

# THE GRIFFIN REPORT

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



## A Message From Councilman Blaine A. Griffin

Dear Residents,

It seems like overnight, spring is upon us. Now is the time, with the warmer weather and longer days, to take a walk through the community and stop by the new parks that have opened including the new Ubuntu Gathering Place and the Woodhill Community Garden. I'm hoping residents have taken the opportunity to check out the new Fairfax Market and viewed the new apartments opening in the neighborhood.

The first of many new buildings, townhomes and houses in the total renovation of the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood recently opened and more construction is underway. It will take a bit more time for its completion, but it's great to watch the progress piece by piece.

I know many residents were upset by the announcement that the Huntington Bank branch was closing. Right now it's a temporary closing. Bank officials will assess safety statistics to see if the area has improved. The new Police Commander has met with other businesses in and around Buckeye Road and some have agreed to hire off-duty police or security officers and purchase more cameras for the area. We all working to harden the neighborhood to make it safer.

As we move into warmer weather, make sure to call and report any dumping and other quality of life crimes. We must all do our part that if we see something to say something. Report illegal dumping to 216-664-3867 to report. For crimes, call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 216-252-7463, the Cleveland Police at 216-621-1234 or my office at 216-664-4579. Remember, you can give information anonymously.

We've had a busy spring with the NCAA Women's Final Four and the fabulous solar eclipse, and Cleveland weather was phenomenal. I'm looking forward to a great summer.

I hope you take the time to read this publication. As always, #ILoveWard6 and #ILoveCle.

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



**Unfortunately, warmer weather creates more quality of life concerns.**

**BE VIGILANT!**

**UNSIGHTLY DUMPING • MOTOR VEHICLE SPEEDING • NUISANCE ACTIVITIES**

**TO REPORT CALL 216-621-1234**

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT BLAINE A. GRIFFIN VISITS THE CAPITAL

Columbus, Ohio  
April 10, 2024



Scan here to watch Council President discuss the State of State address and critical issues impacting Clevelanders

## Cleveland City Council Hosts Signing for Community Benefits Ordinance Memorandum of Understanding

Cleveland City Council is committed to improving living and working conditions for all of Cleveland. Council hosted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the city's recently passed Community Benefits Ordinance (CBO).

The MOU is a partnership between City Council, the Administration, developers, labor, educators, community organizations, and construction partners to reach targeted goals in the hiring of women and minority-owned firms, and Cleveland-based businesses. The MOU partners commit to working together collectively and collaboratively to achieve the goals of the CBO. The CBO requires that developers receiving financial incentives and support from the City of Cleveland provide real and tangible benefits to our neighborhoods.

**"The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding cements Council's commitment to ensure our residents have a voice in the development of our city, and our neighborhoods and see real and tangible benefits from new projects. The ordinance also provides accountability, predictability, and flexibility to businesses and developers looking to work in Cleveland."**  
-Council President Blaine A. Griffin



# WHAT'S HAPPENING WARD 6

## Ward 6 New Year Celebration

Council President Griffin hosted his annual Ward 6 New Year Celebration on January 9. Residents gathered at Karamu House for an evening full of entertainment including a play, live music and comedy show.



## Meijer Fairfax Market Grand Opening

On January 16, Council President joined residents and stakeholders for the grand opening of Meijer Fairfax Market. The new market brings fresh and convenient produce to the Fairfax neighborhood in the heart of Ward 6. The 40,000 square foot store also offers shoppers with a wide variety of products including many local brands.



## Cavs Care Unveil New Basketball Court at Fairfax Recreation Center

In February, Council President Griffin joined members from the Cleveland Cavaliers for a refurbished basketball court unveiling at Fairfax Recreation Center. The new installation is part of an effort to provide Cleveland Youth access to modernized facilities.



## The Aura at Innovation Square

Council President Griffin gathered with community members and stakeholders for the ribbon cutting of The Aura at Innovation Square. The new complex is now pre-leasing studio, one- and two-bedroom suites, and scheduling tours.

Rental assistance for eligible Cleveland Clinic and Case employees is available through the Greater Circle Living Program.

More info: 216-329-8374 or [InnovationSQ@McCormackBaron.com](mailto:InnovationSQ@McCormackBaron.com).



## PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP

Interim Safety Director

**Dornat A. Drummond**



Chief of Police  
**Dorothy A. Todd**

Third District Commander

**Robert Tucker**



Fourth District Commander

**Ralph Valentino**

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- To subscribe or join the waitlist visit [www.empowercle.org/get-connected](http://www.empowercle.org/get-connected). Call 216.777.3859 for more information.



**Council President Blaine A. Griffin with Ward 6 Resident and Digital C customer David Nichols.**

# GRIFFIN'S Legislative Notes



## 2024 CITY OF CLEVELAND BUDGET:

I'm proud of the changes I and my colleagues made to the city's annual budget. We increased the number of employees in Building & Housing to ensure landlords take good care of their rentals. Additionally, we added funds to ensure families facing eviction can receive free legal representation. Moreover, we allocated money to ensure our recreation centers are safe and clean and offer great programs and services.



