

EUCLID CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2023

**This regular Council Meeting was held on
Tuesday, February 21, 2023
at 7:00pm in the Euclid Municipal Center Council Chambers.
President Charlene Mancuso, presided.**

Council President Mancuso

0:09

Good evening and welcome to the Euclid City Council meeting on this Tuesday, February 21. If able, please rise and join me in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Thank you. Madam Clerk, would you call the roll?

Clerk Laboda

0:36

Tanner, here. Tolton, here. Epps, here. Jarosz, here. Hannum, here. Wojtila, here. Jukic, here. Steele, here. Mancuso, here.

Council President Mancuso

0:49

Are there any **Communications**?

Clerk Laboda

No communications.

Council President Mancuso

We have Council minutes and I will turn it over to Councilman Wojtila.

Councilman Wojtila

1:02

Sorry, Madam Chair. If I could make a motion to approve the council minutes from February 6, 2023.

Council President Mancuso

1:09

Thank you. Do I have a second? So moved by Councilman Epps. All in favor, "Aye."

Thank you. We will now go to **Administrative Reports and Communications**, Mayor.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Gail

1:19

Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening, everyone. Couple of thank you's. I would like to thank the Lake Erie Folk Festival and Shore Cultural Centre. They put on a really nice Folk Festival last, on February 11. Workshops during the day and an evening concert. It was very well attended. Great opportunity for us to showcase that wonderful asset and the music was really good. So look forward to that again next year.

I also had the opportunity to join Village of Healing. They were celebrating their one year anniversary with a skating party and community resource fair that same day February 11. At Play Mor. So, great opportunity to talk with the folks from Village of Healing and the community and that was a fun event as well.

Coming up Euclid Symphony Orchestra will have their spring concert. It is their spring classical concert. That's Sunday, March 5th, 3pm at Shore Cultural Centre. Presale tickets are \$8 and \$10 at the door.

I wanted to say thank you and recognize two of our police officers who have retired. One is Sergeant Dan Novitzky. He completed over 25 years of dedicated service to the City of Euclid. He served as a patrolman as a field training officer. Then he was later assigned to the detective bureau where he worked for a number of years. He was a member of our SWAT team. He was promoted to Detective Bureau Sergeant in 2014. Then served in many different roles, but he was really known for exceptional investigative skills and received a number of commendations and accolades throughout his career, including Officer of the Year in 2008, and then again in 2011, Meritorious Service Medal in 2008, and Exceptional Service Medal in

2012. So, we want to thank Sergeant Novitzky for his commitment and service to the City of Euclid, and wish him a long healthy, happy retirement.

I also want to thank and recognize officer AJ Brentar, who retired last week as well. He completed over 33 years of service to the City of Euclid. He started actually as a corrections officer and then became a police officer. Many people know him, he's worked lots of community events started in the patrol division and then later shifted to the traffic division, where he worked for the remainder of his career. He was one of the most reliable officers, he had a number of years of service without using a single sick day. He received an Educational Award in 2005, Safe Driving Award for 20 years. And he was the Euclid Police Officer of the Year in 2014. So, congratulations to both of those gentlemen. We wish them, again as I said, a long happy healthy retirement and thank them for their service to the City of Euclid.

Sergeant Novitsky's retirement left an opening in the Sergeant position. So, I was able to, happy to promote Sergeant Nick Eddington who was next on the list, this past week and he started on Saturday. So congratulations to new Sergeant Nick Eddington.
Director Grogan-Myers.

Planning and Development Director Grogan-Myers

4:45

Thank you, Mayor. Good evening Council. First the city in partnership with the Fair Housing Center for rights and research will present a fair housing and landlord tenant training. This will be held in person on Thursday, March 16, between 6 and 8pm, at the Euclid Public Library in the Shore Room. Featured speakers will include Tanisha Hunter of the Fair Housing Center, and our very own Ed Chenock in the Community Development Division. Registration is required at thehousingcenter.org/events. And this information is also posted to the city's website. But just a great opportunity to refresh our knowledge of fair housing law of landlord tenant law.

So just want to make sure to share that information with the community, as well as there is a property tax assistance program. This is a very unique program, once really, once in a lifetime, if you will. Funds are currently available through June 30 of this year. Homeowners who qualify for the program can receive up to a, one time grant of up to \$10,000 to help pay for delinquent and current property taxes. Now, one of the qualifications does rely on a COVID-19 financial hardship. This does present a great opportunity for homeowners to be able to access some much needed funds, maybe

get them back on their feet and set them off on a good path for the year to come.

Finally, last week, the Service Department took possession of four speed radar signs. I know we've seen and heard a lot of resident complaints over the past several months. And so we did order speed radar signs, we're currently working on what we're calling, A Neighborhood Safety Program. So this will help to outline how residents can request the speed radar signs be deployed on their street, and what the city does with that data. But the focus is taking a data driven approach. We all think we know what 25 or 30 or 35 miles an hour looks like going down the street. But sometimes putting some hard data to it will help us better address the questions and answers that need to be put out there for residents for drivers. And really to make the roads safer. So more to come. We expect to have that plan ready to go by the end of March. So you can expect an update at the second March meeting from myself and from the rest of the team here so that residents can be aware of how that program will roll out. Thank you.

Mayor Gail

7:11

Thank you and Chief Meyer.

Police Chief Meyer

7:13

Thank you Mayor, members of Council, members of the audience. Thank you, Mayor, our officers were also at the Village of Healing, at the event at at the skating rink. At the Play Mor. Our, as I was leaving group for officers just got back from a an event sponsored by CLA 3 Alliance, which is a, it's Cleveland's major sports teams have kind of coordinated with police departments to meet and have these kind of quarterly meetings with youth from the area to to connect. And tonight's event was at actually at the First Energy and they still have the ice rink up from the Face Off on the Lake. So they just got back from that and I guess that was a well attended event. And we are one of the, probably the most consistent and biggest participator of the police departments in the area in that event, in those events. Additionally coming up we have Coffee with a Cop Friday, February 24, 9 to 11am and that's it Maria's Family Restaurant on Lakeshore Boulevard. Join the youth, Police Department for coffee and conversation. No agenda just meet and greet. Additionally, too, speaking of hockey, this will be our second annual police vs fire hockey game. That'll be Saturday, March 11. And that's at 4:30pm at our own ice arena here in Euclid. Again, this is the

second year. Last year's event was, I know the Mayor was there too, it's some really, really good hockey. On both the fire and police side there are many that played either collegiate or high school or some that were semi pro hockey. So it's it's really good hockey. I'm hoping that police win again. They they lost, or sorry, they won last they won last year. So, it was, but it was a very intense, very competitive game. So it was it was a lot of fun. So I'd encourage people to come out and again that Saturday, March 11. That'll do it.

Mayor Gail

9:20

Thank you, Madam Chair. That completes our announcements and reports this evening. Thank you.

COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION

Council President Mancuso

9:24

I will now go on to **Committee Documentation**.

And I will begin with the Executive & Finance Committee meeting held on February 8, it was session one of our Budget Hearings.

During that time, we did a budget overview with the capital budget overview for 2023. We reviewed the Recreation Department budget Director Stevens, we did the Planning and Development Department and its review with Director Grogan-Myers, and then each department reviewed and answered questions asked by the council members and some of those questions to be answered the following session.

