

THE GRIFFIN REPORT

Serving the Buckeye, East 93rd, Fairfax, Larchmere, Little Italy, Slavic Village & Woodland Hills Neighborhoods



Engage with Councilman
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#ILoveWard6



A Message from Councilman Griffin

Season greetings everyone.

This year has been a challenging year as we continue to face a deadly pandemic, job loss, public protests and a struggling economy.

But despite these social challenges, the citizens of Cleveland and of Ward 6 have shown that we are tough and resilient in the face of adversity.

We are better together. And that is the focus of my message throughout this newsletter.

Never, in my life time, have we had to rely so much on each other like we are doing now. **"Social distancing"** is a new household phrase and wearing medical masks in public is now in vogue.

We are warned not to hold or attend large gatherings, as they and even small gatherings with people outside your household circle, easily spread the highly contagious coronavirus. **I know these tasks are difficult, especially this time of year, but they are necessary for our survival.**

Most of us are complying with these life-saving remedies, though some of us are in denial.

Unfortunately, many people have lost trust in our institutions of government, but I believe the incoming administration will help renew our faith.

I am proud to say that I still have faith in our democratic system; faith in the American people; and faith in the public and private sectors working together to move our country ahead.

"I urge everyone to take pride, ownership and responsibility in your community."

However, moving ahead requires all of us – from Ward 6 to all corners of the city and the nation – working together.

I was somewhat disappointed to see low voter turnouts in Ward 6 on Election Day and low responses to the U.S. Census tallies this year.

I hope subsequent elections will see busier voting polls. **I urge everyone to exercise your most basic civil duty as an American, as a Cleveland citizen and as a Ward 6 resident to vote.**

Finally, I urge everyone to take pride, ownership and responsibility in your community.

Volunteer for community clean-ups, check on an elderly neighbor, mentor a young person, attend neighborhood meetings.

Again, everyone working together and looking out for each other can dramatically change our community.

Let us begin.
Best,

Blaine A. Griffin

Councilman Blaine Griffin, Ward 6

Cleveland Lead Safe Housing Initiative to Begin

Beginning March 31, 2021, the City of Cleveland is requiring residential rental units to receive a Lead Safe Certification. The Lead Safe Certification will be rolled out in phases. There is a quarterly schedule for property owners to get their Lead Safe Certification between March 2021 and March 2023. The quarterly schedule is according to the zip code of your rental unit. After all eight groups are certified, the cycle repeats.

Beginning March 2021, rental units in 44120 and 44135 zip codes must have their certification. Those zip codes are in Ward 6 and Wards 1, 2, 4, 11, 16, and 17.

By June 2021, rental units in 44111 and 44106 zip codes must have their certification. Those zip codes are in Ward 6, 7, 9, 11, 16 and 17.

To find out the entire zip code roll out and to find out what to do, including landlord resources and workshops, please go to the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition at leadsafeCLE.org.



"WE CAN NO LONGER SIT BACK AND ALLOW OUR CHILDREN TO BE LEAD POISONED IN THIS CITY."

Councilman Blaine A Griffin
Community Leader / Councilperson

I THINK THIS IS A FIGHT THAT WE ALL NEED TO FIGHT "

- Fred
Community Voice



LEAD SAFE CLEVELAND COALITION

JOIN THE LEAD SAFE WORKFORCE!

Help us make sure no child in Cleveland is ever lead poisoned.

Renovation, Repair, & Painting (RRP) Training Eligibility

- License or certification not necessary
- Experience needed:
 - General Construction/Carpentry
 - Handyperson Experience

Lead Clearance Technician

- No experience necessary (all training provided)

Eligible workers can sign up for **FREE** training sessions at LeadSafeCLE.org/work.

LEAD SAFE CLEVELAND COALITION

Not Certified?
Eligible workers can sign up for **FREE** training sessions through the Lead Safe Resource Center!



Scan the QR code above or visit us at LeadSafeCLE.org/work to sign up now!

Griffin's Legislative Notes



Councilman Griffin Appointed the Head Safety Committee

Councilman Griffin was recently named chairperson of City Council's Safety Committee which oversees the budgets and policies of police, fire, EMS and the city dog kennel. Together, they represent more than two thirds of the city's general fund budget.

"Safety is the cornerstone of any thriving neighborhood," said Councilman Griffin. "If people don't feel safe in their homes or walking through their neighborhoods, then any initiative our local government takes will fail."

