

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:29 p.m. to discuss the contents of the City Manager's memo.

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

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Butler, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Raguz, Smith, Wong

At 6:29, Councilwoman Dunbar moved to enter into Executive Session to consider the terms of a sale of City-owned real property. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ungar. Mayor Stephens presiding.

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

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Butler, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Raguz, Smith, Wong

Councilman Ungar moved to end the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Roe.

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

Executive Session concluded at 7:25 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:42 p.m., Mayor Stephens presiding.

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

Staff present: Boland, Briley, Butler, Freeman, Juliano, Lambdin, Mannarino, McRae, Mecklenburg, Niermann O'Neil, Raguz, Smith, Wong

Mayor Stephens stated, "Good evening and welcome to the Cleveland Heights City Council meeting. Today is Wednesday, October 5, 2016. Mr. Raguz, would you call the roll?"

Ayes: Dunbar, Roe, Seren, Stein, Stephens, Ungar, Yasinow

Tom Raguz stated, "All present, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. We had a Tax Budget Public Hearing on July 18 and we have minutes from that as well as minutes from Monday, September 19's meeting. So, were there corrections?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Oh, yes."

Mayor Stephens stated, "And did you submit them?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "No, I didn't, but I will."

Councilwoman Roe stated, "Mine have been submitted."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Okay. With those, with that submission I believe that we can move on to personal communications from our citizens. I remind you that you please need to state your name and address for the record and keep your comments to approximately three minutes. Ms. Miller, are you first?"

Susan Miller stated, "Yeah. I'll be quick. My name is Susan Miller. I live at 3165 Berkshire Road in Cleveland Heights and I'm going to read. 'Does rehabbing vacant and foreclosed properties increase surrounding property values? Is rehabbing associated with a lowering of mortgage foreclosure rates? These are the questions this study, the one I'm bringing to your attention, asks. We estimate that 1,081 programmatic rehabs completed between 2009 and 2015 in Cuyahoga County preserved or increased just over a \$1,000,000,000; 539,318,306 in the values of surrounding homes. This averages out to \$498,907 or half a million of property value impact per rehab. Rehab impacts vary by sub-market with weaker sub-markets realizing less impact per rehab and stronger sub-markets more. Cleveland Heights is a stronger sub-market.

The rehabs nevertheless show positive impacts in every sub-market studied. We also found that the occurrence of programmatic rehabs was strongly associated with faster declines in mortgage foreclosure rates over time. The relationship between the rehabs and faster mortgage foreclosure rate declines is significant in all sub-markets. This suggests that rehab is a significant determinant in the lowering of mortgage foreclosure rates. The study can be found at [rehabimpact.com](http://rehabimpact.com). It recently came out with the help of many people including our former neighbors, the family of the Raymond John Wean Foundation, and it looks specifically a Cuyahoga County as well as other communities in Ohio."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is this the study by Dynametrics?"

Susan Miller stated, "Yes."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Go on."

Susan Miller stated, "Decision support for property intervention. So, I sent that to Council last week when I received it in my inbox. I hope that you'll take a look at it. A small group of citizens several years ago came to Council with the suggestion of a foreclosure bond. Similar foreclosure bond efforts have been enacted in other Ohio cities and we felt that preserving the housing stock in Cleveland Heights - not every house fits this description, but a house that is foreclosed on and made vacant by a bank that becomes a bank owned property - could have a foreclosure bond. In other words the bank would be subject to the very same code standards that people who occupy or rent their homes in Cleveland Heights would have to meet instead of these degrading, unsecured, falling apart properties that we ultimately demolish. Once upon a time, they paid taxes. People lived in them and they produced tax revenue. When the federal funds or the bank settlements came through and we were able to get money, we delighted that we were finally going to get rid of this eyesore, but when you spend \$10,000 - \$15,000 or in the case of Superior Road and the massive brownstones that County Planning is now telling us these are jewels you can't build them like this anymore. We spent millions of dollars tearing

these things down. That property value of the vacant lots that you see when you drive around Cleveland Heights is zero.