On 2/13, we had a second Executive & Finance Committee meeting. The second session of our Budget Hearings. At that session we heard from Judge Gallagher, who reviewed his 2022 core activities, which included programs to assist people with expungement of records, assisting with job placement, and other programs. He also told us about the need for his budget so that he could indeed replace computers, so a new case management system can be implemented in 2023. Chief Haddock discussed the fire department activities in 2022. Chief Anderson, Assistant Chief Anderson discussed the grants that have been obtained in a pilot project that they are now involved in. Director Sweeney discussed the law department activities in 2022, presented their proposed budget. She also reviewed the HR department in that session. Director Smith reviewed the Finance Department's 2023 budget he also reviewed the tax department along with it budgetary requests for 2023. Council President discussed the proposed Council budget for 2023, which includes a

discussion about raising salaries for the nine council members beginning with the 2023 election. Mayor Gail discussed the Mayor's proposed 2023 budget and answered questions.

The third session was on February 15. That was our third of three. And we began with the Police Department, that budget which was presented by Chief Meyer and Cynthia Powell with additional information provided by the Finance Director. We also reviewed the Animal Shelter budget for 2023 and discussed the availability of now two full time FTE's to assist with Animal Shelter issues. Service Director Knecht reviewed all areas that are part of the Service Department and an additional FTE, which was added in 2022 for superintendent position. Ms. Grida discussed the Building and Housing Department explaining differences in line items or response to questions by committee meetings. She also discussed department numbers of current FTE's and the current open positions and explain how the nuisance abatement program worked and how the city gets reimbursed for city services on private property. Ms. Grida said there were also some residents that wanted to take advantage of the Sidewalk Program that is again going to be held in 2023. There was also a request made by Councilwoman Hannun to discuss the potential hiring of a Grants Manager who could oversee the various grants being written and utilized throughout the city. And there will be research into this suggestion, and then a discussion in committee with council and administration. If you want in detail so that I wasn't reading this for three hours, it would be good if you really want to see the details of each or one of the departments. You can view it online, you can go to our website, you can go to the library, and you'll get much more detailed information. With that, I will turn it over to Councilman Wojtila.

Councilman Wojtila

13:07

Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to make a motion to approve the Board of Control minutes from January 30, February 6 and February 13, 2023. And the Executive and Finance Committee meetings on February 8, 13th and 15th, also 2023.

Council President Mancuso

13:22

Thank you do I have a second? So moved by Councilman Jarosz. All in favor, "Aye."

Thank you. We now come to the portion of the meeting where we have the **Committee the Whole for Legislative Matters**. Anyone wishing to speak come to the podium. Give us your name, address

and try to keep your comments within five minutes. Seeing none, we will now move on to our legislative Oh, you wanted to get up? Sorry, sir. Sorry. Oh, sorry.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – LEGISLATIVE MATTERS ONLY

Council President Mancuso

14:00

Push the green button. Yeah.

Bishop Tom Owens

14:02

Living Waters Church of God. 24951 North Lake Boulevard. Okay. Reason why I'm standing to rise. I don't come these meetings, I haven't been here a long time. I haven't been here since. Probably since. The Mayor was the city Council President and I've watched people come and watch them go. Council changes. I've been here 26 years.

Council President Mancuso

14:24

Well, welcome back.

Bishop Tom Owens

14:25

Thank you. But tonight, I have a problem. You know, don't get involved with the drama and the stuff that goes on the city. And I don't want to bring all that up and I've stayed out of your guys's trouble.

Council President Mancuso

14:37

Sir, does this pertain to any item on our agenda today?

Bishop Tom Owens

14:40

Oh, no, I'm sorry. Apologize.

Council President Mancuso

14:42

Okay. So what I have to ask you to do, I apologize, Is when we finish that agenda there will be a second Committee of the Whole, okay, then come up. Okay. Will, that work?

Bishop Tom Owens

14:51

Thank you. That's fine. That's reason why I said I couldn't hear. I mean, okay, good. Notice these gray hairs. I'm not as young as I used to be. I say huh, a lot.

Council President Mancuso

15:00

Thank you. We will now move to our **Legislative** agenda. Madam Clerk, please read the first agenda item into the record.

LEGISLATION

Clerk Laboda

15:07

First Reading of Ordinance 013-23. An ordinance to determine to proceed with the plan of services of the downtown Euclid Improvement District and to provide for the levy of assessments in said District.

Council President Mancuso

15:25

Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin the discussion. So moved by Councilman Tolton, second by Councilman Steele.

All in favor, "Aye."

And we will go to Director Grogan-Myers to begin the discussion.

Planning and Development Director Grogan-Myers

15:35

Thank you, Madam Chair. Council. If this feels like deja vu, this is actually the third round of legislation related to this, the special improvement district in the downtown area. This is the final piece though. So what this relates to is the actual assessment of the special

assessments if you will, the levying of those special assessments on the properties themselves. So as you may recall, on January 17, you passed Resolution 05-2023 that was declaring the intent that it was necessary for these special assessments to be levied. This is the actual operably operationalization of that resolution. So we're requesting first reading tonight as we continue to work with property owners. This is really another way for us to help make sure that downtown property owners who will have these special assessments levied on their properties to be aware. We also did a direct mailing to all the property owners using tax mailing addresses. So this is just taking another opportunity to make sure the community is aware make sure downtown property owners are aware. But, ultimately we will go through the three readings as we continue to work with the property owners and the future board of the special improvement district to get everything set up and running.

Council President Mancuso

16:47

Thank you. Comments by council members. None? I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So Moved by Councilman Jarosz, second by Councilman Epps.

All in favor, "Aye."

I'll entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forego the second and third reading. Yes, sir? It is the first reading but you, you don't need to go to three?

Planning and Development Director Grogan-Myers

17:15

Madam Chair, we will take all three readings.

Council President Mancuso

17:18

You want to go to all three. Okay. All right. Sorry, my mistake. Sorry, Sir. Okay, so I'll take a motion to go to the second reading. So moved by Councilman Epps, second by Councilman Jarosz.

All in favor, "Aye."

Okay. Call the roll.

Clerk Laboda

17:35

Tolton, Yes. Epps, Yes. Jarosz, Yes, Hannum, Yes. Wojtila, Yes. Jukic, Yes. Steele, Yes. Tanner, Yes. Mancuso, Yes.
Motion to send to a second reading passes.

Council President Mancuso

17:51

Thank you, Madam Clerk, please call. Please read the second agenda item into the record.

Clerk Laboda

17:56

Ordinance 014-23. An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Services to have bid documents prepared, advertise for bids, and award a contract for waterline replacement on East 206 (East 205 to Edgecliff), East 211 (South Lake Shore to Lake Shore) and East 216 (Lake Shore to Edgecliff.)

Council President Mancuso

18:23

Thank you. I'll take a motion for passage. So moved by Councilman Jarosz, seconded by Councilman Wojtila.

All in favor, "Aye."

And we will go to Director Knecht to begin the discussion.

Service Director Knecht

18:33

Thank you, Madam Chair. This grouping of streets will be the second grouping of three streets that we will be bidding in later March of this year. The other three streets that are going to be done are East 193, East 195 and East 196, off of Euclid Avenue. As you recall those were approved last year, we were not able to move forward with them due to the availability of the waterline itself. But now that Cleveland water has made some adjustments, we will be able to move forward with that project. And I would like to move forward with this grouping of three streets, Also. This work is being funded by Cleveland water department's suburban water line replacement program. Plans are already drawn up and approved by Cleveland water and we are ready to go out for bid for this work. As I said this would be bid in later March. This project would go on this year. And

at the end of the project, the road surface would be repaved. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have this evening.

