



Ward 12 News



Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer ■ SUMMER 2024 ■ www.clevelandcitycouncil.org

A message from Councilwoman Maurer



In June of this year, I had the opportunity to speak to two jam-packed rooms, one on the east side and one on the west side of the Ward. These back-to-back events were our "State of Ward 12" meetings – a chance to share my projects, goals, and vision for my work on City Council.

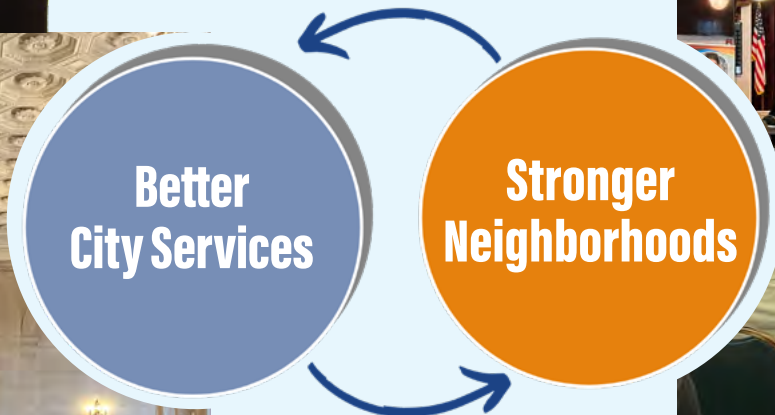
I might be biased, but – as I told everybody in those rooms – I truly believe that Ward 12 is Cleveland's most important ward. We cross the Cuyahoga River and cover four neighborhoods – Old Brooklyn, Slavic Village, Brooklyn Centre, and Tremont. Our diverse neighborhoods show all the successes and challenges that Cleveland has to offer. **The fight to improve Ward 12 is the fight to improve Cleveland for all of us.**

We didn't sugar coat it – some things are going well and some aren't. Our goal was to be honest with the work and offer a shared vision for how we improve every part of our ward together.

Everything I do on City Council broadly fits into one of two categories: creating better city services or creating stronger neighborhoods. Better city services look like city workers delivering garbage bins, getting roads repaved, and mowing vacant lots. Stronger neighborhoods means creating thriving neighborhoods where residents like you want to live and work.

Of course, these two goals feed back on each other. If we can keep our streets clean and get Building and Housing to address blighted houses quickly, we can increase our sense of safety in our neighborhoods. If we have stronger neighborhoods, more residents will want to live here and the city will have resources to deliver better services.

In the rest of this newsletter, my hope is to share with you some of the highlights from those meetings. If you want to watch a youtube video of the full speech or read our 25-page pamphlet, go to: bit.ly/stateofward12



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.



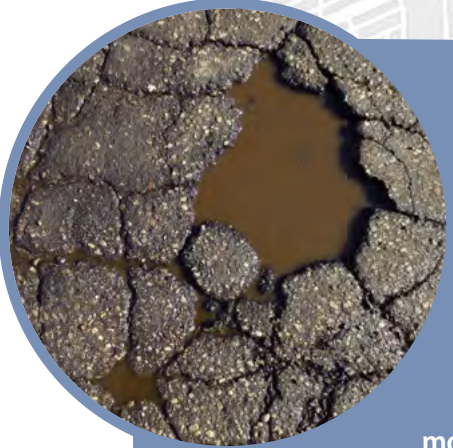
An excerpt from our State of Ward 12 presentation.

Read the whole thing here:
bit.ly/stateofward12



Some city services are getting better. Others are struggling. For instance, cleanups of illegal dumping are happening more quickly than in the past. However, we still need to improve our system of identifying and addressing people who continue to illegally dump. The delivery time for new garbage and recycling bins has decreased dramatically since the start of Councilwoman Maurer's term. In the beginning of 2022, the average wait time was over 100 days. Now it is less than 10. The biggest change coming in the next year will be the launch and implementation of the new 311 system — a centralized tracking and management system for basic city services with both phone and web options. 311 is our best chance to build trust and consistency in the delivery of services.

Still, there are many ways the city continues to struggle. The city does not have good processes set up for catching illegal commercial work like auto repair on private property. Keeping street lights on is a recurrent issue. The Harvard-Denison Bridge is just one visible example. Tree management has emerged as an increasingly troubled area. Our residents have been waiting for years for basic maintenance. These are all improvements that the Ward 12 office continue to advocate for with the administration.



