

THE GRIFFIN REPORT

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



A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN GRIFFIN

Dear Residents,

Summer is here and I hope everyone is taking advantage of the great weather by getting out on their front porches, taking walks through the neighborhood or visiting the two new parks that have just opened (more about them in this newsletter) or stopping by one of the Cleveland Public Library branches that are offering lots of events this summer.

My point is, get out into the community this summer and take advantage of what Cleveland offers.

Construction projects in the ward are underway, and some, like the Meijer supermarket and apartments, are nearing completion. I am excited a quality supermarket will soon be open in the ward. Other projects have started as well, the Woodhill Phase I is getting closer to completion, with the building framing, roofing and windows already complete. Phase II is also underway with the foundations recently completed. (See photos in the newsletter.)

I know there is concern and worry in the community about the rising crime that seems to be hitting neighborhoods throughout the city. I will tell you I and all the council members have given the administration everything they've asked for in terms of funding for the police, as well as for public safety initiatives and programs.

I am keenly aware that this issue has many upset, myself included, and I believe the administration is doing all that they can to bring it under control. I've called on the administration to look to bring in outside help, such as the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Marshals, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Adult Parole Authority (for repeat offenders) to get our arms around the spike in violence. Much of it is being fueled by young adults stealing cars and then compounding that crime with others.

Residents need to do their part as well. If you see something, please say something. If you have any information pertaining to a crime please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 216-252-7463, the Cleveland Police at 216-621-1234 or my office at 216-664-4579. You can give information anonymously.

Everyone working together and looking out for each other can dramatically change our community. Ward 6 has seen some major investments and improvements. But we still have work to do. But I am going to work with you to continue making Ward 6 a special place. You deserve it.

I hope you take the time to read this publication of The Griffin Report to hear about some of the legislation and activities that I have led or supported to improve our quality of life. As always, #ILoveWard6 #ILoveCle.

Blaine A. Griffin
Council President, Ward 6

Vote No in November Against PB Cleveland Initiative

I am asking residents to vote against giving \$14 million a year to an unelected group of people to decide upon yet to be determined projects in the city. The money would blow a hole in the city's general fund. You'll be hearing more about this as we get closer to the November 7th election date. But I want everyone to understand what could happen.

The \$14 million that would be reallocated could lead to massive layoffs and have a devastating impact on the city. Currently, a \$14 million reallocation could cause any of the following:

- Prevent hiring roughly 140 police officers at a time when our Division of Police is dramatically short-staffed.
- Eliminate the entire Department of Public Health
- Eliminate all staff from the Division of Recreation (\$10,537,247), the entire Department of Aging (\$1,868,592), and \$2M for salting winter streets
- Eliminate roughly half of the EMS staff
- Lose 13% of the Division of Fire staff
- Nearly eliminate the entire Division of Waste Collection staff
- Eliminate the entire Department of Building and Housing - leading to no inspections, Code Enforcement, or permitting

The \$14 million requested for participatory budgeting is more than the City currently pays for many critical services, including Aging, Public Health, and the Building & Housing Department. Additionally, the proposed amount is greater than the \$12 million currently allocated for repaving and repairing streets in the entire city.

“I believe the proposal presented will have devastating impacts on public safety and services in our city,” Councilman Griffin added. “Council will work tirelessly in the coming months to communicate how this initiative, if approved, will negatively impact Clevelanders.”

Council will share more information on the ballot initiative, and its impact on Clevelanders in the coming weeks and months.


-Council President Blaine A. Griffin


Participatory Budgeting could lead to any of the following:


Less Police Hires 	No Waste Collection Staff 	Fire and EMS Staff Reduction 	Eliminate of the Department of Public Health 	Reduction in snow removal for winter streets 	Elimination of Recreation and Aging Services
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GRIFFIN'S Legislative Notes



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Community Benefits Ordinance (CBO): I sponsored and Council approved legislation to ensure legally enforceable agreements between the city of Cleveland and developers. Many developers receive financial incentives and support from the city to build and do business in the city. The CBO will encourage developers to include Cleveland-based businesses, minority-owned businesses, and women-owned businesses in their work and to also provide real, tangible benefits to communities in exchange for city incentives. The benefits will be guided by residents in the impacted communities. For large projects, the benefits will have a city-wide focus.
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Reimagining the Southeast Side: We approved providing \$5 million in economic development assistance for commercial corridor projects in southeast neighborhoods as well as \$5 million to prepare several vacant sites for development. Council also passed providing \$5 million to establish, implement, and manage a revolving loan fund for a home repair and rehabilitation program for residents living in Cleveland's Southeast Side neighborhoods. The city of Cleveland also recently hired a senior strategist for the revitalization of Cleveland's Southeast side.
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Supporting Karamu House: I sponsored, and Council agreed, to provide \$500,000 to help support Karamu's renovations. The Council action leveraged additional philanthropic support, including the Mandel Foundation's recent announcement of a \$4 million challenge grant for the renovations. I believe other foundation and non-profits will also offer financial support for Karamu.
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Paid Parental Leave: We passed providing eligible employees (regular full-time annual and hourly rate) with up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave in connection with the birth of an employee's son or daughter or the placement of a son or daughter with an employee for adoption or legal guardianship.