Councilman Griffin has put together an ambitious agenda to address safety issues, including:

- ✓ Restoring trust between residents and the police.
- ✓ Reducing violence and nuisance activities.

- ✓ Recruiting culturally and racially diverse safety forces.
 - ✓ Making sure our safety forces are well equipped and trained.
 - ✓ Overseeing the construction of a new police station on the city's East Side.
 - ✓ And most importantly, listening to the community.
- "As the Covid19 pandemic continues to spike, so too does crime in our city," said Councilman Griffin. "Now, more than ever, we must stand together against criminal activity. We can't allow the hands of criminals to take over our neighborhoods."

Councilman Griffin Pushes Legislation Creating Division of Health Equity and Social Justice

Councilman Blaine A. Griffin recently sponsored legislation authorizing the mayor's office to create a Division of Health Equity and Social Justice within the city's Department of Health.

The legislation, aimed at overhauling the health department, includes hiring a commissioner whose job will include developing a strategic plan to make the department more

effective and relevant.

That task includes addressing major public health issues, including systemic racism which is a root cause of inequity in health care.

The commissioner will be charged with identifying strategies and goals to promote health equity and social justice.

"This is a necessary move to shine a light on systemic racism in our community and to

proactively free ourselves from this insidious hatred – a hatred that deeply hurts all of us, regardless of race," said Councilman Griffin. "Quality health care is a right for all, not just a few."

The city is now interviewing applicants for the commissioner position and plans to hire the new commissioner by the first quarter of 2021.

NEWS YOU CAN USE PARKER'S PLACE

In this time of uncertainty one thing remains the same: our team's unwavering resolve to serve the residents of Ward 6. Please take comfort in knowing that **Councilman Blaine A. Griffin and his team cares about Ward 6 residents and we are here to work collaboratively with you.**

As the Executive Assistant to Councilman Griffin, one of my duties is to pass along helpful tips to the residents of Ward 6:

- For **CHORE Program** Members request snow removal, by calling 216-664-3998.
- For **snow removal on street**, call City of Cleveland Department of Streets 216-664-2224.
- **Requests for street light repairs**, call Cleveland Public Power 216-664-3922.

Contact the office of Councilman Blaine A. Griffin at 216-664-4234 or email me lparker@clevelandcitycouncil.org with complaints, questions and concerns.

In your service,
Laveta L. Parker
Executive Assistant
to Councilman Griffin



Councilman Griffin Challenges Community to Step Up Against Crime

With the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic comes the spread of crime in our community as people are losing their jobs and feeling hopeless about their futures.

You and I don't have the power to rid the world of the spreading virus, but we do have the power to stop the increase of neighborhood crime, street-by-street, block-by-block if we come together and meet the criminals head on.

Therefore, I am asking the community to step up, not step back.

And that **first step is getting to know your neighbors so you can create a network of communication** through phone trees, email chains or any other method to stay in touch. Organize **regular block-watch meetings** and if you see something suspicious in your neighborhood immediately call the police. **The non-emergency number is 216-621-1234.** If the police don't show, call the **Fourth District Commander Brandon Kutz at 216-623-5400 or Third District Commander Dorothy Todd at 216-623-5300.**

If you are a person publicly wanted for criminal

activity, consider calling the **Fugitive Safe Surrender program** (*see article below*) which encourages people wanted for non-violent felonies or misdemeanor crimes to voluntarily surrender to the law in a faith-based or other neutral setting. The program is run by the U.S. Marshals Service. Call the Cleveland chapter at 216-522-2150.

Also, if you are an ex-criminal who served prison time, we need your help too. If you hold a troubled background because of dumb mistakes you made in the past, it's time for you to turn the page and give back to your community. You can help senior citizens or mentor school kids or help organize programs aimed at keeping our community safe, peaceful and vibrant.

As the saying goes, "It takes a village."

There's plenty of work to be done in the Ward 6 Village, so let's get started.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. My phone number is 216-664-4234.

Enjoy the holidays,

– Councilman Blaine A. Griffin

Fugitive Safe Surrender Hotline Created 1-877-FSS-USMS

From the U.S. Marshals Service

Peter J. Elliott, United States Marshal for Northern Ohio, Bishop Joey Johnson of the House of the Lord Church in Akron, and the Reverend C.J. Mathews of Mount Sinai Baptist Church in Cleveland announce the creation of the Fugitive Safe Surrender Hotline.

