

Keeping you informed about our neighborhood!

The Ward 8 Citizen

Michael D. Polensek • Councilman, Ward 8 | Fall 2020 | www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org



A MESSAGE from your Councilman Mike Polensek

Since the last printing of the Ward 8 Citizen I could never have imagined what we have been through these last seven months. As I write this article we are approaching 200,000 deaths due to Covid-19. Numerous businesses throughout the city have been shuttered permanently and more will fall before Christmas. I would like to forget the year 2020; it's like a bad dream come true. The greatest nation in the world has been brought to its economic knees by an invisible disease brought to our shores. I would like to report that the zip codes of 44110 and 44119 are still in the middle of the pack as it pertains to the number of confirmed cases per the Cuyahoga County Health Department.

I wish to thank all of our residents who have complied with all the requirements placed on us; i.e. the social distancing and especially wearing of masks. **I don't like wearing a mask, but I do so because I believe it is my patriotic duty to do so as to protect others around me.** I want

"The deadline for responding to the census is September 30, 2020! After that date, the City of Cleveland... could be in for some serious hurt if our numbers come in low."

to thank all, as well, who have gone out of their way to support local neighborhood businesses who are struggling daily to survive.

None of us know how long the Civil Emergency orders in the City of Cleveland will be in effect. Recently, it was announced by Mayor Jackson that these orders had been extended to the end of September. This has affected all of our neighborhood groups and organizations who met on a regular basis. The city continues to frown upon mass gatherings, which includes large gatherings in your own home/yard. Don't be surprised if these orders aren't extended to the end of the year if the number of Covid-19 cases

does not drop significantly.

I know, firsthand, how this has affected many residents and families. Graduates could not have parties or other events to celebrate their achievements, large birthday parties and wedding receptions are also discouraged. I am personally aware of many families, including my own, who could not hold proper "Going Home" services for their loved ones. That in itself is something we as a community have never experienced. It goes without saying that we are under extraordinary guidelines and restrictions. If we follow these now though, we may be around to celebrate later.

Continued on page 2

REGISTER NOW TO VOTE or update your Voter Registration information

Voters must be registered by Monday, October 5 to vote in the November 3 General Election.

Voters must be registered in Cuyahoga County in order to vote in any election. In order to vote in Cuyahoga County, you must meet the following requirements:

- You must be a United States Citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years old on the day of the General Election.
- You must be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days.
- You must **register to vote at least 30 days before an election** to be eligible to vote.
- 17 year old residents can register and vote in a Primary Election if they will be 18 on or before the General Election. 17-year-olds can vote for candidates only.



Visit www.443vote.com to:

- Register to vote or update your address
- View a sample ballot
- View the Early In-Person Voting hours
- Request a Vote-by-Mail ballot
- Track your Vote-by-Mail ballot
- Verify your Election Day polling location

You can also call the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 216-443-VOTE(8683).



2020 Census completion deadline is now Sept. 30th

by Greater Collinwood Development Corporation Staff

U.S. Census Bureau recently announced that the deadline for 2020 Census completion is now September 30th, 2020. The change moves the Census completion deadline UP from October 31st, a full thirty-one days sooner. It is now more urgent than ever to talk with your friends, neighbors and families about the importance of taking the Census.

The Census counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. territories. The Census occurs once every 10 years and determines how billions of federal dollars are allocated to communities that US citizens directly and indirectly benefit from, such as funding for schools, roads and infrastructure.

Response rates for the City of Cleveland currently stand at 49%; **the greater Collinwood community response rates to the 2020 Census lie between 38% - 46%.** GCDC would like to encourage our entire community to talk with your neighbors, friends and family members about the many ways you can respond to the Census and even assist those who need help doing so.

You can take the Census online by visiting <https://2020census.gov/en.html> from your smartphone or desktop. The site does not save your data, so it is safe and private to assist others in taking the Census this way.

You can also take the Census over the phone by calling 1-844-330-2020. Share this phone number with those who do not have internet access or who are uncomfortable with taking the Census online.

