

Keeping you informed about our neighborhood!

The Ward 8 Citizen

Michael D. Polensek • Councilman, Ward 8 | Fall 2021



A MESSAGE from your Councilman Michael D. Polensek

Fall is here and it is General Election time. The campaign signs are as numerous as the fall flowers. I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone who cast their ballot in the September 14th Primary Election in the City of Cleveland. With a 16% turnout city-wide, this should be of great concern to all of us, but I am proud to say that Ward 8 had one of the highest turnouts in the city and that directly mirrors our citizen's concern and civic involvement.

On a personal note, in a three-way race I received 77% of the vote, the highest percentage of any council candidate in the city. To say the least, I am very humbled and appreciative of that overwhelming show of support. However, our elections in the city are not over. The General Election is coming up on November 2nd for both City Council and Mayor. I hope I don't have to tell anyone how important this election is. We will have a **newly elected mayor for the first time in 16 years.** It is no secret that there are growing concerns and issues in the city from one neighborhood to another.

"It is clear that the residents, city-wide, want greater attention paid to neighborhoods, especially those labeled as 'Middle Neighborhoods,' like Ward 8..."

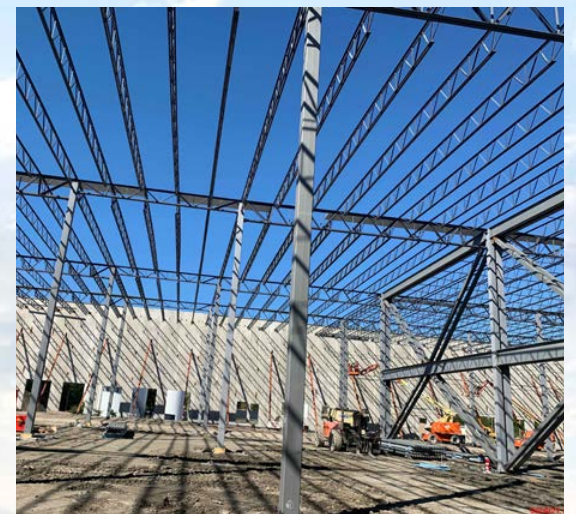
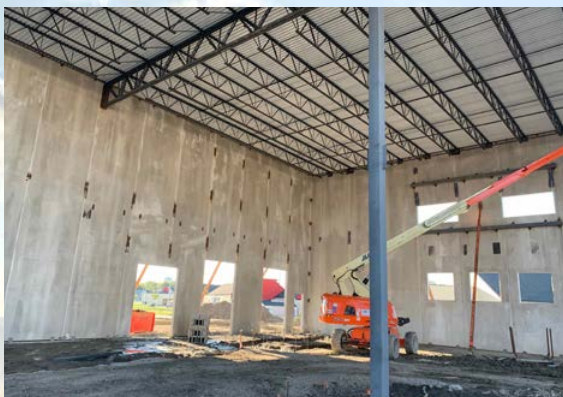
In a recent survey undertaken by the Jackson Administration, the number one concern expressed by Cleveland residents was crime, violence and public safety. That was followed closely by housing issues which include, assistance for home repair and the removal of abandoned/condemned structures, as well as, lead abatement. These are all "quality of life" issues and directly affect how our neighborhoods continue to grow and develop. It is clear that the residents, city-wide, want greater attention paid to neighborhoods, especially those labeled as "Middle Neighborhoods," like Ward 8 and our neighboring Ward 10. For far too long the concentration by the "Movers and Shakers" of our City has been focused

on Downtown, sports complexes and the so-called "trendy neighborhoods" on the near west side, while the majority of our neighborhoods have had to fend for themselves.

I don't have a crystal ball so I cannot tell you who the next mayor will be; Justin Bibb or Kevin Kelley. That is up to the voters in Cleveland on November 2nd to decide. However, between now and Nov. 2nd, all of us need to ask direct and pointed questions as to what their individual game plan and platform is to move our city forward. Our city's population is 372,624 and should be manageable. Yet, we continue to see

Continued on page 2

Food Bank Warehouse Construction Underway



Photos of the construction of the new 198,000 sf. Greater Cleveland Food Bank warehouse facility in Ward 8. Once complete, the warehouse will sit on 18-acres along Coit Road at East 134 Street, adjacent to the Cleveland Job Corps which is just two miles southwest of the current Greater Cleveland Food Bank headquarters on South Waterloo Road. Once the new distribution center opens next year, the main headquarters building will be renovated to better serve its clientele as a "one-stop shop" for needed social service programs. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank thanks Councilman Polensek for his ongoing support of this critical project.

