

Councilman Kevin Conwell | Spring 2022

WARD 9 NEWS

The Drumbeat of the Community

Councilman Conwell Supports Effort to Erase Names of Racists From School Buildings

Councilman Kevin Conwell is praising the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for organizing community meetings to change the names of some schools – primarily schools named after slave owners.

Five schools under consideration for name change are: Albert Bushnell Hart, Louis Agassiz, Luis Munoz Marin, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy, all Pre-K to 8th grade buildings.

“Patrick Henry owned over 70 slaves,” said Councilman Conwell who has introduced legislation supporting the name changes. “How can African American children go to a school that bears the name of a slave holder?”

In 2021, the school district’s board of education, following the lead of Councilman Conwell, passed a resolution to begin a community engagement process that will find more suitable names for schools.

The district has organized working groups with guidelines on changing names. One of the directives says the school board will not “consider the names of people who have documented history of enslaving other humans, or have actively participated in the institution of slavery, systemic racism and the oppression of people of color, women, other minority groups or people who have been a member of a supremacist organization.”

“This is a community effort,” said Councilman Conwell. “And I am pleased that so many people have joined this effort. We will not tolerate the honoring of racists in our precious schools.”

Leon Bibb Way Dedication Ceremony



Councilman Kevin Conwell held a celebration in honor of Leon Bibb’s long broadcasting career, now in his 51st year. Bibb, a Glenville native, was also honored when Councilman Conwell had the street he grew up on (Parkgate Avenue) renamed “Leon Bibb Way.” More than 100 came out for the event and the celebration moved down the street to GlenVillage. Councilman Conwell also presented a resolution to the veteran broadcaster at a recent City Council meeting.



Councilman Conwell Secures Funding for New Women’s Treatment Center, Other Supports

Councilman Kevin Conwell has worked to secure \$2 million in city funds to help construct a new building for an existing treatment center for women struggling with addictions.

Over the last four decades, Hitchcock Center for Women has housed and treated hundreds of women and cared for their children during recovery.

But its facility – a former Catholic seminary on Ansel Road – lacks the necessary space and work environment for treating a growing number of patients.



The center has launched a campaign to raise money for a new facility to be built nearby the existing one.

Besides the city’s contribution, the Cleveland Clinic has contributed \$2.5 million. Hitchcock officials are working to secure other private and public sources of funding.

“The Hitchcock Center is an important and

necessary investment in our community,” said Councilman Conwell. “It is a vital lifeline.”

The center is located at 1227 Ansel Road, overlooking Rockefeller Park. **For more information, call 216-421-0662 or visit www.hcfw.org**

Councilman Conwell has also helped to secure \$800,000 for the city’s Department of Health for domestic violence programs and \$1.5 million for the Rape Crisis Center.

“If we don’t protect women and children, we fail to be civilized,” said Councilman Conwell.

Welcome to The Ward

GlenVillage Welcomes Three New Business

It's been two years since the opening of GlenVillage, a mixed-use development located at 1400 105th Street and Ashbury Avenue. Despite a slow start due to street repair and the Corona pandemic, a number of the Black-owned businesses are continuing to operate and grow. Unfortunately, three of the original seven businesses closed permanently. But late last year, three new Black-owned businesses moved in and are well established.

They are: **Z Express by Zanzibar, House of B Jewels, and I Specz Eyewear.**



"We are excited that these new businesses have selected GlenVillage to set up their operations," said Ward 9 Councilman Kevin Conwell. **"Any business investments in the GlenVillage project – whether large or small – keeps it alive and growing. I am confident that this project is on its way to solid success."**

Olympia Robinson, owner of I Specz Eyewear, recently relocated from a site on Kinsman Avenue to GlenVillage, a move that brought her back to the Glenville neighborhood where she had lived as a little girl. "It feels good to come back," said Robinson. "I love serving this community." I Specz Eyewear fills prescriptions and offers repairs, adjustments and cleaning. You can make an appointment or walk in. Robinson said she likes being among other entrepreneurs working to grow their business. "Helping each other can bring out new ideas," she said.

Four of the original businesses still exist. They are: Premier Barber Lounge, Cleveland Cold Brew, Vitamin Kandie Cafe, and Pipe'N Hot Grill.

Meet Jeremy Taylor, St. Clair Superior Development Corporation's New Executive Director

Jeremy Taylor is a visionary leader with almost six years of experience serving Cleveland neighborhoods as the Director of Community Involvement of Northwest Neighborhoods CDC, formerly known as Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization.

