

## County Council Regular Meeting: January 14, 2019

Observer: Lynda Mayer

*This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Cuyahoga County Council and is not an official statement by any League of Women Voters in the county. For the official disposition of all agenda items, consult the Cuyahoga County Council website at [council.cuyahogacounty.us](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us)*

### **I. Introduction.**

The first 2020 meeting of the County Council was called to order by Council President Dan Brady at 5:10 pm with all members present. It lasted approximately 50 minutes. The agenda was long, as the last full session had been weeks ago on December 10 of 2019.

### **II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.**

County Executive Budish announced the progress of a Diversion program intended to keep persons with mental health or addition issues out of prison. The current prison population is now much closer to established capacity.

Council member Simon, at the end of the meeting, announced the successful kickoff at the Euclid Senior Center of the new plastic bag ordinance. She described the roll-out effort to publicize and boost re-usables around the county. She said 78 organizations have so far requested some of the county's 25,000 promotional bags to distribute to their members and communities.

Public comments by eight citizens addressed numerous perceived issues, including...

- Ongoing alleged administrative problems with children's services, even as we are asked to support another Health & Human Services levy on March 17;
- Outdated web pages that don't attract attention to openings on boards & commissions;
- Opioid settlement funds which should also be directed to help affected kin of the addicted;
- Decriminalization of marijuana – pointing out the need to lower fines to O and to pay attention to racial disparities in enforcement of new laws.

On an upbeat note, Robert Ivory reported successes by numerous individuals within a group of 66 at-risk Warrensville High School students who have been participating in a county program.

### **III. Business Transacted.**

\* Resolutions adopted at this meeting included the following:

- \$2.2 million for the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's emergency shelter for single adults;
- \$3.5 million in additional funds and time extension to 10 providers of Family-centered Support Services for At-Risk Children and Families;
- \$1.4 million for temporary housing for single adults and youth at North Point Transitional Housing;
- \$2.8 million for operation and case-management at the YMCA's Norma Herr Women's Shelter;
- \$1.6 million in additional funds for Out-of-School-Time Services for Youth;
- \$2.7 million to rehab the St. Clair Ave. bridge over the Doan Brook; and
- \$4.6 million to replace the Green Road bridge adjacent to the Euclid Creek.

\* Several ordinances to amend the County Code were introduced & referred to committees:

- Increase in annual funding of the Community Development Supplemental Grant Program to allow for meeting the costs of administering the it;
- A change to the Whistleblower Ordinance, permitting complaints to be submitted orally;
- An Electronic Equipment & Communications Policy applicable to all county employees; and
- Some modification to the Human Resources Policies & Procedures Manual, also applicable to all county employees.

\* Resolutions introduced and referred to committees included the following:

- \$3 million for design engineering to rehab the Hilliard Road bridge over Rocky River and the Valley Parkway;
- c. \$1 million revenue to lease two Head Start sites to the Council for Economic Opportunity;
- \$1.1 million for Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Offenders Seeking Employment;
- \$4.2 million to the Prosecutor's office for 2020 legal services;
- \$1.4 million so that the Board of Developmental Disabilities can determine eligibility for reimbursement of Medicaid Home and Community-based Services.
- \$2 million for fiscal agent services for two pieces of the Invest in Children Program: Bright Beginnings and Parents as Teachers;
- \$1.2 million for administration and support services for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program;
- \$2.6 million for administering four more pieces of the Invest in Children Program; and
- \$3.6 million in additional funds to 19 providers of OPTIONS for Independent Living.

#### **IV. Notes.**

After the meeting, when Council member Sunny Simon described the roll-out of the County's new plastic bag ban that took effect on New Year's Day, she displayed the reusable bags the county has produced as part of that introduction. At my request, she promised and Jim Boyle delivered a small pile of the promotional bags to distribute to LWV board members. I'm not sure whether the LWVGC is one of the 78 organizations that have requested bags for distribution.