBA Lemon Grass Thai Cuisine, 2179 Lee Road and Patio, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. Your Honor, I need to make this a Matter of Record. “

Mayor Stephens stated, “These items will be referred to the Public Safety and Health Committee of Council, the City Manager, and the Director of Law.”

Matter of Record

Tom Raguz stated, “I have nothing else to report tonight, Your Honor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “At this time, I need to check and see if there are any committee reports because we don't have any legislation this evening. The Administrative Services Committee - is there a report. Thank you. Community Relations and Recreation Committee. Well, since there's no Chair of that technically, I guess I get to Chair that and I have no report. Finance Committee.”

Vice Mayor Stein stated, “No report, Your Honor.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Municipal Services Committee.”

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “No report.”

Mayor Stephens stated, "Public Safety and Health Committee."

Councilman Seren stated, "No report."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Planning and Development Committee. Oh thank you. That was most efficient. The Mayor's Report. I could wax really long and say a lot of things, but the reason we serve is because we believe the promise of America. The promises of America are that even a little child like me can grow to be Mayor and it's totally unexpected, and the promise of America is that one of the reasons people are willing to serve is that there's a belief that there's something they can do for people. And because of that, I've asked my childhood friend to come and sing my closing comments to this community. Ronald Smith, if you would move to the microphone please."

Tanisha Briley stated, "Your Honor, before your song, would you announce the public hearing on January 21?"

Mayor Stephens stated, "I had forgotten that. On January 21... do you have it on the... On January 21, 2016 at 6:00 pm. in Council Chambers... at 7:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, we will have a public hearing on the political influence by corporate entities and the citizens who petitioned the City of Cleveland Heights two years ago to adopt a motion of a resolution that would allow us to have hearings to allow students, citizens to speak out about influence of corporate entities on elections will review what they have found over the last couple of years, and any recommendations they have to be proactive in this community. We will also have that advertised on our website and we will be following up with the citizens who were formed the committee for this activity. After this statement, Ronald, if you would move to the microphone. This brings us to a closure live to them like your time this brings us to closure and when Ronald is finished, I will gavel our meeting into closure."

(Singing of "Wind Beneath My Wings")

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you friends and residents of Cleveland Heights. Please join Council in a small reception in this chamber. Have a good evening and thank you."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "The next meeting."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Our next council meeting will be January 19, 2016 two thousand and sixteen. Thank you. Motion to adjourn."

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "So moved."

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Stephens, Mayor

Tom Raguz, Clerk of Council

/jkw