During his time there, he worked on projects empowering residents through participatory budgeting, a safety advisory committee, and by cultivating relationships with stakeholder groups of residents, businesses, and faith-based groups. While serving those communities, he strove to be innovative in approaching issues and inequalities inherent in large cities. Some of those initiatives include facilitating the resident-led restorative justice working group and a long partnership with the Renee Jones Empowerment Center, achieving the goals of meeting residents where they are at, delivering invaluable resources, and providing general encouragement.

He is, and has always been, a stalwart champion of Cleveland's Northeast side. He is the first and current President of the Hough Community Land Trust and a board member of the non-profits, Bike Cleveland and Neighborhood Solutions Inc.

As a contributor to the Cleveland Observer community newspaper, he enjoys writing articles highlighting the east side's robust historical significance, primarily telling the stories of historic yet abandoned buildings that await revitalization.



SCSDC Executive Director Jeremy Taylor

He is passionate about Cleveland's east side community, envisioning accessible and connected neighborhoods where residents and business owners are engaged and empowered.

He is a resident of ward 7, residing in the St. Clair Superior neighborhood, and prior to permanently laying his roots there through homeownership, he lived with his parents and older brother in the adjacent historical Hough Neighborhood. His family has lived there for over 17 years and is active civically in the community. He is a proud alumnus of Central State University, where he holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Jeremy is humbled and excited by the opportunity to now serve the neighborhood he holds dear and calls home. In his spare time, he likes to explore the Cleveland MetroParks, ride his bicycle on Cleveland's streets, golf, and read.



City of Cleveland Social Support Services

The City of Cleveland has demonstrated a long-term commitment to residents, working to create safe spaces in our Neighborhood Resource and Recreation Centers (NRRCs) where families can access free resources and support services. We are committed to working together, with families and other community providers, to identify and help families who are struggling to achieve a better quality of life.

Support Services Provided
Connecting and referring individuals to appropriate



- services
- Medical/hospital-related
 - Long Term counseling
 - Public Assistance

Advocates on behalf of families for public entitlements

- Veteran's benefits
- Social Security

- Medicare/Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Housing Assistance
- Head Start
- Student Loans

Support and guidance for youth

- Stigmatization
- Scapegoating
- Labeling
- Bullying
- Substance abuse
- Unhealthy relationships

Social Support Services Specialist

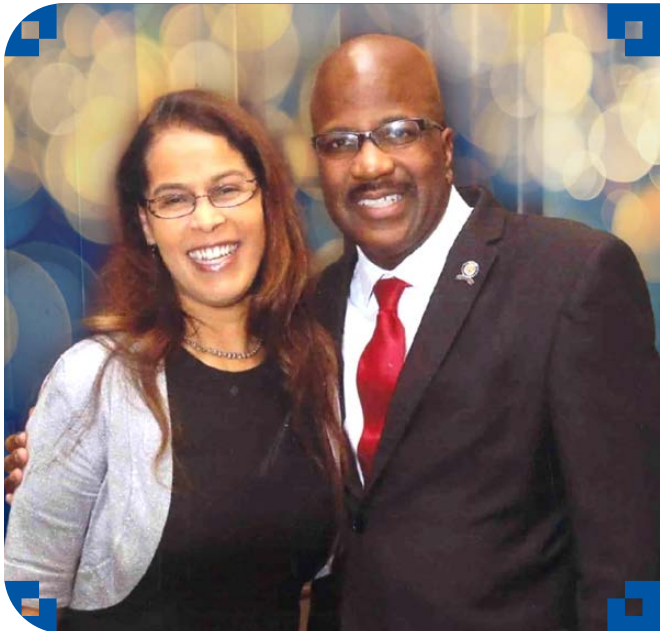
Anthony Sims 216-420-8323
Glenville NRRC & Collinwood NRRC