Council President Mancuso

19:41

Council members. Councilman Epps

Councilman Epps

19:42

Thank you, Chair. To Director Knecht. And thank you for explaining about the streets next. My questions for this particular item were what were the previous streets that were created in the building. There were three sets, what were the first set if you could tell me that?

Service Director Knecht

19:57

There are two sets that will be built in March, the first set is East 193. East 191, 196 Off of Euclid. As I said, that was last year, we had discussed that and approved the plans for that and had hoped to move forward until Cleveland water put the brakes on that project.

Councilman Epps

20:14

I understand I heard all of that. So that is, and then we're done with the waterline replacement for what we have planned to do? (For this year.) Okay, the 206, 205, 211, the ones that you have proposed and is on the agenda for tonight. Were those also approved? In a previous year?

Service Director Knecht

20:35

Yes, those were approved a number of years back. Those were waiting on approval from Cleveland water to be able to move ahead. Design work was approved several years ago.

Councilman Epps

20:45

Prior to the 193, 195, 196? (That's correct.) Because then my question is, why if those were already approved, why are we putting

these, these streets ahead of those. So I'm glad that you explained that we should be seeing legislation when in about 193, 195 and 196.

Service Director Knecht

20:59

That legislation has already been approved.

Councilman Epps

So there's nothing we're going need to do then. You're going to do the work when?

Service Director Knecht

We will be bidding that also in March. (Okay.)

Council President Mancuso

21:06

Thank you. Other discussion? Councilman Tolton.

Councilman Tolton

21:12

Thank you, Madam Chair. To the Director. Just maybe to clarify for the public where the funds are coming from. Can you explain a little bit about where the funds are coming from?

Service Director Knecht

21:23

Yes, Madam Chair to the Councilman. The funds for this repair work is from Cleveland waters suburban water line replacement program. That is a program that Euclid became a part of a number of years ago. And that allows us to have water lines replaced on these streets and that work is paid for by Cleveland water. The city then picks up at the end of the project, any overruns and also pays for the paving of those streets at the end of the project.

Council President Mancuso

21:59

Councilman Wojtila.

Councilman Wojtila

22:00

Thank you. Madam Chair to Director Knecht. So, based on the waterline locations that were there, do you anticipate any sidewalk and or curb repair replacements on the streets?

Service Director Knecht

22:11

Madam Chair to the Councilman, there may be some incidentals from the replacement sections that need done, but it's not total replacement of curbs, sidewalks and aprons.

Councilman Wojtila

22:22

Okay, thank you and best guess when that want to work would actually occur?

Service Director Knecht

22:27

Madam Chair to the Councilman, we would hope that that work would start in sometime in mid May and be completed then this year. (Thank you.)

Council President Mancuso

22:39

Other discussion? All right, we'll close this out with Councilman Epps.

Councilman Epps

22:44

Thank you again, Chair to Director Knecht. So just a little bit more history. So 193, 195, and 196 were all voted on last year, but obviously still having equipment issues just as the reason why these got put off. Why wasn't there legislation for these already? For these streets already? Like why are we getting this legislation subsequently, or subsequent to the legislation for the other streets?

Service Director Knecht

23:12

Madam Chair to the Councilman, these three streets, the bidding was not in the previous legislation, only the design work was done. At the time that we did the design work, we knew that there was a delay in being able to procure waterline. So we were not sure when these were going to be bid, so we waited for the legislation to bid these until we were sure that we were going to be able to get the material.

Councilman Epps

23:40

So then the legislation though, for the 193, 195, 196, we're going to have to have additional legislation for the bidding or has that legislation been passed already for those?

Service Director Knecht

23:49

Madam Chair to the Councilman, that has been passed already.

Councilman Epps

23:52

So, I guess then I am wondering, why aren't we doing 193, 195 and 196? The legislation has already passed for all of it for the bidding and everything. Why are we doing those streets now? Because it just seems like they're getting pushed off further.

Service Director Knecht

24:06

Madam Chair to the Councilman, those are bidding at the same time that these are bidding in March of this year. They will the projects will be going on concurrently this year.

Council President Mancuso

24:16

Thank you. Okay. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Epps, second by Councilwoman Jukic.

All in favor, "Aye."

I'll entertain a motion to close debate. I just did that. I'm sorry. I'm reading on to the next thing. I should just stopped doing that. I want

to make a motion to suspend the rules and forego the second and third reading. So moved by Councilman Jarosz, second by Councilman Wojtila. All in favor, "Aye."

Those opposed? - - -

Madam Clerk, please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

Clerk Laboda

24:53

Epps, Yes. Jarosz, Yes, Hannum, Yes. Wojtila, Yes. Jukic, Yes. Steele, Yes. Tanner, Yes. Tolton, Yes. Mancuso, Yes.

Ordinance passes.

Council President Mancuso

25:04

Thank you, Madam Clerk, please read the third agenda item into the record.

Clerk Laboda

25:09

First Reading of Ordinance 015-23. An emergency ordinance amending ordinance number 148-2022, which makes the annual appropriations for all expenditures for the City of Euclid for the period ending December 31, 2023.

Council President Mancuso

25:32

Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin the discussion. So moved by Councilwoman Jukic, second by Councilman Jarosz.

All in favor, "Aye."

And we will go to Mayor Gail.

Mayor Gail

25:45

Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to thank Council for their participation and questions and interest in the budget process. We had three full hearings and discussions. We're hope this, expecting this to be the first reading and would invite any additional questions, comments, ideas to be shared with us. Either give us a call, send us an email, happy to discuss or answer any additional

questions. But I'm happy to answer any tonight or, again, we're expecting this to be the first reading.

Council President Mancuso

26:18

Thank you. Discussion. Councilman Epps.

Councilman Epps

26:22

Thank you Chair. To Mayor Gail, when in respect to revenue replacement. We, was last year is 4 million was that the first revenue replacement transfer last year? (Yes.) And then we're in your budget for this year proposing a \$3 million transfer for revenue replacement as well. And then the final \$3 million for revenue replacement being in 2024? (Yes.) Okay. I just wanted to clarify that for the record. And I just want to make clear, obviously, this is the first reading, the conversations will be will go on moving forward over the next couple of readings. Prior to the second reading, I will announce to my colleagues tonight that I do have a series of strategic cuts that I am proposing that we had the administration and council at least consider in this particular budget. And the main reason being you've heard the Mayor talk about 4 million in revenue replacement last year, from COVID money as well as 3 million this year and additional 3 million next year, after that we will not have any revenue replacement funds to use. And we will be in a very, very, very difficult position financially as a city as a whole. What I'm predicting or what I'm suggesting that we do, and I hammered in on this during our budget, the budget process as well, is that we start to anticipate, though us, start to anticipate where we're going to be in 2025. And start to making cuts today to try to minimize the amount of cuts and the impact that the cuts that will have to be made in 25 have on to the actual residents of the city. And so I just want to let my colleagues know that those suggestions, as well as some of the details on the council budget that we discussed in Chambers as well, will be coming prior to the second reading of this legislation. But I just want to get everyone engaged if possible. And in this budget process, as we move to pass, this is probably going to be passed at the second meeting in March. And we are really going to be in a very difficult position financially come 2025. And I just think that it is responsible for all of us to be forced, knowing that that's going to be the case, we need to be starting with some type of strategic cuts now as opposed to being in a position of force to do so. So, so wanted to make sure that I make that clear, these budget conversations are still ongoing. I like some of the things that have been put out here as

far as capital improvements and things of that such. But we have to be very careful. Knowing we're going to be broke in the next two years. So I just want to make sure I make that clear to the public and to the administration that that is still the intention for me in particular. Thank you.