Upcoming Waste Pick up Schedule



B=Bulk Pick up Week

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
B 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

Sept. 4th - Labor Day
1 day delay all week

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
B 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	H	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Nov. 23rd - Thanksgiving Day
Thursday collection on Friday
Friday collection on Saturday

Ubuntu Gathering Place Open in Buckeye-Woodhill

The Ubuntu Gathering Place recently opened at the corner of E. 103rd St. and Shaker Blvd., and Councilman Blaine A. Griffin is hoping residents relish this new park, one of two that recently opened in the community.

“I was happy to celebrate this with representatives from East End Neighborhood House and Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and to welcome neighbors to enjoy the newly-constructed public park,” Councilman Griffin said.

What was once an auto dealership turned vacant lot has been transformed into a beautiful 0.5-acre public area that includes walkways, newly planted trees, bioretention cells that will mitigate stormwater runoff, an outdoor education space, locally-commissioned art walls, and a plaza with a depiction of the continent of Africa.

Ubuntu is a Nguni Bantu (southern Africa) term meaning “humanity”, sometimes best translated as “I am because we are.” It symbolizes the powerful connection that can exist between people who are open to seeing each other in each other.

The green infrastructure component of the project includes a serpentine series of bioretention cells (shallow storm water basins) stretching throughout the property, removing approximately 244,000 gallons of storm water annually from the combined sewer system. These will ultimately filter water to the final vegetated infiltration basin that will serve as the centerpiece of the Green Infrastructure Outdoor Classroom within the Ubuntu Gathering Place. East End Neighborhood House also plans to use the outdoor classroom as an educational tool for the development of environmental stewards among the community's youth.

“This public gathering space will be where friendships are built and memories are made,” said Atunyese Herron, president and CEO of East End. “It is the culmination of many years of hard work and tireless effort, all of which were truly worth it.”

Additional partners on this project include Environmental Design Group, which developed a below-market cost for the design, engineering and construction management and New Vista, which handled all the construction. LAND Studio, Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. provided additional support. The project was made possible thanks to generous seed funding from the Saint Luke's Foundation which enabled the Land Conservancy to leverage additional funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Sustain Our Great Lakes program, The Funders Network – Partners for Places, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cuyahoga County, Bank of America, Reinberger Foundation, and Fifth Third Bank.



A once vacant property is now a beautiful community green space.




Grand Opening of Woodhill Community Garden Promises Healthy Produce for the Community

The new Woodhill Community Garden has opened on the corner of Woodhill and Buckeye roads, a great addition to the neighborhood.

The transformative project will grow and harvest healthy produce for the local community and serve as a learning center for local youth. The Woodhill Community Garden joins other new green space in the community, including the new Ubuntu Gathering Place, and improvements to Artha Woods Park.

The Garden is the brainchild of Elder Ernest L. Fields, Pastor of Calvary Hill Church of God in Christ. Calvary Hill is a stone's throw from the garden.

The Garden sits on land that once held three vacant and abandoned homes, and beautifies the community, while also providing benefit to the nearby East End Neighborhood House and Calvary Hill. These two anchor institutions in Buckeye-Woodhill are actively engaged with community members of all ages, with programming ranging from early childhood education services to free meals and social activities for senior citizens.

The Garden includes wash stations, fenced-in raised garden beds, a compost bin, an irrigation system, pathways to improve access to the site, a gardening shed, paved driveways, and a pavilion shelter for community gatherings and educational programming.

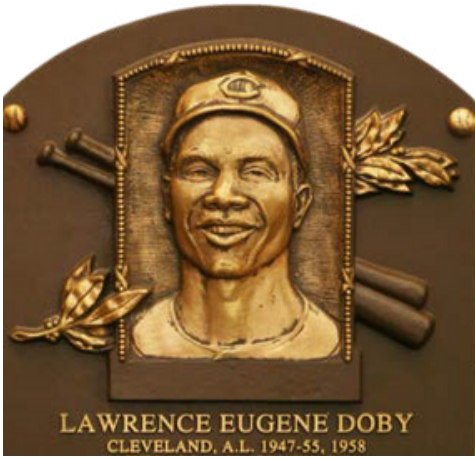
The project partners relied on multiple public and private funding sources to raise more than \$200,000 to create the Community Garden.

When public, private and faith-based partners work together we can restore what was once a spot for abandoned homes into a community destination. This new Woodhill garden joins Ubuntu Gathering Place and the Ernest Turner Memorial Park as neighborhood gems.

Based on already-completed outreach, there is a strong need for children in Buckeye-Woodhill to have a safe place to be outside, as well as learn about the importance of eating fresh and nutritious foods. Older adults in the community have a strong interest in passing their gardening skills to younger generations, while also teaching children how to live a healthy lifestyle.

Artha Woods Park to receive Larry Doby Memorial Installation and Upgrades

Artha Woods Park will soon receive new Larry Doby themed installations and general park upgrades. The graphic installations will honor iconic American baseball player Larry Doby. The upgraded amenities will include a splash pad, exercise equipment, new benches and tables. See below to view the map of park elements:



2023 Senior Day

Congratulations to Ward 6 Senior Day Honoree Joseph Hughes!