Finally, the Census can be completed by mail. The U.S. Census Bureau mailed paper questionnaires to homes mid-April. If you have lost or misplaced your questionnaire, please respond to the Census online or by phone with the number above.

UPCOMING Community Meetings

Mark Your Calendar!

Collinwood Homeowners and Tenants Association

Meets first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm, 15815 Schenck Ave.

Lithuanian Village Association

Second Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm, 877 East 185th St.

Ward 8 Bratenahl Village

Defendants Association

Second Wednesday of the month from 6:30pm through 8:30pm, Collinwood Slovenian Home, 15815 Schenck Ave.

Financial Community Relations Meeting

Community Relations Board, 216-664-3291

E. 156th Street Neighborhood Assoc.

Third Thursday of the month at 6:00pm, Collinwood Center, 16300 Lakeshore Blvd.

E. 79th Street Neighborhood Assoc.

Fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00pm, Five Points Community Center, 813 E. 152nd St.

Collinwood Homeowners and Tenants Association

On-going efforts to discover and explore

Collinwood Homeowners and Tenants Association

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FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC, community meetings for September are cancelled and possibly for October until further notice.

Residents our strongly encouraged to:

- ▶ Stay at home when possible. But when you go out, make sure to support local businesses and restaurants and respect social distancing.
- ▶ Clean your hands often with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- ▶ Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- ▶ Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others! On July 3, Mayor Jackson signed an amended order mandating the use of masks in public in the City of Cleveland to slow the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus. This includes mandatory use in bars, restaurants, shared office settings, rideshares and other shared spaces.

Call Councilman Polensek's Office at 664-4236 for any upcoming announcements.

Message Continued

You all have seen and read about the importance of the 2020 CENSUS. As of this writing compliance in Ward 8 is hovering around 46% and that is one of the higher percentages on the east side of the City. I cannot begin to tell you how critical the response to the Census is, not only for our community but for the entire City of Cleveland.

Federal programs, too, are connected to the U.S. Census. The funds go for schools, hospitals, roads, public works projects and environmental protection. More than \$675 billion is distributed to the states based on the census figures. By not complying with the Census, it is taking money right out of your pocket or that of your family and friends; it is estimated that the community loses around \$18,000 per person over the decade. **The Census also affects federal, state and local representation. We run the risk of losing that representation and the funds that come with it.**

I really don't know what people are afraid of when it comes to answering the census questions. When I filled out my own form, I was surprised at people's reluctance for the questions for they were very simple and straightforward. I found them not to be intrusive at all. **PLEASE fill out a Census Form and return it as soon as possible. The DEADLINE FOR RESPONDING TO THE CENSUS IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2020!** After that date, the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio could be in for some serious hurt if our numbers come in low. Please read the additional CENSUS info in this newsletter. THANK YOU to those who have already returned their 2020 CENSUS.

VOTING! What can I say about this Constitutional right and, in my opinion, a God-given responsibility for all Americans? When I go to the polls or vote by Absentee, I try to remember all the Americans who fought for us to be able to cast our ballot whether it be the men and women of our Armed Services "who gave all;" the sacrifices of the brave women who fought for the right to vote 100 years ago; or, the organized workers who, in many cases, were beaten for their right to unionize. Who could ever forget the men and women of the Civil Rights Movement who were beaten, denied basic rights or were murdered because they wanted to be treated as equals. We owe it to all of those who came before us, to remember their suffering and sacrifices. **I call upon all Ward 8 residents to GET OUT THE VOTE! If you don't vote you have no right to complain about anything.**

I don't have to tell anyone how COVID-19 has

affected basic city services. It seems as though every department and division is backed up and or working with a reduced workforce. Finally, Housing Court is back open but is severely backed up in dealing with outstanding Building & Housing violations. Waste Collection has been another area of great concern. Please follow the guidelines for the placement of bulk items, including mattresses and furniture on the tree lawn. Not following these guidelines can result in fines. **Due to Covid-19 restrictions waste collectors are limited in what they will pick up or touch, so please, if you have questions please call Waste Collection at 216-664-3117.**

