

THE GRIFFIN REPORT

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

WARD 6

New Year

CELEBRATION



HOSTED BY

Griff

BLAINE A. GRIFFIN

COUNCIL PRESIDENT • WARD 6 COUNCILMAN

TUESDAY

JANUARY 10

6 PM @ KARAMU HOUSE

2355 E 89TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44106

WAYS TO RSVP



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TOP: Robert Render at the 32nd Annual Senior Day Event at Cleveland Public Hall, being recognized as Ward 6's Outstanding Senior of the year. Pictured with Robert are Sonya Pryor-Jones, City of Cleveland Chief of Youth & Family Success and Ward 6 Councilman Blaine A. Griffin.

2022 Senior of the Year: Robert Render

Robert L. Render III was born and raised in Cleveland and attended St. Mary's and Cathedral Latin High School. After high school, he attended Cuyahoga Community College and graduated from the University of Dayton. While there, he became the 1st Black Student Government President in the history of University Dayton.

Bob honorably served in the Air Force. Bob's career has taken him to the Western Reserve Historical Society and to the Cleveland Public Library to name a few. Bob is president of RLR III and Associates, Inc. and is actively involved in the community.

Bob is an activist. He is secretary of the Fair Housing Board at the City of Cleveland. He is an active member of the subcommittee Shaker Square Alliance, through Organize Ohio. You can often find him engaged with the North/South Moreland Working Group dealing with landlord and tenant issues and

safety issues. Mr. Render is a member of the Executive Committee of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and a Precinct Committee Person in Ward 6.

Mr. Render is president of East 128th Street Block Club Association, a street known as a model street. In the fall of 2021, the East 128th Street Club unveiled a beautiful public art project at Amos Norwood Mini Park. The mural, titled the History of African Americans, provides inspiration, education and illuminates the scope of contributions of African Americans. The mural is unique in that it includes QR codes so individuals can quickly and easily read more information about each individual.

He is the father of 2 sons, Timothy and Marcus and the grandfather of 4, Taj Malik, Emmanuel, Sayvia, Delicia.

Congratulations Bob!



2022 Ohio Restaurant Association Awards

Councilman Blaine A. Griffin was named the **2022 Outstanding Public Official** by the Ohio Restaurant Association. *Congratulations Griff!*



Councilman Griffin with fellow winner Dorothy Pelanda, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture

GRIFFIN’S Legislative Notes

I’m proud to detail some new laws that were passed in 2022 that will positively impact Clevelanders. They include:

- ▶ **Eviction Defense:** Council passed “Pay to Stay” which allows those facing eviction to offer full back pay (or a voucher for full back pay) to stop the eviction process. Council had previously established the “Right to Counsel” program which provides a lawyer free of charge to help those facing eviction.
- ▶ **Stopping Wage Theft and Payroll Fraud:** Working with Guardians for Fair Work, we passed laws that prohibit businesses found in the past three years to have been involved in wage theft or payroll fraud from bidding on a contract, or applying for financial assistance from the city. The companies are required to self-report these “adverse determinations.” The Fair Employment Wage Board will keep a list that will be on the city’s website.
- ▶ **Paid Safe Leave:** We approved city employees who are victims – or are the parents or guardians of victims – of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking to receive additional paid leave that’s not deducted from vacation or other paid leave. We are encouraging all businesses to offer this benefit.
- ▶ **American Rescue Plan Act:** We passed more than \$50 million towards helping homeowners in Cleveland. Money is going to demolish abandoned properties, to help residents’ repair their homes, and to ensure there are affordable homes for families to purchase.

Grocery Market and Apartment Complex in Cleveland Innovation District Under Construction



A new grocery market and apartment complex in the Fairfax neighborhood are under construction and scheduled to open in 2023.

Positioned to help revitalize and transform the neighborhood, the project will significantly contribute to creating a healthier community by addressing food insecurity, supporting economic development in the area, and providing a new shopping destination for customers from surrounding neighborhoods.

