



Ward 12 News

Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer ■ END OF YEAR 2024 ■ www.clevelandcitycouncil.org

A message from Councilwoman Maurer

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we near the close of another year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that we've accomplished and how much we have left to do. It's been a year full of challenges, triumphs, and plenty of hard work—and I am so proud to be your representative through it all.

This year has brought us many reasons to celebrate. Throughout this newsletter you'll see some of our major milestones. I'll write here about two that made me particularly proud.

First, after much planning and collaboration, **I am thrilled to share the grand opening of the new weight room at Stella Walsh Recreation Center.** This space in the heart of Slavic Village will serve as a hub for fitness, health, and wellness in our neighborhood for years to come, offering residents of all ages the opportunity to improve their physical and mental well-being. The weight room is also shared with the Department of Public Safety and will be accessible during off-hours for Police, Fire, and EMS cadets going through their training.

This project was sponsored by the Ward 12 office and it's been incredible to watch this project come to life over the course of 3 years. I am excited to see so many of you already

taking advantage of the new equipment and resources.

Another highlight of the year was the Old Brooklyn Street Festival, which I had the honor of sponsoring as my Councilmatic Event for the year. The Councilmatic designation meant we were able to bring in resources from across the city – everything from police officers to a stage and sound equipment – to make the event happen.

This community event brought thousands of residents out to enjoy a day of local vendors, live music, and, most importantly, a chance to

connect with neighbors and celebrate everything that makes Old Brooklyn such a special place. I'll never forget the hum of excitement as the Guardians-Tigers game was broadcast during the afternoon hours of the event and we cheered together when Lane Thomas hit a grand slam to clinch the series. What a day!

Of course, no year comes without its challenges. We continue to struggle with some of the chronic problems of our city. We need more money to repair streets. We need more resources for seniors to fix up their homes and for renters to become homeowners. I wish I had a better

solution for the reckless driving and public safety concerns that so many residents have. And, heck, the lights on the Harvard-Denison bridge that connect the east and west sides of the ward cannot seem to stay lit for more than a few days.

Part of my job is to recognize and be honest about these challenges while also highlighting the progress we have made together. That's my goal for today's newsletter.

Looking ahead to the new year, I am energized by the progress we've made and eager for the opportunities that lie ahead. Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a wonderful and safe holiday season!



Looking for more Ward 12 news
straight from City Hall?

Sign up for the email
newsletter from
**Councilwoman
Rebecca Maurer**

Signing up is easy

Scan this code using your phone's camera. You can also enter bit.ly/Ward12Newsletter into any web browser.

The Ward 12 newsletter provides regular updates about community issues, city services, and neighborhood events.

These paper newsletters will continue as well. We will use the emails for more frequent updates.



Commercial Corridor Week in Ward 12

Improving commercial corridors is a central goal of Councilwoman Maurer's economic development plans for Ward 12. Our historic commercial corridors are essential for fostering economic growth, enhancing community engagement, and revitalizing neighborhoods. As part of this commitment, Ward 12 Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer set aside a week to share news and events around this concentrated effort.

Commercial Corridor Week, promoted in partnership with Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and the community development corporations of Old Brooklyn, Slavic Village and Brooklyn Center, included a walk down Fleet Ave with Councilwoman Maurer, a panel discussion, and a public needs assessment for Broadview Road.



Councilwoman Maurer preparing to lead the walk up Fleet Avenue.

"From Broadview to Broadway, we have some incredible historic commercial corridors in Ward 12," said Councilwoman Maurer, "However, they have never come back to their prior density. When I came into office I knew we would need a concentrated effort to support development and small business on these corridors."

As Councilwoman Maurer discussed, there is a current need to increase the density of open and thriving locations along all of the historic commercial corridors in Ward 12. Businesses often benefit greatly from neighboring establishments that bring foot traffic and keep up on maintenance. By concentrating on specific highly traveled areas, the commercial corridor program can give a fresh "front door" to our neighborhoods. These business districts anchor the community and support the needs of both residents and visitors alike.

The commercial corridor program offers matching dollars of up to \$50,000 for external or internal renovations. It is available to both property owners and business owners who want to open up their storefronts.

Alongside the incentives, the City will be increasing code enforcement fines for property owners who let their storefronts sit dilapidated and vacant.

Development money for commercial corridors are part of a larger effort to create plans for each of the neighborhoods of Ward 12. As outlined in Councilwoman Maurer's State of Ward 12 Address and Booklet, our communities deserve to have a plan for what comes next - a path forward towards what members in the community want.