Registration Open for Curbside Recycling

Recycling is returning as the City is shifting to a bi-weekly, opt-in recycling program. **Residents interested in opting in to the curbside recycling program must sign up by October 22, 2021.** Go to clevelandohio.gov/recycling to complete the opt-in form or call **216-664-3030**. The recycling program guidelines, which include a list of those items acceptable for recycling, are also found on the website.



Crossing Guard Positions Available



Crossing Guards are recruited by the City year-round and currently, there are multiple positions available to serve for one of our Ward 8 schools. Guards will earn \$20.50 each day and are required to work two 45-minute shifts during the school year- one in the morning and another in the afternoon. Call **216-623-5080** for more information and for an application.

Protect yourself and your family:

**WEAR A
FACE MASK**



**GET A FREE
COVID-19
VACCINE**

The City of Cleveland Department of Public Health offers FREE COVID-19 vaccines every Tuesday at J.Glenn Health Center (11100 St. Clair Avenue), 9:00 am to 6:30 pm. **Walk-in or pre-register at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov or call the City's vaccine help line at 216-664-2222.**



Free vaccines are also available at many drugstores, including CVS, Rite Aid and Walgreens, as well as at Giant Eagle.

Message Continued

problems in the delivery of basic city services daily.

The challenges we face are not unsurmountable. However, they affect our families' "quality of life" each day. For example, we don't have enough Police Officers on our streets and, as of this writing, we are down 150 officers from what the City Budget called for in April of this year. That is unacceptable. Community Policing is virtually none existent along with Traffic Enforcement. Violent crime is up city-wide and having a debilitating impact on neighborhood stability and growth. Housing issues remain the number one complaint into my office on a daily basis with citizens asking why the Department of Building & Housing cannot enforce the basic housing code especially with regard to absentee landlords and "flippers" and why these same characters never seem to see the front door of the Housing Court. Then, there is the problem as to why it take years, if ever, to get a tree trimmed in this city. This is ridiculous in 2021.

These are fixable issues and yet, they continue to plague the delivery of services. I could go on, but I know you get the point. Something is not working within the City Administration and I keep asking why. To me it is about accountability, proper management and oversight. That has been lacking for far too long. Residents need to know that City Council members do not hire, fire or deploy services or personnel; we are prohibited by the City Charter. However, we are the ones to get the complaints related to these every day. The Charter is clear, the Mayor and his Administration are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the City and the delivery of critical services. Remember, the Mayor also appoints the Cleveland Municipal School District's Board of Education members. **Council is the legislative branch and we deal with the Budget and the Codified Ordinances.**

So, what do I hope happens come January when a new Mayor is sworn in? That he will step back and take a long hard look at what is working in the city and what is not, and then put forth an aggressive action plan to reset the table and redefine our priorities; for the City of Cleveland is a great town. We have assets that other cities and municipalities are envious of and yet, we haven't utilized or built upon those assets to move the city and

region forward. My hope and prayer is that the new Mayor and his management team will finally "get it together" so that we can truly be known as **"the Best Location in the Nation."** I am of the opinion, after what has been happening along our Southern border, the West Coast and the East, the best place to live, work and play is along the North Coast and Lake Erie. Let's not forget that, and make our city and neighborhood the best it can be.

If you haven't seen it yet, you need to take a ride over to East 134th Street and Coit Road to see that the outside walls are already up for **the new Greater Cleveland FoodBank distribution facility.** They are working fast! In addition, I wish to thank my colleagues who supported my efforts to secure \$5 million from the City toward the construction of this critical project. In addition, the interior reconstruction and transformation of the former **Henry W. Longfellow school into a senior housing complex** is well underway. Stay tuned for further updates on this project along with the reconstruction of East 140 Street, Ivanhoe Road and East 185th Street.

REMINDER: NOVEMBER 2nd is GENERAL ELECTION DAY. Anyone, wishing to vote by Absentee Ballot must fill out a ballot request of the upcoming GENERAL ELECTION Nov. 2nd; Applications may have been sent to you in the mail; however, they are also available at the library or through the Board of Elections (BoE) or by downloading a **copy of the application from the BoE's website at www.443vote.us or, by calling them at 216-443-8683.** Absentee ballots will then be sent to you and **MUST BE RETURNED** to the BoE and postmarked by November 1st. **Early voting at the BoE runs through 2:00 PM on Monday, November 1st.** See the BoE website for hours for they change the week before election and the weekend before. **PLEASE GET OUT AND VOTE!**

As always, I may be reached at my office at 216-664-4236 or via email at mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

Sincerely,

November 2, 2021 General Election Early In-Person Voting Hours

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Weekdays*	October 5 - October 8	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays*	October 12 - October 22**	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays*	October 25 - October 29	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 30	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	October 31	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday	November 1	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Weekdays are denoted as Monday through Friday.