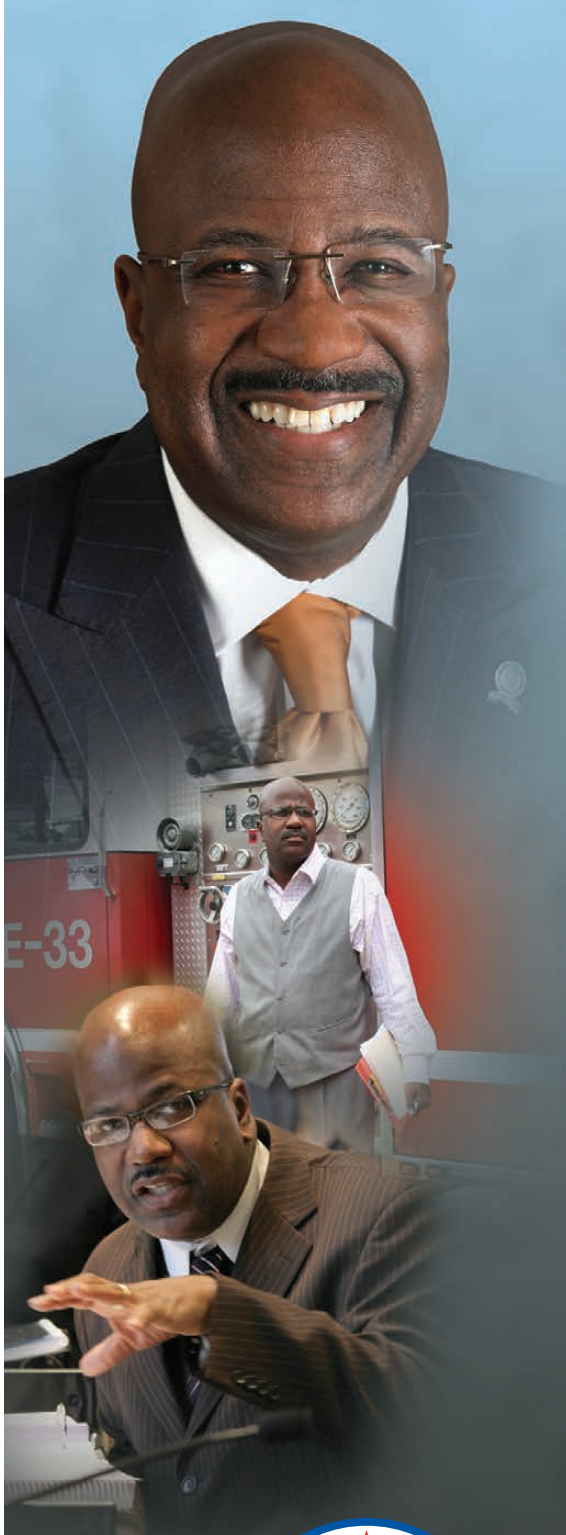
Congratulations!

April 25th marks the 37th wedding anniversary for Cleveland Councilman Kevin Conwell and his wife, Cuyahoga County Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell.

Kevin and Yvonne met when they were kids at the St. Martin De Porres Family Center in Glenville.

That was back in 1972. They became childhood friends and have been together ever since.





A Word from Councilman Kevin Conwell

Dear Ward 9 residents,

I hope everyone is enjoying Cleveland's spring weather as we head into the summer months.

As I walk the neighborhoods in Ward 9, I see signs of progress and rebirth and I am hopeful about our community and our entire city.

We have five new members on City Council and a new mayor, all of whom are bringing positive energy to our local government.

And now that the Covid-19 pandemic is lifting – still get vaccinated – we can finally work our way back to a state of normality. The economic impact of Covid left us with many challenges, but the federal government, through the American Rescue Plan Act, has awarded Cleveland hundreds of millions of dollars to stabilize its economy and continue city services.

Meanwhile, despite the pandemic, my council colleagues and I have been moving major legislation and keeping projects and city services on track.

Here in Ward 9, we're seeing a lot of construction activity, including new homes, apartments and retail shops.

Also, work continues on an intensive cleanup of lead hazards in our Glenville-area homes where, like most old neighborhoods in our city, there is a history of lead poisoning.

I am a co-sponsor of legislation aimed at reducing lead hazards in apartment

"...we're seeing a lot of construction activity, including new homes, apartments and retail shops."

units. The legislation requires owners of Cleveland rental properties to have their units inspected and certified as lead safe.

Years and years of scraping and painting lead paint on our old homes has created a public health crisis, affecting mostly our children. I am determined to continue this lead abatement program, which has received federal dollars as well as money from council, foundations and health systems, until our community is safe.

Meanwhile, please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. My City Hall office number is 216-664-4252. My email address is kconwell@clevelandcitycouncil.org

Until we meet again, stay safe; stay healthy.

Regards,

Kevin Conwell
Kevin Conwell

Councilman - Ward 9

Engage with Councilman Kevin Conwell:

CITY HALL
216-664-4252

EMAIL
kconwell@clevelandcitycouncil.org

WEB
www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-9

Councilman Conwell secures \$175k for African American Cultural Garden



Ward 9 Councilman Kevin Conwell, joined by public and private entities, is hoping to break ground this month on the second phase of the African American Cultural Garden which has been sitting unfinished on Martin Luther King Boulevard for years.

"It's time to get this done," says Conwell who has secured \$175,000 to complete the project.

With ground being broken in 2016, the first major installation of the three-phase design of the African American Cultural Garden was completed; the "Past Pavilion". The concept of

the Past Pavilion is to translate the experience of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. It represents the corridors and dungeons in the slave castles along the western coast of Africa.