Council President Mancuso

29:00

Thank you, Sir. Other discussion?

If none, I'll take a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Epps, second by Councilman Jarosz.

All in favor, "Aye."

I'd like to make a motion to send this to a second reading. I need a second. So moved by Councilman Tolton. Madam Clerk, please call the roll on sending this to a second reading.

Clerk Laboda

29:31

Jarosz, Yes. Hannum, Yes. Wojtila, Yes. Jukic, Yes. Steele, Yes. Tanner, Yes. Tolton, Yes. Epps, Yes. Mancuso, Yes.

Ordinances, Motion to send to a second reading has passed.

Council President Mancuso

29:44

Thank you. We will now go to the second **Committee of the Whole**, the **public portion**, where the residents may speak two topics for the good of the city. Those wishing to speak, please come to the podium. Give us your name, address and keep your comments to five minutes.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – PUBLIC PORTION

Bishop Tom Owens

30:03

Sorry, Madam President, I apologize. All right. Like I said, I haven't been in the chamber for a long time and I do my best to stay in my lane. We have, in 26 years we've helped a lot of citizens in Euclid and that's not bragging. We've done everything we possibly can. To help people we've given up more than 14,000 stoves, refrigerators, needy families, clothed more than 50,000. But the last several of the last several years or 15 years ago, I told some of the administration, we're going to have a problem with the problem that we have with

what's going on in our city and it's happening. We have a great great police department, wonderful guys, many women work hard. I watched them and it's been a privilege to be part of them, and they do an excellent job. My church has been hit seven times. They drove up the, the front steps went through the front doors, that's the first time. They tore up the poles out of the ground, 700 pounds of concrete, that's the second time. Tore up bush's, polls, sidewalks, tore down the house, he did over 100 miles an hour. Now this is the second time they've hit my church. This summer they almost ran over the guy that mowed my lawn, twice they've almost done that. Somewhere on the line. And this is the problem I have. So I was told he was in jail. He's a felon. My understanding is a felony warrant, there was a weapon involved, there was drugs involved. Hit my building with over over 100 miles an hour and \$100,000 of damage and counting. So now when I go to court on Tuesday, I didn't know it was traffic court. I had no idea, I thought they were going to arraign him, he's not there. Someone in their wisdom turned him loose. Now I've talked to the Attorney General's office, I have family that worked for them. My brother in law was deputy from BCI. And I've talked to many, I don't quite get it. If they break the law. This guy's a bad dude. He's got a record. He's a felon. He's got a felony warrant. He's got a gun. He's got drugs, drags the girl from the passenger side to the driver's side so she could take the fall. Help me to understand what I'm missing. And then when I talked to someone from the law department like, well, it's a traffic violation. It's a traffic violation? Really? Is that Is that what that is? \$100,000 in damage. I don't know it's a little more than that to me. If the daycare worker would have been there, she'd be dead. Good thing she wasn't there and good thing the kids weren't there. Because they'd have been dead. It hit the building so hard. It knocked all my doors open. Every door my building was open. Without a without a key. We've got to do something. It's not just my building. It's the crime and we got to support the police department. We got to do more. We have to do more. Somewhere on the line. It has to stop. They broke into my office stole stuff from my office. They shot out the windows of my front door of my house, the outreach ministry house. They stole my air conditioners, they broke into trailers and everything else and meanwhile back at the ranch, now that I find out Miss Mayor, I got someone in your office that's trying to cut my throat and decides she wants to help shut down my building for violations. I can't do what the insurance company's not gonna let me do. I'm in, I'm in limbo. I'm not gonna shut my church down for Holy Week. And I'm not gonna do it for Easter. I'm not gonna do it. I'm not gonna do it. We do an Easter egg hunt every year 50,000, 50,000 eggs and we do it for free. We do it with the city now. Doesn't cost them a dime. I'm glad to do it. You know why? Because I want to help the kids and help

families. But somewhere along the line, someone has to help me, a half a million dollars in damage. Please, I'm begging one of y'all, do something. Do something. Help the police department keep these people off the streets. I don't care what happens to Cleveland. That's Cleveland's problem. I'm talking about Euclid. We have to do something, open the jail back up. Let's do something I don't know. I don't have the answers. I just know that every time I turn around, I've got a building that's destroyed. I got someone that's, that's tore up something and it comes out of our pockets. Not once have I come and ask you for anything. This is my first time, I have not cried, not whined, not complained. Not one time. Now, enough's, enough. And too much as nasty. From the immortal words of Popeye, I've had all I can stands and I can't stands is no more. And if I have to Miss Mayor, and we'll keep coming back until the Law Director gives an answer or you fire her or replace her or whoever else that you have on your staff. Because that has to stop. I don't have, you know, since COVID, I have a small group now. We have to rebuild. I can't keep spending all this money. I'm gonna be on the corner begging pretty soon if we keep this up. So I'm asking you tonight. Help me. Help me. Just help me with this problem. Help the police department with this problem. They arrest the guy and they cut him loose. How do you cut him loose? It's not right.

Council President Mancuso
Thank you, Sir.

Police Chief Meyer
35:18

I had some prior knowledge that Pastor may be speaking through one of the captains who's she's trying to work with him on this, on this, on this motor vehicle accident. So, like many things in Euclid, what starts out as an accident or something minor seems to snowball into bigger things. We always from traffic stops to traffic accidents, we tend to find a dope, guns in the car, people with felony warrants, it seems to be just a common, it's what we expect. I don't know that other communities would expect that, I doubt that many would. But that's what we've come to expect here and unfortunately with this particular accident. I remember this one because all of the gun seizures, I acknowledged the officers. But in this one, this weapon was recovered at the scene of motor vehicle accident, car crashed in the church. The driver and passenger had attempted to switch seating positions prior to police arrival. The drivers left suspect attempted to flee the scene on foot. He was eventually taken into custody after, after a struggle with police is found to have a

history of criminal convictions which would preclude him fully possessing a firearm. Additionally, police located and seized a digital scale packaging material, marijuana and marijuana packaging material. So with this individual, they both had injuries. He was transported to the to the hospital. And as usual, our officers can only spend so much time. And he was we were told by the medical staff at the hospital, that it would take hours before he would be released. We don't have the people to sit on him. So we left and like many things charged him via warrant. So he was written traffic citations for many of the issues related to the building. And then a felony warrant was issued for his arrest. And he still has an active felony warrant for the felony of the third degree of weapons under disability. So it doesn't surprise me. Most people don't show up for the court dates anymore. It's just common just zero, in my opinion, and absolute lack of law and order, particularly in Cuyahoga County. Because there's really no consequence for anything you do. The police, remember can't control, I have no say in the consequence. I don't, I'm not the courts. I'm not judges, I'm not probation, I'm not parole. So this is the kind of kind of thing that we're, I don't know, that we're, that we're used to. So he he did not, looks like the individual, from best I can tell didn't show up for his initial court date. So he's given another court date. And individuals supposed to be at Municipal Court on the 28th. We'll see if the individual shows up, at which time he'll have a felony warrant. And hopefully, he'll be taken into custody at that time. As far as the firearms weapons under disability, the firearms charges, we're averaging at least one a day. So we have filing cabinets full of 1000s of warrants, open warrants, so we do our best to serve those. The problem is most of the time, we have no, no jail or facility to take them to. And even if we did to be completely honest with you, whether it's adults or juveniles, I don't have much faith in our legal system to hold offenders accountable. So people know that I'll speak my mind. I'm in my 28th year and I'm disgusted by, by just the law, the lack of law and order, particularly in this county.