**We will be closed on Monday, October 11, 2021 in observance of Columbus Day.

2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115 | (216) 443-VOTE (8683) | www.443vote.us

BIG CITY BOO

October 29, 2021 - 5pm-7pm

Collinwood Recreation Center - 16300 Lakeshore Blvd

TRICK-OR-TREATERS
AGES 12 & BELOW
ARE WELCOME!

Candy Donations Being Accepted
at Collinwood Rec Center

COSTUME CONTEST:
Who Will Have
BEST Costume?



Five Points Streetscape Work Begins, Phase 2

By Greater Collinwood Development Corporation Staff

Greater Collinwood Development Corporation is pleased to announce the start of work on the Five Points Streetscape Project at St. Clair Ave, E. 152nd St, and Ivanhoe Rd. The streetscape project is a two-phase investment of \$100,000 byway of Cuyahoga County Community Development Supplemental Grant for grant years 2020 and 2021.

The streetscape project aims to implement recommendations of the 2018 St. Clair Corridor Study issued by City of Cleveland, City Planning Commission. Beautification, placemaking, greening, pedestrian and cyclist safety are all



recommendations of the 2018 study.

GCDC conducted a series of public listening sessions to discuss its intent to submit proposal, share progress on the project, and to gain community feedback about the intersection December 2019, December 2020 and January 2021. Safe, walkable community with green spaces, public art, and identity were identified as core improvements for the intersection. Commercial

and residential code enforcement was also identified as a community priority for the intersection.

Phase 1 work began July 2021 and includes placemaking banners, crosswalk restriping, bike racks, public art and vegetation control. Phase 2 work will include public art, greening, wayfinding signage, trash can replacement, and placemaking banners.

Greater Collinwood Development Corporation thanks **Ward 8**

Councilmember Michael D. Polensek, Ward 10 Councilmember Anthony T. Hairston, and District 10 County Councilmember Cheryl Stephens for their generous support of the Five Points Streetscape Project.

For details, please contact Krystal Sierra at kssierra@greatercollinwood.org or Jamie Baker at jbaker@greatercollinwood.org or call 216-383-9772.

Eligible Customers Can Save Money on Their Sewer Bills

Any time you flush the toilet or send water down the drain, that dirty water is sent to the **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District**, where it is cleaned and returned to either Lake Erie or the Cuyahoga River. The bills you receive each month help support this and all other clean water investment in the region.

Did you know the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District offers five cost-saving programs that can help eligible customers pay a reduced rate?

- **Homestead Program:** Available to customers aged 65 or older (or customers under 65 who are totally disabled), this program offers a 40 percent discount. Total household income must not exceed \$34,500 in 2021. The City of Cleveland administers this program and, once applicants are enrolled, they receive an annual renewal form from Cleveland. Applications are available by calling the Sewer District's Customer Service Department at (216) 881-8247.
- **Summer Sprinkling Program:** For some customers, residential water use increases during the summer months because of lawn sprinkling and other seasonal use. But most of this additional water does not return to the sewer system. For this reason, the Sewer District offers the Summer Sprinkling Program, in which summer residential sewer bills are based on either average winter water consumption, or actual summer water consumption, whichever is lower.
- **Wastewater Affordability Program:** A 40 percent discount for customers whose



annual income is at or below 200 percent of the federally-established poverty level. Qualifying customers can be enrolled in the Homestead Program, or the Wastewater Affordability Program, but not both.

- **Crisis Assistance Program:** Available to customers affected by a major life event such as sudden medical expenses, job loss or divorce. The Program offers financial assistance of 50 percent of sewer bill balance (up to \$300) toward your account.
- **Plumbing Assistance Program:** Eligible homeowners may receive emergency service line replacements and other plumbing repairs. You must be a homeowner in the Sewer District's service area and meet income guidelines.

The Wastewater Affordability, Crisis Assistance and Plumbing Assistance Programs are administered by CHN Housing Partners (formerly Cleveland Housing Network). CHN can be reached at (216)574-7100.