Business and property owners along our historic main arteries like Fleet Avenue, Broadview Road, and Pearl Road who are interested in applying for the Commercial Corridor Program should contact Kniel Christensen, the Ward 12 Commercial Business Coordinator at KnielC@mcleveland.com or by reaching him by telephone at 216-352-1472.



Councilwoman Maurer promoting our Broadview Corridor work on Kickin' it with Kenny.

Ward 12 Presents Commercial Corridor Week

- Mon. Sept. 30**
All Day | Learn about the Ward 12 Commercial Corridor Dollars
- Tues. Oct. 1**
@ 11 a.m. | Walk through on Fleet Ave with Slavic Village Development.
- Wed. Oct. 2**
All Day | Interviews with some of the early business owners to use the program
- Thur. Oct. 3**
@ 4:30 p.m. | Old Brooklyn CDC's Broadview Commercial Corridor Needs Assessment Launch Event

Councilwoman Maurer's lighting bill requiring brightness standards for parking lots

It all started when the residents of Broadway Place Senior Living shared with our office that they were afraid to go out to their cars at night or return home after dark. They were finding car windows smashed and things stolen from their vehicles. The problem was that the parking lot at their facility was poorly

lit. The lamp posts were there, but the lights were dim or the bulbs burned out. Their dark parking lot was leaving them vulnerable to crime or accidents, but the building owner was not responding to resident concerns.

Could our office advocate on their behalf, they asked?

When the building owner also proved unresponsive to our office, Councilwoman Maurer went looking for a legislative solution. This problem inspired a new law that Councilwoman Maurer sponsored and that

passed Cleveland City Council this November. The law sets a formal standard in our city code for how to measure brightness in a parking lot. Ordinance 352.13 requires that new parking lots meet a certain standard of illumination. And it will require old parking lots to raise their lighting up to this standard when they install new equipment.

Working on this legislation got the building owner's attention and he began making lighting repairs. Councilwoman Maurer and the residents of Broadway Place hope that this is just the start of making Cleveland a little brighter.



Councilwoman Maurer holds up an illuminance meter during City Council.



Residents sitting outside the front entrance of Broadway Place at night.

Councilwoman Maurer pilots a new way to repair broken sidewalks

One of the most common concerns that the Ward 12 office hears from residents is about trees and sidewalks. Uneven sidewalk slabs can be a safety and mobility hazard, especially for people who rely on walkers, wheelchairs or other devices to get around. Most often, the cause is tree roots lifting up or damaging the cement sidewalk along residential streets. Being able to walk and move safely in our neighborhoods is a basic dignity that everyone deserves.

Right now, residents are expected to pay for their own sidewalk repairs, something many cannot afford. But because of tree lawn trees, even a repaired sidewalk might end up uneven in a year or two.

Councilwoman Maurer went looking for a solution and had her office connect with the Washington D.C. Department of Transportation Urban Forestry Division. They

shared information about a pilot program they ran using a material called Porous Flexible Pavement (PFP) to replace tree-broken sidewalks. PFP is a rubbery material that allows for drainage and movement after being installed. The idea is that it will grow with tree roots while remaining a safe, smooth surface for pedestrians.

After exchanging information and discussing with Cleveland's Bureau of Sidewalks and Urban Forestry Department, a pilot was designed and funded by Councilmembers to test PFP here in our streets. Councilwoman Maurer is proud to share that PFP was installed for testing at a few locations in Ward 12 owned by the Cleveland Land Bank. We're going to see how these sidewalks hold up in our winters and hope to make this pilot program available to more neighbors in the future.



LEAD-SAFE HOUSING 2024 FALL AGENDA

Presented by Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer



MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **September 12 at 1pm: Lead Safe Advisory Board Meeting**
The Lead Safe Advisory Board (LSAB) meets once per quarter and reviews updates to the implementation of the 2019 lead-safe housing law.
- **October 14 at 9:30am: Lead update to Cleveland City Council's Health, Human Services and the Arts Committee**
The Health, Human Services and the Arts Committee will be inviting partners from across the city and Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition (LSCC) to provide an update.
- **October 20-26: Lead Poisoning Prevention Week**
The annual Lead Poisoning Prevention Week will have events across the city including the annual Lead Walk on October 26th to raise awareness.