Mayor Gail

39:21

The other thing that I'll add in, I've had conversations with Bishop Owens is the other piece and it won't, car coming 100 miles off of the off ramp, I don't know that it'll stop, but we're working with service to look at what's the best way whether it's a guard rail, whether it's landscaping, whether it's boulders, to try to protect the building, and that it's a particularly susceptible corner to people cars going out of control. So we're looking at it from that perspective as well. And we'll continue of course to keep working with Bishop

Owens to get the building fixed up and make sure it's safe for the public to use when we do appreciate your partnership and ongoing support in the city. Thank you.

Police Chief Meyer

40:05

I do want to add too, is that as far as the the damage and those things, now they become a civil matter. The police department has no authority to, to criminally enforce any of those type of things. So it becomes an issue then for insurance companies. I don't know if this individual had insurance, I don't know if anybody does, or unfortunately, the building owners insurance companies to try to, to sort these things out. And I don't know what the what the limits are and what courts can order criminally for restitution, but I think the dollar amount is is like \$500. So it's not, it's not going to make any difference to substantial damages done to a building. Thank you.

Resident - Ms. Taylor

40:47

Good evening. My name is Pearletha Taylor, 1495 E193. And I live off Euclid Avenue. Zip code 44117. And I'm giving you all this information because I'm very disappointed with some of the things that has gone on in our area. I want to thank Councilman Tanner for all his support and effort in trying to help our area, he have been driving up and down our street and in our area, and he has noticed just the things that we are noticing. And some other council people probably have also. We have a house that was shot up this weekend. Last Friday night. This is a property I'm not giving it addresses. But I have complained several times about this property. It's been going on ever since 2019. We have given addresses, we have given names. They come in my unmarked cars, they take up the street. But so far, they've gotten smart, because lately, they are not parking down on my end of the street. So I don't see them all the time. But when I do go out, I see them I will call the police. We have a no parking sign. But I know it's a shortage of police. They are not able to get out all over the city because everyone is having problems. And I realized that and I accept that. But we have senior citizens also afraid to walk to the corner store. Because these people have come in and taken over. It's not rental property is like LLC, have someone had bought a house and having parties, events and different things. And they don't care about the neighborhood. Now this is the second shooting in less than three months, someone is going to get hurt. A child already had been hurt, but the next one may get killed. And I am so upset with what is going on with the city. Because we tried to do other things

and improve rather than fixing our problem. We have a problem in the City of Euclid. And we need to start working on those problems. How can you talk about redoing downtown when you have neighborhoods being destroyed? You have streets that is messed up. I'm looking at the agenda. We've been waiting for years to get our street paved. Not paved but waterlines. We have more water breaks than anything. When we run our bathwater we get sand coming up. We call in the water company over and over and over again. They come up patch it up. Every year. They said we put you on the list. We own that list. By the end of the time of that season. we've knocked off the list because someone needed more than we did. Now it's a problem in Euclid and the problem need to be fixed. And they start right here at City Hall. The residents can come up here 1000 times, complain and talk, but what is gonna happen, until City Hall start doing their job and it counts and people start looking at it. It's not a north side. It's not an east side. It's not a south side. It is Euclid and we all should be getting the same treatment. No one should be treated any different. I'm looking at all the sex offenders we have, every year we get them. This is four that we have gotten since December. Four new sex offenders, 2 in Indian Hills, one on 193. One on 195. This is just this year. Now we're not talking about what we had last year in Indian Hills. They have more sex offenders than they have people and they keep putting more and more and more there and we're told is nothing we can do about it. Where there's children in the area, there is a daycare. Daycare's all around, theres's a playground, and a senior citizen. And they put in a right in the senior citizen building. But everyone says it's nothing we can do. It's something we can do. I watch the news, I read articles, and I see other communities that are doing something. But Euclid is not. We gotta get out of this mind that we just gonna fix one area, and we have our mind on doing certain things it's the whole city. So let's work outside of the box and start seeing what our problems are in the city. You know, we all we have four council people on board here for the, but we don't have enough enough to get the votes passed to get the things done. And I thank you and have a good night.

Council President Mancuso

45:55

Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker please.

Resident - Christopher Litwinowicz

46:09

Christopher Michael Litwinowicz, 21970 Morris Avenue, Euclid Ohio. Not saying to fire Miss Sweeney, but this three items? Chief, we

need cameras. Everything I've heard people come into this city talking about accidents. Even though I was in an accident, though that you know cameras, we need to start investing. Not only sex offenders. In Indian Hills, there's drugs, there's dope. There's fiends. There's a different livelihood out there inside of Euclid. Those people stay up all night. Not to pinpoint that, but I've called people. And I guess there's nothing we could do. Yes, there is something we could do council, if there's a law, and who cares if they gotta sue us. It's labeled seniors. The housing complex is allowing this, not the city of Euclid. So we find out about it. But what can we do? We need immediate action. You're taking somebody out of a home and trying to find them another home. But you don't want to limit them into not, but the complex itself. It's not against the law. The law says they can live with a home. So if you find them an empty home here that they could purchase, or one of these empty landlords in Euclid, but council as the first reading of an amended your fiscal year budget. 30 minutes, I don't think one person here spoke what I've asked you to speak about your \$2 million in debt. You actually you actually \$4.4 million in debt, plus \$5.3 million in debt. So how could council? You know, you guys always pinpointed and argued on the other side, like if I could have had this if I could have been able to, but you're not doing it here? Has there been an allocation for the young family through this budget for at least \$1.5 million for the Mayor and the staff to go down on 222nd over here and if they still live in our community, even though they got a \$4.4 million, you know, so when a council person selects to say, I think we're we're doing too fast. Think about that day. But let me get back on to some other things. You still doing what one person wants you to do? And has anybody looked at the street lighting? How much of the city money pays nothing? How much is collected off the property tax that as we saw were actually being double charged for property tax. Double charge, quadruple. Let's not let's talk about the water. Where is my team here team Euclid to start standing up against the city of Cleveland on the point six of an MCF, if we're not doing nothing illegal, it says that we're contesting the ordinance for your 50,000 residents, and I'm one of them. 150, \$180 water bill, I'm like, my family's might come to your office next time, you know, and ask you for that. As far as as far as the roads, the million dollars, that's enough money right there to buy asphalt, but we need, when I say that, that's 20 miles. So the little eighth of a mile around 191, 193rd. Because 191 was skipped, that it went to 193, then I think it was 194 and such it doesn't make sense not to do that portion. I had a discussion with the council person. 15 seconds left. You know, you gonna do what you gonna do. But the money is an eighth of each little portion. And I think watch that you spend and get the asphalt here and get that machine here. Everything else is squeaky clean. Good job.

Council President Mancuso

51:16

Thank you, Sir. Next speaker, please. Seeing none, we'll now move on to **Councilman's comments**. And we'll begin with Councilman Wojtila.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Wojtila

51:30

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have no comments tonight.

Council President Mancuso

51:33

Thank you. Councilwoman Jukic.