## HELPING DISADVANTAGED NEIGHBORHOODS:

I am proud of Habitat for Humanity and the Cuyahoga Land Bank's accomplishments in Ward 6. I fully support legislation that provides funding for Land Banks to work in other neighborhoods including Wards 5, 10 and 14. Building new homes on vacant parcels and rehabilitating homes for resale are important to restoring our communities. Stabilizing neighborhoods in various areas of Cleveland improves the entire city.



## HOLDING LANDLORDS ACCOUNTABLE:

My Council colleagues and I collaborated closely with the administration to introduce a series of legislative changes that will affect how rental properties are managed under the Department of Building and Housing. Highlights of the changes include the following, all rentals are required to identify a Local Agent in Charge who is legally responsible for the condition of the property, similar to the owner. The legislation also revamps the city's Rental Registry, requiring all non-owner-occupied units to be registered with the city. The legislation also improves enforcement measures for owners of nuisance properties, including creating "civil tickets" that allow for the issuance of a \$200 fine per infraction, for issues such as infestation of pests, graffiti, rubbish and garbage issues. Owners with hardships may appeal tickets within 30 days.



## SHORE-TO-CORE-TO-SHORE TIF OVERLAY DISTRICT:

The recently passed Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district legislation holds tremendous potential for Cleveland. It is estimated to generate between \$3.5 billion and \$7.5 billion in new revenue over the next 42 years. To say this legislation could be a game-changer for our city would be an understatement. As Council President, I will ensure every neighborhood in Cleveland reaps the benefits of this transformational revenue. As the body responsible for spending oversight, Council will take proactive measures to revise the legislation, guaranteeing that Cleveland reaches the full potential of the TIF Overlay District AND that every neighborhood benefits, not just downtown.

# Community Grant Available

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS IN MAKING A HEALTHY DIFFERENCE!

Apply at:  
[SAINTLUKESFOUNDATION.ORG](http://SAINTLUKESFOUNDATION.ORG)

Saint Luke's Community Grants are for residents of Buckeye-Shaker, Mt. Pleasant, and Woodland Hills. Do you have an idea or project that will improve your neighborhood's health? Tell us about it at [rac@stlukesfdn.org](mailto:rac@stlukesfdn.org).

You could get up to \$6,000 for projects like neighborhood clean-ups, vegan cooking, Zumba classes, youth tutoring and mentoring, voter education, yoga teacher training programs, and even to help turn a vacant home into a community art house.



APPLY HERE



# FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH



8 A.M. TO 11 A.M.

3900 Euclid Ave.  
Free Parking.  
No appointment necessary.



- Receive NEORSRD account support or make a payment!
- Get your sewer or stormwater billing questions answered.
- Apply for or discuss your cost-saving options in person.
- Open by phone until noon (216.881.8247) or visit [neorsd.org/save](http://neorsd.org/save).

**2024** May 4 • June 1 • July 6 • August 3 • September 7  
October 5 • November 2 • December 7

Our customer service staff is always available during normal weekday business hours by phone and in person.



Cleveland Clerk of Courts  
**Earle B. Turner**  
PARTNERING WITH  
Ward 6 Councilman  
**Blaine A. Griffin**



JOIN US FOR THIS EVENT!

Address old warrants in Cleveland & 14 suburbs

 **Thur., May 9, 2024**

 SIGNING UP OF FIRST 100 PEOPLE  
**9:00 AM**

SERVICE BEGINS FOR THOSE WHO SIGNED UP  
**1:00 PM**

 **Open Door Baptist Church**  
8215 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, OH 44104

Questions? Contact Diana Pride-Mays at the Ward 6 Office, 216-664-4234.



# THE GRIFFIN REPORT



WARD 6 COUNCILMAN

**Blaine A. Griffin**

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Visit [www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-6](http://www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-6)

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## CITY COUNCIL PASSED LEGISLATION DECLARING JESSE OWENS' HOUSE A CLEVELAND LANDMARK

The Black Cleveland icon clinched four Gold medals in track and field at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, humiliating Adolf Hitler on the world stage, and dispelling his theories of white supremacy. When they moved in, Owens was fresh off his high school years, and his 1933 world-setting record for the 220-yard dash at the National Championship in Chicago. Today, that property at 2178 E. 100th Street is just across the street from the Cleveland Clinic.



# FREE



## HOME REPAIRS FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Using federal relief funding, Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity has launched a new program to help low- to moderate-income homeowners in some Cleveland neighborhoods get much-needed and otherwise unaffordable home repairs for free. They include costly items like gutters, siding, roofing, porches, windows and HVAC systems.



Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity's Critical Home Repair program is only available for homes along Crestwood, Grandview, Hulda and Shale avenues in the Buckeye-Woodhill and Mount Pleasant neighborhoods, as well as East 143rd Street.

To be eligible for a fix, households must bring in no more than 80% of the area median income. To apply or get more information, contact Housing Programs Coordinator Kristi Busch at 216-429-1299, extension 261, or at [criticalhomerepair@clevelandhabitat.org](mailto:criticalhomerepair@clevelandhabitat.org). Applicants need to provide proof of income.