Now a big effort to try to figure out a way to recreate infill, so I want to urge Council to take a look at this study and I want to encourage people in the community also to go to rehabimpact (that's one word), rehabimpact.com and look at the study because housing is our bread and butter in this bedroom community and I don't know what else to say besides it's now 2016. We've torn down 75 houses in Cleveland Heights. I don't know the revenue calculations on what those houses had they been rehabbed and re-inhabited, whether they're rentals or owner occupied would be producing for the community today, but at some point, it's really important to take a look at - do we tear it down or do we find a way to rehab it? I'm not suggesting this be a City program. There are private rehabbers who are doing amazing work in this community. I just want to ask that we look at that. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you."

Susan Sanders stated, "Good evening. I'm Susan Sanders and I live at 1179 Pennfield Road. Tonight I'm here as a representative of Noble Neighbors, a group of neighbors working together along Noble Road to make our neighborhoods safe and friendly and attractive and welcoming for everyone. On behalf of Noble Neighbors, I'd like to invite everyone to a school levy information meeting on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Noble Road Presbyterian Church. You're invited to join us to learn more about the November school levy, to bring questions and to ask of Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District officers and officials and supporters as well as the Citizens Leadership Pact representatives and learn more about the plans for our students' education if the Noble Elementary School is indeed closed. Now, we regret that this meeting conflicts with Yom Kippur and Councilwoman Yasinow has graciously shared the 2017 dates for the sacred High Holy Days so there will be no conflicts similar to this next year. The meeting will be videotaped and available on the Noble Neighbor's website which is [www.nobleneighbors.com](http://www.nobleneighbors.com) so that everyone can take a look. So this is an important issue for our community and we look forward to having as many folks present as possible. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anyone else who'd like to speak to Council this evening? Hearing no other requests to speak to council, I move to the report of the City Manager, Mrs. Briley."

### **Report of the City Manager**

Tanisha Briley stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. I have nothing to report this evening except to remind everyone, and you may already be saying this later, but I don't think we can say it enough tonight - the registration deadline for voting this November election is October 11. Please get registered. If you are not, please also check at the website [443vote.com](http://443vote.com) to ensure that you are indeed still registered as we know that there were some issues with the rules. So, I just want to relay that as a part of my report and I'm certain that I will hear echoes from Council members as well as we go throughout the meeting. Thank you, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Now the report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council."

**Report of the Director of Finance/Clerk of Council**

Tom Raguz stated, "I have nothing tonight, Your Honor."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. We move directly then into your committee reports. First, Public Safety and Health Committee. Councilman Seren."

**Report of the Public Safety and Health Committee**

Councilman Seren stated, "Thank you, Mayor. I would like to move that we passed a Resolution Number 87-2016 authorizing the City Manager to enter into the Demolition Program Cooperative agreement with Cuyahoga County for receipt of demolition funding and declaring an emergency."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

Councilman Ungar stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Mr. Raguz, if you would call the roll, please."

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

                  Nays:   None

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

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Is there anything else that you would like to state or report, Mr. Seren?"

Councilman Seren stated, "Yes, thank you Mayor. First of all, I'd like to thank you guys for approving that. My role at the county, I was intimately involved in the creation of this Demolition Program and I'm really hoping that it does some good in our communities, so thank you. I'd also like to mention to residents that the County will be engaging or they are seeking to engage in a tax lien certificate sale this October and what that means is that the delinquent tax for some of our homeowners will be sold. That note will be sold to a private company that will seek to gain repayment from the residents ultimately with the threat of a foreclosure. There is still time right now for residents to enter into a repayment plan with the County and so I encourage all residents to take a look. Don't ignore the letters that you've gotten from the County. Give them a call and enter into a payment plan. So thank you very much. Oh and also from the City, the City has also sent out notification to residents so please don't sweep that under the rug. You don't want to end up in a situation where a private company owns your lien if you can avoid it. So, reach out to the Treasurer. Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you, Councilman Seren. Next we move to the Administrative Services Committee. Councilwoman Roe."