The Past Pavilion will also include an Infinity Fountain that depicts the illusion of the tranquility of the Atlantic Ocean as seen through the Pavilion's "Doorway of No Return". The "Doorway" will be a sandstone structure that portrays the notion of unknown transition. The Middle Passage of the Pavilion alludes to the sense of going down into the bowels of the slave ships.

The project is sponsored by the Association of African American Cultural Garden, a non-profit group, with the assistance of public and private sources, including former Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, The Cleveland Foundation, The Holden Foundation, The Park Foundation and Sherwin Williams.

The Association anticipates completion of the project by this summer. Another \$3.7 million is needed to finish the project.

To learn more about the project and to make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit www.aaacg.org

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WARD 9 NEWS

www.clevelandcitycouncil.org

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Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

RESOURCE FAIR SAVE THE DATE: MAY 21ST

Councilman Conwell is working with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to host a Resource Fair next month. Meet community representatives from NEORS, other utilities, and many community support organizations to learn about the variety of resources available to you and your neighbors. The event will be held on Sat., May 21, 9 am - 12 pm at GlenVillage, 1400 East 105th Street.

Council to Expand Police Jurisdiction in University Circle Area

City Council recently introduced legislation that would allow the Case Western Reserve University and University Circle police forces to expand their territorial jurisdiction within the City of Cleveland and outside the property of the university and east of University Circle.

The aim is to increase public safety presence in the vicinity. For CWRU it would include Little Italy and a portion of the police Fifth District from East 105th Street to East 120th Street between Wade Park Avenue and Ashbury Avenue. And for UCI police it would expand to East 123rd Street and Edge Hill Road in Cleveland.

The City of Cleveland is Hiring for Job Openings in Public Safety

The City of Cleveland is looking for recruits to fill vacancies in its public safety departments – police, fire and emergency medical service. Below is the contact information for all three divisions:

- **POLICE - Contact For Questions:**
216-623-5233 or 216-623-5135 or
cpdrecruitment@city.cleveland.oh.us
- **EMS - Contact for Questions:**
216-664-2047
- **FIRE - Contact for Questions:**
216-664-6388 or
firejobs@city.cleveland.oh.us



SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

Free for Cleveland residents in 3rd - 8th grade



Fairfax Rec Center

2335 E. 82nd St., Cleveland, Ohio 44104
June 13th - 17th, 9:30am - 3:30pm
July 11th - 15th, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Estabrook Rec Center

4125 Fulton Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44144
June 20th - 24th, 9:30am - 3:30 pm
July 18 - 22nd, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Studio 105 (Glenville)

1470 E. 105th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44106
July 25th - July 29th, 9:30am - 3:30pm
August 1st - August 5th, 9:30am - 3:30pm

For more info contact: Darelle Hill
216-561-5005 ext. 20
darelle@arts-inspiredlearning.org

- Registration required
- Sign up for 1 or all 6 camps
- Lunch & Snacks provided
- Field trip to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Museum included!



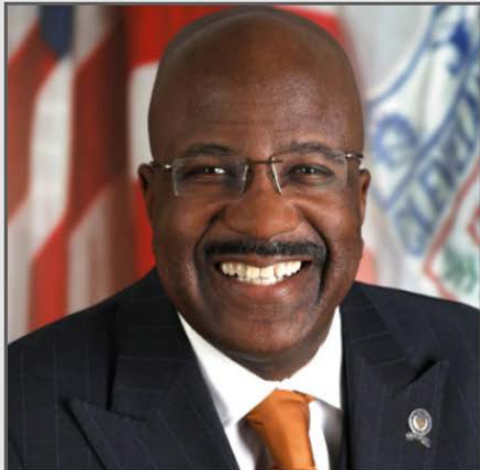
Scan here to register or visit:
<https://arts-inspiredlearning.org/play-it-forward-cleveland/>



Cleveland–Cuyahoga County
A proud partner of the American Job Center network

Councilman Kevin Conwell
Cleveland Ward 9

LOOKING FOR JOB SEEKERS



"I am excited to partner with OMJ|CC to get the word out about these services to the residents in Ward 9."

Don't delay! If you are a job seeker, please contact:

Carly Severo
Carly.Severo@jfs.ohio.gov
(216)-413-3443



1910 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio
www.omjcc.us

OhioMeansJobs
Cleveland-Cuyahoga
County (OMJ|CC) has been busy getting greater Cleveland back to work by offering the following no cost services:

- ▶ Resume development
- ▶ Interview coaching
- ▶ Access to in-demand jobs
- ▶ Computer training
- ▶ Assistance with internet access
- ▶ Scholarships