In 2005, Pete Elliott, along with Reverend Mathews, created the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program in Cleveland. During the 4-day period at Mount Sinai Church, 850 fugitives peacefully and voluntarily surrendered. Due to the success in Cleveland, the program was implemented nationally where over 75,000 fugitives have peacefully and voluntarily surrendered.

With the current Covid-19 concerns and the inability for large gatherings, the FSS

Hotline has been created to supplement this very successful program. **For those fugitives who are wanted, the FSS Hotline will give them the opportunity to peacefully surrender and take their first step toward a second chance.** For those who qualify, job placement and community re-entry services have been built into this program.

United States Marshal Pete Elliott said, "This program offers a great opportunity to deal with past issues and move forward, as well as provide services that will help participants be successful in the long run. I am grateful for the community partnerships that have made this program possible."

According to Reverend C.J. Mathews, "This program is the first step at a second chance. Literally thousands of fugitives have taken



advantage of this opportunity to clear up their warrants and move on with their lives without having to worry about their past catching up with them."

Bishop Joey Johnson added, "This is a proven program, a successful partnership between the faith community and law enforcement. The past success speaks for itself; this is a unique opportunity to deal with any outstanding warrants and take advantage of assistance to move forward".

Persons with outstanding warrants are encouraged to call the hotline 24/7 for more information.



ABOVE (left to right): Councilman Griffin, Renee Davis (Fairfax resident), Rick Keyes (President & CEO of Meijer), Vern Daniels (Fairfax resident) and Dr. Tomislav "Tom" Mihaljevic (President & CEO) of Cleveland Clinic.

COMMUNITY Highlights

Councilman Griffin conducts a tour of the Fairfax neighborhood with Cleveland Clinic President/CEO Tomislav Mihaljevic and Rick Keyes, President/CEO of Meijer Supermarkets. The City of Cleveland, the Cleveland Clinic and Meijer are working together to bring housing, retail and a small supermarket to Fairfax.



(left to right): Councilman Griffin (center) tours the Fairfax neighborhood with Rick Keyes, President & CEO of Meijer (left) and Dr. Tomislav "Tom" Mihaljevic, President & CEO of the Cleveland Clinic (center left) and community stakeholders.

Cook Paving Turkey Giveaway on East 93rd



ABOVE (left to right): Myra Simmons, Ward 6 Precinct F Committee Person, Councilman Griffin and Keith Rogers, President/CEO Cook Paving and Construction.



LEFT: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority members distributed turkeys in Fairfax.



BELOW: The men of Kappa Alpha Psi and Alpha Phi Alpha join the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho to pass out turkeys in Fairfax.



A Greater Buckeye Road Refresh

The City of Cleveland Planning Department was awarded a Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) grant from Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to conduct a transportation study for Buckeye Road extending from Woodhill Rapid Station on the west to South Moreland Blvd. on the east.

BUCKEYE ROAD REHABILITATION

- PROJECT AREA: SHAKER BLVD. TO NORTH MORELAND BLVD. (1.4 Miles)
- Project to begin first quarter 2021
- Project includes repair and/or rehabilitation of existing roadway pavement, curb, sidewalks and curb ramps
- Budget for streetscape improvements in this phase is \$560,000
- Completion of engineering - September 2021
- Construction 2022



21ST CENTURY STREET

A 21st Century Street should incorporate the following considerations:

- Smart street details

- Green / sustainable details
- Complete Street details
- Universal accessibility details
- Vision Zero details
- Neighborhood priorities
- Equitable design details



PROJECT GOALS

Bicycle Planning:

Explore the potential for bike lanes along Buckeye Road and recommendations for connections to existing and proposed bike paths and other regional assets

Pedestrian Planning:

Identify areas with a high volume of pedestrian traffic and consider interventions and enhanced crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety

Traffic Analysis:

Provide a guide for how to

address the need for multiple modes of transportation in a safe and equitable way with a particular focus on the congestion at the East 116th and Buckeye intersection

Parking Analysis:

Identify parking demands in various locations and analyze redistribution of parking resources based on those demands; look for new opportunities for district parking

Land Use Planning:

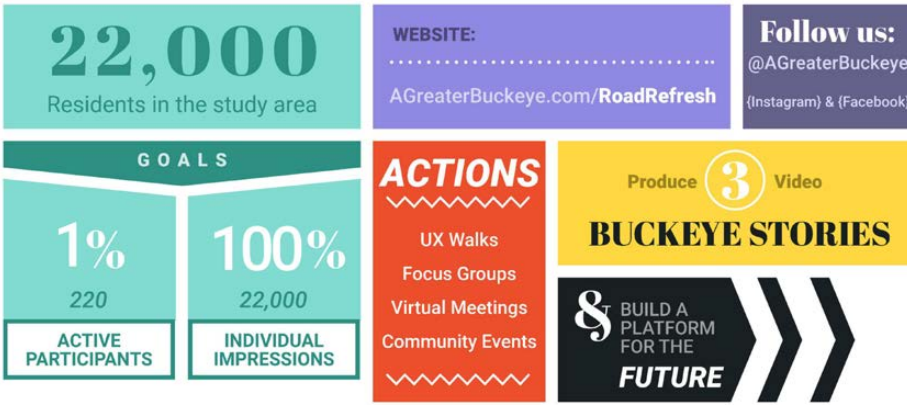
Explore appropriate land use

along the western portion of the corridor and review existing recommendations for the eastern portion of the corridor. Review setbacks to encourage a pedestrian friendly environment. Study preservation and reuse of existing mixed-use buildings, in-fill development, and transit-oriented development

Other goals/objectives:

Help to inform future street resurfacing and the Mayor's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Take part in the Buckeye Road Refresh study.

Visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/BuckeyeRoad



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THE GRIFFIN REPORT



WARD 6 COUNCILMAN

Blaine A. Griffin

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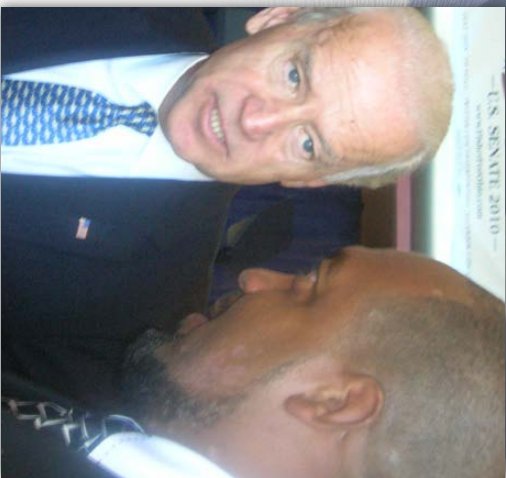
Ward Office: 12200 Fairhill Road, Ste. C145, Cleveland, OH 44120 Phone: 216-791-8683



Welcome SEIU Local 1199
to the Buckeye/Shaker community!



Congratulations to President-Elect Joseph R. Biden
and Vice-President-Elect Kamala Harris



I have had the pleasure
of meeting both of
them and I believe their
leadership, compassion
and commitment to
equality and social
justice will yield
significant results for
Cleveland and for
Ward 6.



FREE Tax Preparation

The Cuyahoga EITC Coalition is now accepting appointments for FREE tax preparation. Maximize your tax return and keep every penny of the refunds you've earned. Free tax preparation appointments with the Coalition can save you hundreds of dollars over a paid preparer. Eligible hardworking families can receive up to \$6,600 at tax time with the Earned Income Tax Credit.



All returns are completed by IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers at tax sites located across Cuyahoga County. When you schedule an appointment, you can easily find the tax sites closest to you. New this year, virtual appointments are also available. We've gone to great lengths to make sure you can get your taxes done while also staying safe.

This service is available for those who qualify and make under \$57,000 a year.

To schedule an appointment, visit our website at refundohio.org, or call 2-1-1.

**Availability of in-person options will vary depending on Cuyahoga County's health and safety guidelines regarding preventing the spread of Covid-19.*


eitc
It's yours, file free & keep it
earned income tax credit

Cuyahoga EITC Coalition

2021

COUNCILMAN
BLAINE A. GRIFFIN WARD 6



NEW YEAR

celebration

TUESDAY • JANUARY 12, 2021 • 6 P.M.

Join us for a virtual celebration, including comedy and theatrical performances by Karamu House artists

REGISTER ONLINE at www.bit.ly/griff2021

Or you may RSVP by calling 216-791-8683
or email bgriffin4040@sbcglobal.net