**Report of the Administrative Services Committee**

Councilwoman Roe stated, "I'd like to move Ordinance Number 88-2016 and declare an emergency. This is an ordinance which amends Number 7-2016, the wage and salary ordinance, to incorporate new terms agreed to by the Northern Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association and the International Association of Firefighters."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Is there a second?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "Second."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Mr. Raguz, would you call the roll please?"

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

                  Nays:   None

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

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. This resolution passes. Councilwoman Roe, is there anything else you'd like to share with us this evening?"

Councilwoman Roe stated, "No, nothing else today."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Next we move to the Community Relations and Recreation Committee. Vice Mayor Stein."

**Report of the Community Relations and Recreation Committee**

Vice Mayor Stein stated, "Thank you, Your Honor. I have Resolution Number 89-2016; a resolution joining communities throughout the nation in proclaiming October 2016 National Breast Cancer Awareness Month; October 13, 2016, Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day; and October 21, 2016, National Mammography Day; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas, the American Cancer Society estimates that in 2016 about 246,660 cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women and 2,600 cases in men, and that about 40,450 women and 440 men will die from the disease; and early detection and prompt treatment can significantly reduce suffering and deaths caused by this disease; and mammography is recognized as the single most effective method of detecting breast changes that may be cancer long before physical symptoms can be seen or felt; and metastatic breast cancer refers to a condition in which stage IV breast cancer cells travel from the breast, either through the bloodstream or the lymphatic system, to other parts of the body, including the bones, liver, lungs, or brain, and continue to grow in their new location; and nearly

30 percent of women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer will develop stage IV advanced or metastatic cancer. Therefore, this Council hereby proclaims October 2016 National Breast Cancer Awareness Month; October 13, 2016, Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day; and October 21, 2016, National Mammography Day; and urges women and men in the community of all ages to obtain and utilize information about screening and mammography and to seek appropriate services.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Is there a second?”

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, “Second.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you and I'm going to take a point of privilege at this point. As many of you know, I have a great concern that all, both men and women, make sure that they get their annual health care checks. Breast cancer is not just something that happens to women. It does happen to men and the gene that carries sometime is pretty diverse in its attack of people and how it damages their lives. Cancer, in any form, can, if it's caught early enough, typically can be fought and held off for many years if not a cure found, but some time it progress is fairly rapidly because people fail to get health care checks at least once a year and especially women do not get their mammograms on a timely basis. Because of the loss of my mother in 2006, I've dedicated a significant piece of whatever free time I have left to making sure that everyone has the understanding of how important your annual health care and physical checks are. Please be sure - those if you watching on television and those of you in the room - I'd much give... rather give you a hug today as you're healthy then reach out to you in a hospital room sometime in the future. Please pay attention to your health and invest in yourself. Your family will be richer for it. Thank you. And with that, Mr. Raguz, would you call the roll?”

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

Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, “Seven ayes, Your Honor.”

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. This resolution passes. Vice Mayor.”

Vice Mayor Stein stated, “And my final resolution is Number 90-2016; a resolution proclaiming October 2016 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and declaring an emergency. Whereas, one in four women and a smaller, although significant, number of men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime; and children who witness domestic violence are much more likely to abuse their future partners or children; and domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of gender, income, ethnicity, race, religion, age, or sexual orientation; and locally, the Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center has provided services to victims of domestic violence for over thirty-five years; and the mission of the Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center is to empower individuals, promote justice, and mobilize the community so that all persons are free from violence and abuse in their homes; and the City of Cleveland Heights has been in the forefront of the fight against domestic violence, with its Police

Department and Prosecutor being routinely commended for their aggressive, but fair, enforcement of domestic violence laws. Therefore, this Council hereby proclaims October 2016 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urges all of its residents to educate themselves on the issue and to encourage and support victims of domestic violence and child abuse.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you, Vice Mayor. Is there a second?”

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, “Second.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Mr. Raguz, if you would call the roll.”

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

Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, “Seven ayes, Your Honor.”

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. This resolution passes. Vice Mayor, do you have anything else to share with us this evening?”

Vice Mayor Stein stated, “That’s all I’ve got.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “Thank you. Next we move to the Finance Committee. Councilman Ungar.”