As part of the \$500 million Cleveland Innovation District, the new Fairfax Market mixed-use project will be located on the corner of East 105th Street and Cedar Avenue. The \$52.8 million development will include a 40,000-square-foot Meijer grocery market and 196 apartment units.

Bringing a grocery market to the Fairfax neighborhood was an idea that was born in 2018 when Cleveland Clinic CEO and President Tom Mihaljevic, M.D., and Cleveland City Council President and Ward 6 Councilperson Blaine A. Griffin, hosted a community conversation with residents and leaders to better understand their needs and how Cleveland Clinic could contribute.

Following this session and a walking tour of the Fairfax neighborhood, it became clear that food insecurity was one of the biggest issues facing area residents.

“I appreciated that from the start, Dr. Mihaljevic understood the importance of Cleveland Clinic’s role in the neighborhood and that residents had many areas that needed to be addressed,” said Councilperson Griffin. “The discussion about bringing a supermarket to the neighborhood started early, recognizing the need of the longtime Fairfax residents.”

Grand Rapids, Mich.-based retailer Meijer quickly became the grocer partner for the project based on the offerings of its new small-format market design, which has been launched in several cities throughout Michigan.

This new development underscores

Cleveland Clinic’s commitment to addressing social determinants of health, which are factors other than medical care, such as job opportunities, housing and education that determine 80 percent of a person’s overall health. As one of the largest employers in Northeast Ohio, the health system creates indirect and direct jobs that support families, neighborhoods and community life. Collaborating on the grocery market is another way Cleveland Clinic is boosting local indirect employment.

The Fairfax neighborhood has a rich history. It was annexed into Cleveland in 1872 and grew rapidly. On E. 105th Street (Doan Street), stores, churches, a hotel and post office operated. It had the first African American-owned bank in Cleveland and, for years, the neighborhood was the city’s second major retail and entertainment district.

“Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation (FRDC) is excited to welcome Meijer to the Fairfax community,” said FRDC Executive Director Denise VanLeer. “The project aligns with the vision for Innovation Square, a mixed-use, mixed-income, walkable area along Opportunity Corridor. The store will occupy a gateway corner to the Fairfax neighborhood and help to spur additional development. The location allows residents easy access to fresh food and provides walkability while activating Cedar Avenue. The store provides new employment opportunities and helps to spur additional development. The development repositions underutilized and underperforming land through strategic partnerships and is proximate to growing economic hubs, which is a goal of the Innovation Square Neighborhood Plan.”

The residential component of new project will feature a parking structure, direct connection to Fairfax Market, walkable access to the Cleveland Clinic campus, and a convenient one block walk to the Cleveland Innovation District.



A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN GRIFFIN

Dear Residents,

My apologies for the delay in issuing The Griffin Report.

We have had many staff changes and a change in administration at Cleveland City Hall. Therefore, it has taken some time to get acclimated with new systems and new roles in the administration and Council.

I, myself have a new role in City Hall. In addition to continuing to serve as your Ward 6 Councilperson, my colleagues have selected me to lead the body as President of Cleveland City Council. My message was clear when I took this position; “We’re going to take care of the people of the City of Cleveland.

Quality service delivery remains the priority of Cleveland City Council. I now have a greater role in influencing the budget, oversight and policy development of Cleveland City Council. It is a position with enormous responsibilities yet tremendous opportunities to impact Ward 6 and the entire city of Cleveland. I have also made a change in the Ward 6 community office. Laveta Parker now handles my city-wide responsibilities. Diane Pride-Mays has taken over the role of managing the Ward 6 office. So, you will now interact with Ms. Pride-Mays on a day-to-day basis. However, Laveta is still a part of the team. We are all here to assist you.

I have been very active in advocating for quality service delivery and making strategic investments in Ward 6.

Although Council does not hire, fire or deploy resources, we do set the budgets, provide oversight and develop policy priorities for the city of Cleveland. This is a role that I take seriously. We are making

sure that Council actively engages the Mayor and his administration to develop concepts and service delivery methods that we hear from you are a priority.