Councilwoman Jukic

51:35

Thank you, Madam Chair, I would just like to acknowledge Bishop Owens and Ms. Taylor and their concerns on the safety and I, when I, when I started a few years ago, we had a presentation with a pastor and his wife just talking, they were doing work in the community and talking about a coming issue that were going to come in the next few years. And I think we're seeing that right now. So what I'd like to say to us is that we should look at, creatively look at things that we can do for safety. And as ideas come to us for creative solutions for trying to address some of these things, I would really like to see us try and implement it. Because this really, we know where it is, I don't need to say much more. But just to, just to acknowledge your experience, and know that we also want to look at whatever we can do to try to improve these safety issues. And I would encourage us to look creatively at some solutions, and then support them when they become available. Thank you.

Council President Mancuso

52:40

Thank you. Councilman Steele.

Councilwoman Steele

52:42

Good evening, everyone. First of all, thank you to all the speakers who came in and boldly stood at the podium. I know it's sometimes can be intimidating. And but you have to get your point across you have to let people know what's going on. I said this before, and I say it again, safety, safety, safety. I know our police officers are doing everything they can but we as citizens, we can do better. If you see something in your neighborhood, you know is something's not right. And I know people say why? I call, I call, I call... keep on calling. Keep on calling, keep on being the squeaky wheel gets the oil eventually. It does. But we as, as my council, council person said earlier, we have to think outside the box. The safety thing is affecting everyone. A church, a church? I, I have a problem with that. And I'm sorry, Pastor that you, you and your congregation is going through that. I can't say, Oh, I can fix it. No, I can't fix it. But I can really try and do something. We all need to have a brainstorm or do something, this has to stop. It has to and I don't know what to do. But we have to all make a commitment. It can't be one person. It can't just be the council. It can't just be the Mayor and administration. It has to be all of Euclid. It has to work as a team to stop the crime. Thank you. And that's all I have to say.

Council President Mancuso

54:38

Councilman Tanner.

Councilman Tanner

54:41

Thank you, Madam Chair. I understand the frustrations of the residents of Euclid. I walk, I drive. I'm out on those streets. I'm not just sitting back trying to do nothing. I observe. A lot of times I go out at night. So sometimes you have understand, you might see me, but I'm gonna not be alone. But I understand the frustration. We do have laws, we have nuisance laws are in place to kind of curtail some of this problem that we're having, we need to actually use those laws more. I understand that there is a process, I understand, everybody wants to holler. We can't do this, because it's against the law on this. But we have to put some type, we have to come and put some type of stoppage to it. Or we won't have it, what the residents are saying, regardless of where you are on the south side, north side, if this boat fills up sometime you may not see all the water before you sink. And what they're saying is that you, we, we as council, and

I can understand the police department, the police department, 60% is reactive. 40% is proactive. Most of the time you see a police officer is after something has happened. That's when you see, and then they do the job. 40% of the time, they're able to catch that before something happened. I don't look at them, because they're doing the most that they can do. But us as council, us as city leaders, we have to put something more in place. If we have these homes, if we have owners of these homes that want to put people in our neighborhood and don't want to do anything about it. That's their responsibility. I'm kind of fed up where all of a sudden you put something in Euclid, and you sit up and say, Is this your problem? No, it's not our problem. We didn't bring this here. So it's where it's also their responsibility to make sure, if I broke is no different. I have a dog, I don't have one. But I'm saying if I have a dog, my dog runs out and bite somebody. All of a sudden, I got Swat, I got the bomb squad, I got everybody to put me in jail. But at the same time, they turn around and say, Well, my kid goes out steals, robs, does whatever he wants to do. Well, we, we don't want to really push rules on them. We don't really want to upset that we have more rules for animals than we do human beings, and it frustrates the police department. It first they see the residents. And definitely for me, it frustrates Council, we have to work together to find out a better solution to some of these problems. That is just, no you can't do this in Euclid and somehow we have to put our heads together. I do understand the frustration. I do understand, like you say I walked the streets, I report this, we have to do some of that then to sit back and say, well, it's against it. Well, we don't really want to do anything and upset people. Some people have to be upset on this. And that's what I'm saying. Thank you.

Council President Mancuso

58:08

Thank you, Sir. Councilman Tolton.

Councilman Tolton

58:11

Thank you, Madam Chair. Just real quick, and I do understand the frustration from all the residents. And I mean, we all are frustrated what's going on in the community. As we said, and I agree with my colleague here that we have to, you know, continue to put our heads together, try to come up with solutions, as you can working with the county employing, you know, talking with your State Reps, because a lot of those laws and things come from Columbus comes from the County. And a lot of times our hands as, as a city are tied. So we need

to really make sure the residents are looking at Columbus looking at County to make sure that they're enforcing those laws and putting new laws on the books and try to mitigate some of this crime that's going on. But the question is to Director Grogan-Myers, you talked about the speed cameras and talked about the study, when is this going to be completed? And when we when we can see those actual cameras on the streets?

Planning and Development Director Grogan-Myers

59:08

Madam Chair to the councilperson, so first to clarify, so they're not speed cameras, so I'm very clear, right? Yeah, just want to make sure that we're when we're talking about this, we're talking about speed radars. Right. That's what I'm... so you might have seen the trailer moving around the city. This is something that is pole mounted. Or we can we can get a pole to put into the ground just so everybody's aware that we're not taking pictures of cars. We're just tracking the speed and the frequency of cars or the volume of cars, as I shared previously. So we just received those in last week, actually a little bit ahead of schedule, which is a pleasant surprise given the supply chain issues. We are currently finalizing the plan. We will announce that in March. So the second meeting in March you can expect to hear from us with an outline of here are the exact steps residents or yourselves can take to get on list. Obviously, there will be a lot of streets that people will request the speed radar signs to be deployed. But the intent is for us to do it in a methodical way. So that when we get results, we know they're reliable and we know they're replicable. So you know, when a speed radar sign's deployed on your street, when we go to the next street, and the next street in the next street, you know, we're doing it all the same, so that we have reliable results. And when we start to move forward with whatever the next steps are, that could be enforcement, that could be education, or it could be some sort of improvement to the roads themselves, you know, that the same process is being applied to every street. It's not being applied differently because of where the streets located or anything other than just the process we're laying out. So we want to be diligent in that process.

Councilman Tolton

1:00:43

Okay, thank you. And last question to Chief Meyers so we've talked about the speeding and everyone complains about it in the past, we talked about, you know, the accidents on his to his church building. And I spoke to you before about on Euclid Avenue, we could we get

some targeted, much more targeted. And for speed enforcement, they and maybe even partner with Highway Patrol, to kind of get them in here as much as they can. I know they're short staffed, too, but if can we partner with them, especially coming up in the spring and summer.