I am sure you are all keenly aware of the increase of crime and violence, not only in our city, but nationally. All of us need to be more cautious than ever before and to report any and all illegal activity to 9-1-1. **For the record, my office was bombarded, after the riot Downtown on May 30, with hundreds of emails calling for the defunding, and even the disbanding, of the Cleveland Police Department.** What I found most tell-tale and troubling was that the overwhelming majority of the calls and emails came from suburbanites and even out-of-state individuals. What was even more intriguing was those who wrote me who live in some of the most affluent communities in the County, and that out of all those emails, only four (4) were from the northeast side. **So, let me restate my position, what I hear from our residents every day is that they want more police response on their streets and a police department that is professionally operated and engaged with the community. Any effort to defund the police or disband their activities would only cause more chaos in our society.** Do I think the Cleveland Police Department needs reform, better training and possibly new leadership? My response would be "yes." CPD could always do better and that should be our collective goal; that is, to have the most responsive, best trained department, and one that is reflective of the community.

I will continue to update the community monthly in the **Collinwood Observer** about community issues, projects and initiatives. **Please, pick a copy in the neighborhood or go online at www.CollinwoodObserver.com.**

I can always be reached at my office by leaving a message at 216-664-4236 or emailing me at mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org or mdaley@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY. GOD BLESS.



CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR HOUSING OR AN EVICTION?

You may qualify for free legal representation!

Call Legal Aid at (216) 687-1900 | Visit FreeEvictionHelp.org for more info.



CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

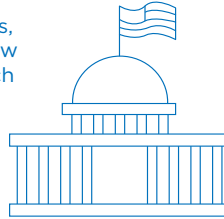
Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.



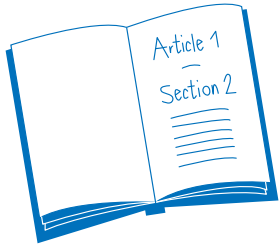
It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

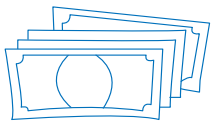


It's in the constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

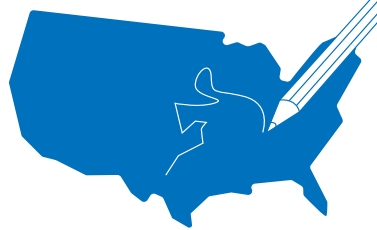


It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

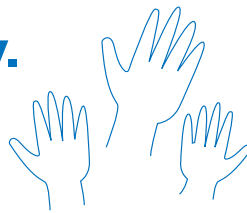


It's about redistricting.

After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



OHIO Self-Response **69.6%**

CLEVELAND Self-Response **49.5%**

The response rate in Cleveland for the 2020 Census is still lagging behind the state and nation considerably. We have to make sure that everyone in our community is counted!

Please respond to Census 2020 by Sept. 30!

Responses as of 9/8/2020; <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates/self-response.html>

Top 6 Ways Census Data is Used in Cleveland



- 1 IDEA**
Decision making at all levels of government.
- 2 BRAINSTORM**
Forecasting future transportation needs for all segments of the population.
- 3 PLAN**
Planning health and educational services for people with disabilities.
- 4 PROJECT**
Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.
- 5 BUSINESS**
Reapportioning seats in the House of Representatives.
- 6 SUCCESS**
Directing funds for services for people in poverty.

TAKE THE CENSUS RIGHT NOW!

Simply take a picture of this QR code with your mobile device to fill out your census today.



Visit online:
my2020census.gov

NORTHEAST OHIO COVID-19 RENT HELP

This lifeline, funded by the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, is for residents who are facing financial hardships due to COVID-19 and need help paying rent.

Income restrictions apply.

NORTHEAST OHIO RENT HELP



LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT
NEORENTHelp.ORG
OR CALL 833-377-RENT

FUNDED BY:



Watch Council Meetings Online

In spite of these trying times, the work of Cleveland City Council continues. Council has been meeting electronically with virtual public hearings and legislative sessions.

Go to www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/calendar to find listings of upcoming committee meetings.