This year I nominated life-long Slavic Village resident Joseph Hughes as the 2023 Ward 6 Senior Honoree. A humble and hard-working person, Mr. Hughes is always ready to help. From keeping an eye out for neighbors in the community to helping his daughter with home repairs and yard work, he stays busy in his retirement.

Born and raised in Birmingham Alabama, Mr. Hughes grew up with three sisters. He attended Ullman High School and went on to enlist in the United States Air Force upon graduation. While he was with the Air Force in Texas, his family moved to Cleveland, so when he got out, he also decided to settle in the area.

Mr. Hughes lived in Collinwood as he transitioned to civilian life, and he explored the trades as a career option. He attended welding school, became a career welder and then passed his skills on by becoming a welding teacher at the Alco Technical Institute at 55th and St. Clair. Along the way he also earned an associate degree in communication from Cuyahoga Community College.

Joseph and his former wife Lucy, with whom he is still close, had two children, Jay and Sonya who are now grown. Sonya's daughter, Valencia, is his only grandchild, and he enjoys spending time with her.

For many years, Mr. Hughes has remained as involved as possible with his neighborhood and encourages others to do the same. He was so active in his street club and community meetings that he was named the 2005 Volunteer of the Year by Cleveland City Council for Ward 12. Always being aware of what's going on in his community and on his street is still important to him because he believes you can't just stand by and wait to see what happens.

He and others are always keeping up with what's going on and are ready to jump in whenever necessary to make sure things in the neighborhood are alright. While Covid-19 curtailed many in-person community meetings, Mr. Hughes stays connected through online meetings and the community newsletter.



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THE GRIFFIN REPORT



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Ward Office: 12200 Fairhill Road, Ste. C145, Cleveland, OH 44120 **Phone:** 216-791-8683

Ward 6 Community Meetings:

Second Tuesday of
every month at 6 p.m.

Morning Star Baptist Church
10250 Shaker Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44104

Meeting are live streamed at:
Facebook.com/Griff4CLE6

Upcoming Meetings

- September 12
- October 10
- November 14
- December 12

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

Ward 6 Mural Completed

This is the 2nd in a series of murals Artist Kevin “Mr. Soul” Harp is doing in his “Inspire Your City” project to promote literacy that the St. Luke’s Foundation is sponsoring. This mural features the daughter of Meccah Sunshine, a resident of E. 93rd and a staple in the Hip-Hop Community. The mural is located at E. 93rd and Marah Ave.



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Safe Smart CLE

Camera Sharing Access Program



COLLABORATING TO KEEP CLEVELAND SAFE

Help create a safer Cleveland by enrolling in our
Safe Smart CLE, Camera Sharing Access Program!

Sharing your camera feed enables the Cleveland Department of Public Safety to respond to incidents at your location faster and equips officers with advance knowledge of the situation. It will keep our residents and business owners safer and build closer ties within our community.



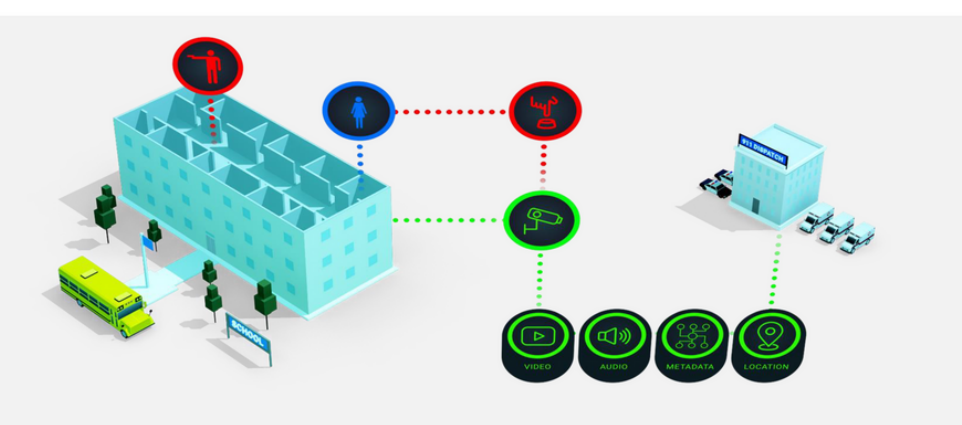
INCREASING SAFETY. RESPECTING PRIVACY.

- Our Safe Smart CLE, Camera Sharing Access Program enables you to share live video feeds with the Cleveland Department of Public Safety in emergencies to improve community safety and law enforcement and public safety response.
- Access to your cameras is conditional upon mutual agreement between you and the Cleveland Department of Public Safety and will be accessed for situational awareness and incident management.

What information
should you provide to
the Safe Smart CLE,
Camera Sharing
Access Program?



For more information or
to schedule an
installation, contact the
Advocate directly from
the information below.



Safe Smart CLE

Camera Sharing Access Program Advocate:
GBrown3@clevelandohio.gov