Police Chief Meyer

1:01:17

Yes, I can, I can reach back out to the Sheriff or sorry, to the State Highway Patrol, as I told you, it can only be on state routes, it's the only place they can do enforcement. And they're able to, and willing to and they're on the freeway quite a bit. And they know that they're more, more than welcome to be here. The Sheriff's Department, I told you, I'd spoken to you before, that impact unit is gone, it's disbanded, they don't have the unit anymore, staffing and other political issues. So they don't have it so that there's there's no assistance from the Sheriff's Department. In that regard. We do have a traffic unit that is much smaller and seems to be basically burdened constantly with trying to handle our, our parking ticket bureau. So that's heavily managed by them to include all the junks, the tows, all those things that we do to that we have to partner with, with the with the tow yard. So we do have those folks that are out occasionally, our biggest group that's out would be obviously patrol. But then we have that community response unit, who is out who makes a huge amount of traffic stops on any given day. And they use those traffic stops for two things, they use them for community engagement. And they also use them for guns and drugs and they seize huge amounts of of both. And then obviously in the process, they'll, you know, they'll, they'll write tickets. Along with that. The driving behavior that I see whether I'm in Mentor, Solon, Cleveland, Euclid is insane, and we all see it. I think it started again during COVID, when law enforcement backed off when there were too many people on the road, but backed off of some of the enforcement due to health concerns and other concerns of the community. And then I think it just continued, along with some incidents that occurred in policing and with the community and the police have just heavily pulled off and pulled back from enforcement so as not to be on CNN, to not to be sued, and not to be crucified by elected officials. The media. So, you know, we encourage our officers to go out there and do as much of that proactive stuff and traffic enforcement as they can. There. They do a phenomenal job as far as guns and drugs and that sort of thing. The consequences for those arrested for these crimes is basically non existent in Cuyahoga County unless you commit a violent crime where you actually have a victim. I don't have any faith in the system whatsoever to hold you

accountable for your actions. So we arrest people with guns or dope. And they usually get secret and you know, double secret probation or something of that nature. It's a revolving thing that and you have judges and other elected officials that see them more as victims than as perpetrators. So there's nothing I can do to you know, clearly to change some folks who have that mindset. I think the this this whole political kind of debate and thing that we were in the last couple years, has, I think people have had this misguided thing. Sure, there things are issues of race, and there are issues of race and racism in policing and those sorts of things. But we can't just move away from holding folks accountable in the police being the police, for the fear of these things, our communities, and let's face it, particularly our urban communities are being crushed by this by only crime, it doesn't affect all communities the same. So our officers are encouraged and rewarded, you know, through being recognized for their actions to go out, get guns, drugs, make those impact kind of arrests and and, you know, be out there in the community to do these sorts of things. It's difficult to, because the majority of my time in the police department's time right now is spent trying to recruit, hire and retain officers. Again, I'll say it again, I don't know what we're going to do here shortly when the numbers that we just can't draw people to this profession anymore. It's, it's, it's crazy. So he's talking about the, at this point, we had the two retirements, I have an officer who's going to be called up for military duty is going to be gone for a year, there's nothing I can do about that. I have three other officers who are probably going to be taking positions with other police departments. So right now, it's just a basically, you know, we're just there's this finite number of officers, and we're just kind of stealing from each other. There's not enough new people that are that are coming into the academies that we're drawing into the profession. So we're really, really struggling, and the suburbs are able to draw a huge amount of those officers away simply because of their pay. And I think this council would I think some jaws would drop if they knew what the first class patrolmen were making in some of these communities that surround us. And they don't see, clearly they don't have the same scrutiny. And they certainly don't have the same level of calls. So all of these things are working, very difficultly against us. So it's, it's it's just, it's probably one of the most difficult times for law enforcement right now. And simply just drawing folks to this profession is becoming a problematic, and right now we are at, I know that we're, we're, we're we're given the budget to be at 103, 104 officers, we're at 94 officers right now. And we'll probably go to 92. here shortly. We are in the process of trying to hire. And hopefully we can, we can move those folks along. But it's become so competitive. Somebody asked me in a budget hearing, can't we have them sign something saying that they'll stay with us if

we pay their way through the academy, we can, now other police departments that want to, they want to steal them, they'll pay off that to the city, they'll pay that that debt, just to drive to grab these, you know, these qualified police officers. So we're dealing with so many issues at the same time right now. And I'm trying to keep the morale of the officers and their understanding that they know they're supported, they want to go out, they want to go out and drop the hammer, y'all, all right, they want to go out and do law enforcement. I don't know that this county will support that politically. So I don't believe it will. So I think the the irony of the defund movement is that it's going to exponentially increase the cost of police departments. So to retain officers, you're going to have to pay them more. I think that in we moved into these technology things this this technology is getting extremely expensive. These the body cameras, which I love and our officers love are going to get more and more expensive every year. We were just let us know by flock camera after \$2,500 per camera per year. And you know, they don't see that going up. Oh really, because it's three grand. So our cameras gonna go up \$10,000 a year starting in, I think they're gonna give us a break and 23 but in 24. So these costs are just going up and up and up. And I think in many ways we have, you know, many in the defund community to thank for that.

Councilman Tolton

1:09:04

Do I have two seconds?

Council President Mancuso

1:09:07

Well, this is why, yes, tonight you can, but this is why you ask all your questions first.

Councilman Tolton

1:09:12

Right. And I did, but this is just a, just a follow up. And and I appreciate Chief Meyer, your candor. Definitely. But I guess I'm asking you today and you kind of answered it, but kind of roundabout is there any way then we can tap into the traffic? You know, I understand that the ticketing and towing and all of that. But is there any way especially maybe like in the mornings and the afternoons and some our main thoroughfares if we can have, you know, the traffic sit on like, you know, and we always talk about you go through Wickliffe you know,

when you cross that bridge, you slow down because you know, there's gonna be an officer there. For the most part, can we start doing that on some of our major, Eucild Ave? Lake Shore? Can we start doing that if we're not doing that at a great rate? And that's my last question.

Police Chief Meyer

1:09:57

I, absolutely, we can attempt to focus more, more of our resources on those things. I understand that. And I think that Wickliffe and Willowick, those are wonderful examples, they don't even have remotely near the call volume that we do, not even remotely. So I want to make sure that when we compare, we're doing apples to apples, not apples to oranges, but we certainly can look into and try attempt to focus more resources on that, again, when I see whether I'm driving here, or in Mentor or wherever, I see driving that I just did, just, I can't, I just can't even comprehend. And it's because people just don't fear. They don't respect the law anymore. And it's just, you know, this is something we've created as a country, you know, so.

Council President Mancuso

1:10:46

Councilman Epps.

Councilman Epps

1:10:47

Thank you, Chair. A couple of things. The first thing I want to say to Miss Taylor from Heritage Park, who spoke. I did, I'm not sure if you have walked in by that point. But when the legislation came up, I remember to actually pressed pretty hard to make sure that you all weren't being pushed aside again, for these additional streets. And we have been told that these, your streets are going out for bid the exact same time as the ones that are being voted for now, your streets have already been voted on and the legislation has already been passed and everything, we just needed to get these through, and now all of them will be bid and that work will be done simultaneously at the same time. So I just want to make sure that you know that that is going to happen this year, they're expecting to work sometime in May. The other thing, good to see Bishop Owens, it's been a long time so much to the extent that I feel like it, it's probably late to congratulate you on the Bishop. But Pastor Owens was who I remember referring to you as years ago, I was familiar

with the most recent situation at your property, but did not know that had had been so it's so many different instances, um, over the years, and just know that we are listening. I also want to address something that was said, in respect to making sure that we're supporting the police and giving the police everything that we need for everything that the police need in order to be able to do their jobs. There has not been one thing that this police department or this administration has asked this council to do to support them that they have not gotten from this city council. And I think it's important to say that because I think if you come to these meetings, or you listen to these meetings and listen to the back and forth that happens, it's pretty clear to see that there is a huge lack of leadership in general, in the city right now. And that's a big part of what the problem is. You hear resident after resident talk about what's not happening with the police. And let me say, and I say it all the time. And I think it's the one part that I say that everyone acts like I've never said before. But here in Euclid, we have some of the best officers in the world. Why do I know that? Because I have had encounters with them. I've had, I've met them, I've encountered them, I know that we also have some of the worst. Why do I know that because I have encountered them. I've had those interactions with them. I've met them. And so therefore I know that. And these are things that we can't continue to ignore. I think that from an administration standpoint, from a leadership standpoint, from a city that is 46%, above the national average, when it comes to crime. I think that the stance from our administration and our police department should always be when residents come here with issues such as we've heard tonight, what it is that we are doing, we cannot continue to come here on the record, and make and talk about all the things that are happening around us so that the county is or is not doing. We know that these things are real. And I've talked about them in speeches that I've given here as well. But let's be clear, there are a lot of things that you guys are doing. And when these residents come in with these issues, that should be the response. But it is different spots about what it is that we are doing in the way of law and order, as opposed to this defeated mentality is there's nothing that we can do. What I hear when I hear that I heard a forum that the Police Chief and the Mayor of Cleveland did at a church a few weeks back. And one of the things that Chief said that he made clear in the midst of everything that's going on, yes, this is a national problem. One of the things that he made clear was all of the things that they are doing same thing for Safety Director, Kerry Howard, all of the things that they are doing, to try to minimize these interactions that are happening on the streets of Cleveland. I think that that has to be what we are always doing. And we also have to make clear which he did in that interview as well, is that he sets the tone for the entire