We have had vigorous discussions about **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars**. Cleveland received the 8th largest amount in the country. Most of the dollars allocated so far have gone towards recovering lost revenue, safety cameras, dash cameras, gun sensor technology, equipment, and technology, removing blight and setting up funds to help stabilize housing in the city of Cleveland. We are continuing to identify key areas of need throughout the city. We have also made strategic investments in programs and activities to support women and children because child abuse and partner violence increased during the pandemic.

Cleveland is going through a time of transition. We have new leaders and emerging communities. People are excited about our future. But I often caution everyone: **“Change is a Process. Not an event.”** It is going to take Focus, Control and Patience to turn our community around. I’m committed to the fight. Please join me in our ongoing efforts to make Cleveland the “Best Destination in the Nation.”

Happy Holidays to you and your family.



**Blaine A. Griffin,
City Council President
Ward 6 Councilman**



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Blaine A.
Griffin
Ward 6 Councilman**

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WEB www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-6

#ILoveWard6

Innovation Square in Fairfax Neighborhood Underway

Council President Blaine A. Griffin joined nearly 80 community members and leaders at the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the new Aura at Innovation Square apartments in Fairfax. The apartments are scheduled to open in late 2023 and represent a \$27 million investment in the community.

Fairfax Renaissance CDC Executive Director Denise VanLeer thanked the many partners involved in the project but singled out Council President Griffin for his support and willingness to move the work forward. She jokingly referred to him as #themanwhogetsthingsdone.

Council President Griffin in his excitement thanked the “legacy” residents of Fairfax for their commitment and commended them for keeping their roots and families in Fairfax. He believes Fairfax will be the next hot neighborhood in the country when Aura’s construction is complete. Fairfax will benefit from the presence of a world-class anchor like Cleveland Clinic, just as much as the Clinic benefits from the history and



institutions of Fairfax.

He concluded his remarks by thanking former Mayor Frank G. Jackson and Mayor Bibb for keeping this project moving forward.

Cleveland Clinic CEO Dr. Tom Mihaljevic gave remarks and mentioned he and Council President Griffin frequently speak about basketball. Dr. Mihaljevic spoke about the bright future ahead for the Cavaliers - and likened it to the bright future he anticipates for the community with the Aura @ Innovation Square project. Dr. Mihaljevic recalled walking



the neighborhood with Council President four years ago. From that walk, he tasked himself with working to make this neighborhood grow and thrive again.

Richard Baron, co-founder and chairman of McCormack Baron Salazar concluded the prepared remarks by describing the Aura project as a labor of love. He expressed optimism about seeing the neighborhood grow and rebound in a powerful way with the completion of this project.

For more information on Aura at Innovation Square and other projects in Fairfax, please visit <https://fairfaxrenaissance.org/>

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THE GRIFFIN REPORT

WARD 6 COUNCILMAN

Blaine A. Griffin

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We need your input!

Please take a few minutes to complete **this Community Benefits survey.** It will help inform how we work with developers and contractors to improve quality of life in the city of Cleveland.

To participate, visit:
tinyurl.com/Cleveland-CBA-survey



SCAN ME



Winter 2023 Waste Collection Calendar

JANUARY 2023						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2023						
SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

2/20: President's Day

1/2: New Year's Day (observed)
1/16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Bulk Pickup Week Holiday - NO DELAY in Collection Holiday - ONE DAY DELAY in Collection All Week

CONTACT THE DIVISION OF WASTE:

5600 Carnegie Ave.,
Cleveland, OH 44103
216-664-3711
clevelandohio.gov/waste



Cleveland Police Promotions and Graduation



December 6, 2022 Council President Griffin with newly appointed Fourth District Commander Maurice Brown (left photo) and newly appointed Third District Commander Robert Tucker (right photo).



December 14, 2022 Photos from the 151st Cleveland Police Academy Class Graduation



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