**Report of the Finance Committee**

Councilman Ungar stated, “Okay, so I move approval for Resolution Number 91-2016 (F) which will authorize our City Manager to extend the agreement with our current auditors James Zupka, CPA with the approval of the State of Ohio Auditor for audit services for the four fiscal years ending December 31, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019; and providing compensation therefor. I’ll add a little bit of meat to the bones of the last comment by telling you that the aggregate of the compensation therefor piece is a \$143,000, which may sound like a staggering sum in the abstract. However, it translates into \$35,360 a year for 2016 and 2017; \$35,880 for 2018; and \$36,400 for 2019. So, it sounds like a pretty good deal to me. I move approval.”

Councilwoman Roe stated, “Second.”

Mayor Stephens stated, “If you would call the roll please.”

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

Nays: None

Tom Raguz stated, “Seven ayes, Your Honor.”

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Councilman Ungar, would you like to make a statement or contribute comments?"

Councilman Ungar stated, "No, I don't have anything else."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Okay. Thank you."

Councilman Ungar stated, "Thank you."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Next we have Municipal Services Committee. Councilwoman Yasinow."

**Report of the Municipal Services Committee**

Councilwoman Yasinow stated, "I thank you very much, Your Honor. I do not have any legislation this evening, but I would care to piggyback on the comments of the City Manager to remind residents at home or anybody who could be watching this anywhere that within the state of Ohio, the last day to submit your voter registration is October 11. Please do confirm that with your local Board of Elections as they've had a significant backlog these past few weeks and unfortunately, sometimes things fall through the cracks, so please do double check that your voter registration is correct for your current address. I also encourage voters to consider voting early either via absentee ballot or in person. It is the safest most secure way that your voice is heard this November. There are no long lines. There's no concerns about any form of proper ID. It gives you a chance to be fully educated and to vote this November or frankly this October as early voting starts October 12 and finally for the most personal reasons of voting early is it stops you from getting additional voter mail because the campaigns will already know that you've submitted your ballot. So, if you don't want any more things haranguing you, showing up in your mailbox, people knocking on your door, the fastest easiest and best way is to say, 'Thanks, but I've already voted.' So, that is everything. Please do vote. Please make yourselves heard. Early voting begins October 12. If you have any questions about how to vote, please do not hesitate to ask anybody up on stage as we are always happy to help.

And finally, to those who celebrate, I wish you a happy and a healthy New Year. Shanah Tovah and may you have a lovely 5777."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Thank you. Next we move to the Planning and Development Committee. Councilwoman Dunbar."

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "We don't have any legislation tonight, but I did want to mention that today was Walk or Bike to School Day and this is on the public school's calendar in the spring and the fall and our City provides flyers for all the kids in the elementary schools as well as middle schools. Thank you, Cleveland Heights, and in honor of the day, I wore my brand new Fairfax Bike Club T-shirt. I've been volunteering for several years with this group. It meets on Fridays after school, five or six weeks each spring and fall. It's been going on for several years now. It was started by a P.E. teacher and sponsored by a P.E. teacher, Alice Stratton, and the club rides to places that the kids like to go like the

playgrounds at Horseshoe Lake, Peace Park amongst others. We also had one of these clubs at Canterbury for a while, but they're very dependent on volunteers, so we... if anybody wants to volunteer, you can have one at your school. So anyway, I will now demonstrate this T-shirt and I won't say anything more about it except that we're inordinately proud of it.

Mayor Stephens stated, "So, it has a bicycle on the front and on the back it says Fairfax [Bike Club]. Anything else for the good of the order?"

Councilwoman Dunbar stated, "No, that's it."

Mayor Stephens stated, "Well, we never have a very long meeting, usually less than my favorite meeting time. It's time for the mayor's report and this evening, I have a nothing special to share since the voter stuff has been mentioned twice already. So, the third time is a charm. Remember to get out and vote this year's election. It's very, very important, not just locally, but to this country nationally. At that, with no comments from my colleagues, the meeting is adjourned and our next Council meeting is Monday, October 17, 2017. God bless America and God bless Cleveland Heights."

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cheryl Stephens, Mayor

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Tom Raguz, Clerk of Council

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