department. And I'm sorry, it's frustrating to hear the tone. Though the candor is appreciated. We quite sometimes I get information from you out of here when you're frustrated that gives me insight to why certain things are not happening. But that impression goes out to residents all over the city as well, when our Chief sets a tone of, there's nothing we can do, there's nothing we can do, there's nothing we can do, which is what we constantly hear that I can't help but to think that the officers that work up under the Chief are have the same mentality, because again, hear from time and time again from other Chiefs and other departments that the Chief set the tone for the department. Now, I get a lot of these things out of your hands, we totally understand that. But let's be clear. And I want to make this clear to residents here, as well as, as well as residents at home. The problem we have here in Euclid that makes us so different from these other communities, we talk about is a huge lack of leadership and enforcement on the executive branch side of this room, and I won't stop talking about that. Because, again, I'm not running for re-election. So I will talk about that. But I won't stop talking about that, because it's the truth. And we have to do more of acknowledging the truth. Thank you.

Council President Mancuso

1:15:54

Councilman Jarosz.

Councilman Jarosz

1:15:56

Thank you, Madam Chair. I think a lot of my colleagues have already kind of echoed the frustration we all feel regarding these issues, and it's often, sadly, the most vulnerable, who bear the brunt of, of these sorts of criminal activities and such. So definitely share that frustration, understand where everybody's coming from, and the only thing I can think of too, is, what are we willing to do? And I mean, that from a political will perspective, whether it be and I'll be frank, you know, I'm a member of the Democratic Party, the Democratic Party runs, Cuyahoga County runs all the cities, more or less, and they're all buddies, they all go to each other's fundraisers, they all glad hand, they all help everybody out, and who holds whose feet to the fire? Who's talking to the judges, who is talking to the new county executive and saying, Hey, what are you going to do for our community? Because we all get their Christmas card about their next fundraiser. You know, and I think there is a function of one party, running everything not willing to hold each other accountable, because we all have personal relationships. And that

might be something that's an issue as well. Again, what are we willing to do? Are we willing to, you know, the pendulum has swung way too far in one direction? I want say the word draconian, but are we willing to swing it the other way? Are we willing to do things that maybe have people call us names? Are we willing to do things that might have a couple people upset and protest once in a while? Because I'm, my concern is for the innocent, hardworking, decent people. I really don't care about whether the guy who had the drugs and the guns and the selling crashed into his, you know, poor church for the umpteenth time. Weather the sentence he gets a little bit too stiff. He earned it, right, time and time and time again. You know, what are we willing to maybe this counsel, do we speak in one voice and say we're willing to accept X? You know, I don't know. I mean, you there's a lot of cases, we could all look at and say okay, this, you know, the only thing that really works, is putting the bad people away. That's ultimately what, what works. And then when we have judges who won't do that, who view their court as social services, versus doling out justice, that's a problem. And we hear it way too often, they view themselves as, you know, because I have empathy, I can be almost unearned virtue in a way. I will be a, I'm removed from the decisions I make. And at the end, the hurt falls on somebody else. And I get to wash my hands of that, because at least I feel good about my own self. I don't know. I mean, obviously, we don't have an answer tonight, but I do know myself. For my few years remaining in this seat. If there's an idea, bring it to us. I'm, you know, I went to a funeral the other day. I'll close up here. And it was Mr. Schoen, who I mentioned and life-long Euclid resident, and it was packed. It was hundreds of hundreds of people packed. You know, who was packed with people who used to live in Euclid. That struck me as that. So why? And there's myriad reasons why that may be. But don't think for a second that safety isn't on top of everybody's list. So what are we willing to do? You know, you get what you, you get what you tolerate. And too often we ask the police to do the impossible, we asked them to do too much. At the same time, we ask them to do too little. Do this, but don't do this, do this, but don't do that. So it's tricky, so I'm hoping I'll close with this. Out of complete, sidenote received a letter from John Carroll University where my daughter attends. It congratulated her on making the Dean's list and it said, if you would like to be recognized by your community or school, please contact your appropriate local official. That coincidentally is me. So, I would like to congratulate her on making the Dean's list.

Council President Mancuso

1:21:04

Thank you. Council, Councilman Hannum.

Councilwoman Hannum

1:21:12

Thank you, Madam Chair, I would like to echo my councilmembers concerns and say that I also, I hear the concerns I do feel this, myself. I'm open to ideas, I'm willing to think outside the box, I'm going to put some thought some effort into this. And hopefully, we can come back with something to present to everyone and, you know, tackle a little piece of this at a time. Thank you.

Council President Mancuso

1:21:41

Thank you. Okay, first of all, I'd like to give my condolences to the Langman family. Darryl Langman is a former council person of ours and his mother, Dorothy died in the last week. So keep them in your prayers. We all got the neighborhood traffic reports, it should have been in your box. This is part of the stuff that we're talking about. So try to familiarize yourself with it. Because when we sit down, we need to be as knowledgeable as the data is providing for us. Because there are some things in here that can also help. Even as I'm reading through, I'm jotting notes like, oh my god, I never thought about this before I went and do this before. So please take the time, we all have a paper copy. I'm sorry, but I do better when notes are on paper. But take the time to read it and become comfortable with it. Because I think soon we're going to be in the arena where we need to talk about what can we do? How are we doing it. And that's where some of this energy can take place. Not the traffic crazy. Not that it's the worst thing. But this is one of the areas we can actually make an imprint on, I believe. So see if you agree. The only other thing I have is I'm going to ask all of Council; We leave here, we talk with our residents, we do all that the people that are responsible for this building have to stay here until we leave. And most of them are here at 7:30 or eight o'clock in the morning. So if you're talking to a resident, that's one thing, but kind of keep it as short as you possibly can. But I would really like to try to wrap it up like 15 minutes after we leave here. And we're done. So that they can also shut off lights, lock doors and do all the things they have to do before they leave. Okay, so just kind of tuck that away. It'll just be a little more respectful to our, the timing of all the associates who also take care of us. So with that? Yes, sir?

Councilman Epps

1:23:41

Madam Chair, I'm sorry. And I do know your history as well with Mrs. Langman. But I also wanted to and I got thrown off with my comments. But send my condolences to Councilman Langman and to you and everyone else who know his mother. The services stuff was today. So I just wanted to make sure that I sent my condolences to the Langman family as well.

Council President Mancuso

1:24:00

Thank you. If there's nothing else, I'll take a motion to adjourn. So moved by Councilman Tanner, second by Councilwoman Steele. All in favor, "Aye."

We are adjourned



Clerk of Council



Council President