YouTube WATCH (LIVE & RECORDED)
www.youtube.com/user/ClevelandCityCouncil

TV 20 WATCH (LIVE)
www.tv20cleveland.com/watch-now/

Councilman Polensek serves on the following council committees:
Safety (Vice Chair), Utilities and Rules

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The Ward 8 Citizen

COUNCILMAN

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Visit www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org

DIAL-A-NUMBER

Emergency (Police, Fire, EMS)	911
Police (non-emergency)	621-1234
5th District Police (881 E. 152nd St.)	623-5500
Fire (non-emergency)	621-1212
EMS (non-emergency)	623-4545
CityHall(alldepartments)	664-2000
Mayor's Action Center	664-2900
Animal Control (dogs, etc)	664-3069
Building/Housing Complaints	664-2007
ClevelandPublicPower	664-3156
Collinwood Recreation Center	420-8323
Department of Aging	664-2833
Dominion East Ohio Gas	361-2345
Health Department Complaints	664-2300
Illuminating Company	1-800-589-3101
Potholes/Snow Removal	664-2510
Sewers/Catch Basins (dogged)	664-2513
Street Light Outages (C/P)	621-5483
Traffic Signs Down & Missing	420-8282
Tree Trimming/Removal	664-3104
Waste Collection Issues	664-2397
Water Department (leaks, hydrants)	664-3060

**FOR COMPLAINTS OR PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENTS
CALL 3-1-1**



United States Census 2020 2020

Responding only takes a few minutes:



ONLINE
my2020census.gov



BY PHONE
Call 844-330-2020



BY MAIL
Return the form you received in April.

**Census 2020
MUST be completed by
SEPTEMBER 30**

You can shape the future for yourself, your family, and our community for the next 10 years by doing the census. **When you're counted, the information you provide determines how many federal dollars Cleveland receives.**

If you miss the Census, Ward 8 misses out!
(MORE CENSUS INFO INSIDE)



CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19

FACT SHEET

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

People who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 have reported symptoms that may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus:

- Fever
- Chills
- Dry cough
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Headache
- New loss of smell or taste

If you develop symptoms, call your doctor or local clinic for advice.

www.clevelandhealth.org



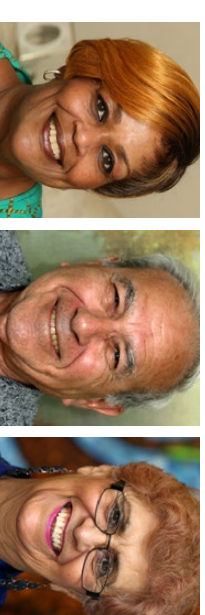
Cleveland CARE CALLS

**For Cleveland Seniors
60 Years of Age & Older
or Adults 18-59 with
a Disability**



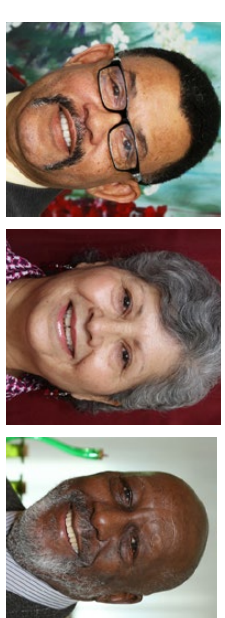
Cleveland Care Calls is an automated telephone reassurance system being offered to Cleveland Seniors 60 and over or adults 18-59 with a disability by the Department of Aging and Public Safety. Through this computerized system, the individual receives a call, on the days they request, Monday through Friday, to check on their well-being. **They can select a time to receive the call between 7 AM - 11 AM. If the individual does not respond to his/her call:**

- System will make several additional attempts in a thirty (30) minute period.



- If no response within the thirty minute period, the Department of Aging will then contact any person that the senior has designated as an emergency contact.

- If the individual or any of his/her contacts cannot be reached, the Department of Public Safety may be asked to make a home check on the individual in question.



To sign up and for more information, please contact the Cleveland Care Calls Project Director 216-664-6316 or 216-664-2833.