GOALS & METRICS

- ✔ **Ensure Lead-Safe Certificates Are Accessible and Standardized.** The City needs to re-launch the online portal for lead safe certificates and release the final guidance document to help landlords and lead-safe workers navigate requirements of the 2019 law.
- ✔ **Evaluate How Money is Being Spent.** We have to spend our lead-safe dollars. I will be looking at how many homes have been helped and how much money we spend from the City windows and doors program, LSCC home repair program, HUD home repair program and LSCC lead-safe incentives.
- ✔ **Select a new Lead Safe Auditor.** The current lead-safe auditor's contract ended this summer. Cleveland has released the RFP and we want the new Auditor to be selected and onboarded on schedule by November 2024.
- ✔ **Expand the Lead-Safe Workforce.** This fall we have the chance to expand the lead-safe work-force. We want both the 1-3 Family Unit to be up and running at Building and Housing and we want the CDC-based workforce coordinated by LSCC to be hiring.
- ✔ **Expand Enforcement.** There must be carrots and sticks to ensure homes are lead-safe. Building and Housing and the Law Department have already begun enforcement. This fall, I will be looking for implementation of the Residents First law to expand enforcement.
- ✔ **Better Connect Housing Outcomes to Testing Outcomes.** We need to take a hard look at the outcomes being driven by the 2019 law and connect it to child testing data. We need to continue to increase testing rates among Cleveland families, including those in both private and CMHA properties.

Councilwoman Maurer continues to be a city-wide leader in lead poisoning prevention. She serves as the vice-chair of the Health & Human Services Committee and is co-chair of the Lead Safe Advisory Board. In that role, she set out a fall agenda for the milestones we need to meet to really begin to make a dent in Cleveland's stubbornly high lead poisoning numbers. What we know is that Cleveland's poisoning rates are more than double the rates at the height of the crisis in Flint, Michigan. However, here in Cleveland the problem isn't our water – it's the paint in our old homes. If you have a child under 6, please talk to your doctor about getting them tested. If you are interested in learning more about how to make your home lead-safe or check if your landlord has made your home lead-safe, please Call the Cleveland lead safe hotline at 833-601-LEAD (5323) or send them an email at info@leadsafecle.org

PRESORT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH
PERMIT NO. 2893

Care Response in Cleveland

In the State of Ward 12 this year, I wrote about the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County's Care Response Pilot for people or families experiencing a mental health crisis. "Care Response" is when an unarmed team of mental health professionals responds to a call about a mental health crisis instead of police officers. Today, I am proud to share an update on that pilot as well as a new legislative effort to bring Care Response to all of Cleveland.

ADAMHS Board Care Response Pilot

The ADAMHS Board pilot launched this fall. The Care Response Teams include a licensed social worker or counselor and a certified peer

support specialist who will respond to non-violent mental health crisis calls made to 988 without law enforcement. The pilot program has one to two teams working 24-hours/day, 7-days/week providing services

in the 44102 and 44105 zip codes, which includes the Slavic Village portion of Ward 12. If you are someone you know are experiencing a non-life-threatening crisis, call 988 or (216) 623-6888.

The Differences Between 911 and 988 for Mental Health



Emergency

- Active suicide threat.
- Threatening harm to self or others.
- Self-injury that needs medical attention.
- Severe intoxication.
- Inability to care for oneself.
- Apparent drug overdose.

911



Crisis

- Thinking about suicide or planning to harm oneself.
- Talking about harm to self or others.
- Non-life-threatening self-injury
- Overuse of alcohol or drugs.
- Depression, anxiety, or other mental illness symptoms.

988



COUNCILWOMAN
Rebecca
Maurer



City Hall: 601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 220 • Cleveland, OH 44114
Executive Assistant: Kathleen Moser
Phone: 216-664-4233 • **Email:** rmaurer@clevelandcitycouncil.org
Visit www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-12

Ward 12 News



LEARN MORE

Call 2-1-1 to get connected to community resources. Anywhere. Anytime.

Housing • Food Assistance • Utilities • Healthcare • Child Care • Income Support • Legal Services • Substance Abuse Help • Clothing • Donations • Volunteering • Household Items • Employment • Education • Veterans Assistance • Prescription Costs • Problem Gambling • Mental Health



Tanisha's Law

On November 4th, I was honored to co-sponsor legislation with Councilwoman Howe-Jones and Councilman Charles Sife that we hope lays the groundwork for codifying Care Response in the City of Cleveland. The legislation is named after Tanisha Anderson, who died in police custody on November 13, 2014 after her family called 911 for help while Tanisha was experiencing a mental health crisis. Tanisha was more than the story we see in the papers-- she was a 37 year old woman who loved mathematics and problem solving and had dreams of becoming a broadcast journalist. She was a mother, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, and beloved soul to many. The legislation calls for the creation of a Department of Crisis Response to help dispatch unarmed, trained mental health professionals to crisis calls. Introducing this legislation was just the starting point-- I look forward to the months ahead as we work with the community and our partners to shape this legislation and get it passed.