New rates going into effect in January 2022. For Cleveland residents, the Sewer District charges a monthly base rate of \$9.70 plus \$106.50 for each "MCF" (1000 cubic feet, or 7480 gallons of wastewater) used. A typical household used 0.5 MCF and an average bill is approximately \$63 monthly.

Beginning in 2022, we have expanded our Cost-Saving Programs to include options for renters. More information about the Sewer District is available online at www.neorsd.org or you can call 216-881-6600.

The Ward 8 Citizen

COUNCILMAN

MICHAEL D. POLENSEK



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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**

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UPCOMING Community Meetings



Collinwood Homeowners Meeting

1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:00 PM

(November; Future Meetings To Be Announced)

St. Mary Church at 15519 Holmes Avenue

East 185th Street Neighborhood Association

2nd Tuesday of the Month, at 6:00 pm

Lithuanian Village Hall, 877 East 185th Street

Democratic Ward Club

2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6:30 pm

Collinwood Slovenian Home, 15810 Holmes Avenue

East 156th Street Neighborhood Association

3rd Thursday of the month, 6:00 pm

Collinwood Recreation Center at 16300 Lakeshore Blvd.

East 140th Street Neighborhood Association

4th Wednesday of the Month, 6:00 pm

(October and November)

Collinwood Five Points Community Center, East 152 St.

Questions? Please feel free to contact **Mary Louise Jesek Daley** in
Councilman Polensek's office at 216-664-4236.



**SENATOR
Sandra Williams**
OHIO STATE SENATE



This summer the State Legislature passed and Governor DeWine signed House Bill 110 (HB 110), the \$75 billion state operating budget. The Operating Budget is a policy document that determines the allocation

for state departments and agencies for the next two years.

Senator Sandra Williams secured provisions in HB 110 to provide \$350 million to a newly developed Brownfield Remediation Fund and \$150 million to the Building Demolition & Site Revitalization Fund.

"Ohio has a number of abandoned and unaddressed brownfield spaces. The very reason I sponsored Senate Bill 83 and Senate Bill 84 in this General Assembly is to provide resources to our communities to clean up these sites," said Williams. "Many of these sites create barriers between neighborhoods, stifle economic investment, blemish the beauty of our communities and contribute to dangerous environmental injustices. The funding included in this legislation creates an opportunity to eliminate these sites across the state."

H. B. 110 creates the Brownfield Remediation Program through the Department of Development to award grants for the remediation of brownfield sites throughout Ohio. Each county is reserved \$1 million in funding for each county (\$88 million statewide). The remaining dollars will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

H. B. 110 also creates the Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program within the Department of Development to award grants for the demolition of commercial and residential buildings and revitalization of surrounding properties on sites that are not brownfields. H. B. 110 reserves \$500,000 in funding for each county (\$44 million statewide), with the remaining funding also awarded on a first come, first-served basis.

Details on how to submit applications and projects will become clearer in the coming months. The Director of Development is required by law to ensure the programs are operational and accepting proposals by December 29, 2021.



**REPRESENTATIVE
Terrence Upchurch**
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Rep. Upchurch Announces \$296.3 Million for Education, Health and Other COVID-19 Supports for Ohioans

COLUMBUS – Rep. Terrence Upchurch recently announced that the state Controlling Board approved several items of note this week, including the allocation of \$161.5 million to enhance early childhood education. The funds will help support child care providers navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, recruit employees, and increase access for education. Additionally, \$100 million from the federal government were allocated for schools and local districts seeking to maintain vital educational services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Controlling Board also allocated \$3.7 million to support vaccine distribution and \$200,000 for COVID-19 testing.

"These funds are of vital importance not just for families in the 10th house district but for all across Ohio who have struggled financially because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds will go toward healthcare and helping families and children in times like these. I am pleased the state of Ohio for stepping up and not leaving families behind" said Rep. Upchurch.

The Controlling Board approved other measures to support Ohioans amid the coronavirus pandemic, including:

- \$20.5 million over the next two years to support adoption in Ohio;
- \$6 million over the next two years to improve childcare curriculums and train providers;
- \$3 million for the Ohio Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership;
- \$1 million to reimburse the Adjutant General's Department for costs incurred by providing emergency assistance to Louisiana after Hurricane Ida;
- \$250,000 to help adjudicate claims in the Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations;
- \$115,000 to improve the website and app for statewide traveler information, so that Ohioans can be informed beforehand about road closures, delays, and severe weather;
- \$39,595 to help provide relevant information for the Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations when seeking to adjudicate claims