Better city services means better roads. Cleveland uses a Pavement Condition Rating (PCR) to analyze our roads on a scale from A-to-F. You can see a complete map of the current ratings in our Ward 12 booklet available at bit.ly/stateofward12. Our annual repaving budget in the city is \$12 million, which is split evenly among all 17 wards. This gives Ward 12 about \$750,000 each year to repave those pothole-ridden streets. Every cent of that money — and more from one-time ARPA and council contributions — has gone into Ward 12 roads since 2022. However, that money is not enough. According to our own pavement management study, we need double that amount of money — \$1,470,000 per year — to succeed at repaving all of our D- and F-rated streets over the next 20 years. At the rate we are going, we will only get to half the roads that we need to do in those 20 years. Simply put, roads will continue to be a point of pain in our Ward and around Cleveland until we set aside more in the budget each year for road repaving.



Better city services means better maintenance of the thousands of vacant lots in Cleveland. These vacant lots, along with abandoned homes with unmaintained yards, can be an eyesore and a safety hazard. They attract rodents and broadcast that the home is not being properly cared for. The City's system to maintain these lots is overwhelmed and under-resourced. Under the current system, the city will mow these lots — at best — every 7 weeks. That simply is not often enough. In the short term we need better communication. Councilwoman Maurer has been pushing the administration for clearer communication on the mowing program. If you're a resident, you should be able to find out which lots are on the cut list and when the lot next to you will be cut. Long-term, we need a real budget and plan to get the mowing cycle down to 5 weeks, 4 weeks, and eventually 2 weeks.

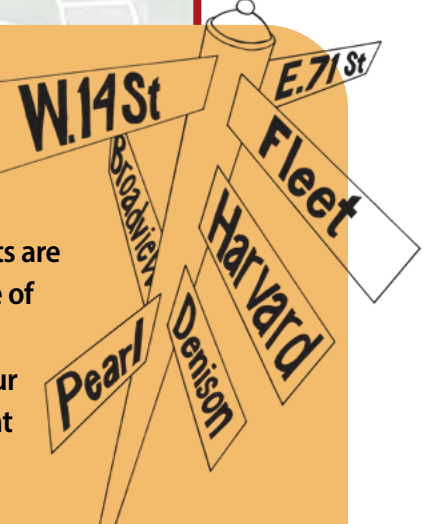


Better city services means a better approach to housing. We need safe, healthy housing if we want Ward 12 to truly thrive. The recent housing survey, shown on this map, helps us get a snapshot of our housing conditions — both good and bad. More than 15 years after the foreclosure crisis, we still have many vacant and abandoned homes. They attract crime. They are an eyesore. And they drag down home values for hard-working neighbors maintaining their own homes. It is a key city service to address and manage these properties. The current system for this work is inadequate. It leaves the responsibility to residents (and, in turn, Councilmembers) to follow up on the same property over and over again with Building and Housing. And it leaves problem homes in the same condition for years. We talk about this much more in depth in the booklet available at bit.ly/stateofward12. But you should know that we are looking ahead to changes under the Residents First law to hold out-of-state landlords accountable. We are also hopeful that efforts to make Cleveland properties lead safe will make repair dollars available more widely.

Strong neighborhoods are safe neighborhoods. What creates the sense of safety that so many of our residents are missing these days? Tackling our vacant and abandoned housing stock that attracts crime is one way. Basic city maintenance is another. We want our streets to be clean and welcoming. We should also work to decrease response times from police and EMS so that when people call 911, they have a sense that a vehicle will show up — and quickly. That is why we've seen such a critical focus on increasing academy classes. We want our public safety divisions fully and adequately staffed. But we also need to do more than respond to crime — **we need to prevent violence before it happens.** Violence prevention is a task that has too often fallen by the wayside. There are some aspects of violence prevention that are outside the hands of anybody on City Council — like the federal and state laws that allow a stream of guns to flow into our streets. But there are many aspects that are within our hands and that we interact with every day. For the first time in 2023, the city supported more than \$2 million dollars in grants to grassroots, community-centered programs for violence prevention. We are often asking our police to do jobs far outside of their traditional roles. One example is responding to non-violent calls from people in acute mental health crisis. Those individuals need behavioral health specialists, not police. That is why Councilwoman Maurer championed legislation that allowed the city to explore and invest in "Care Response" for the first time.



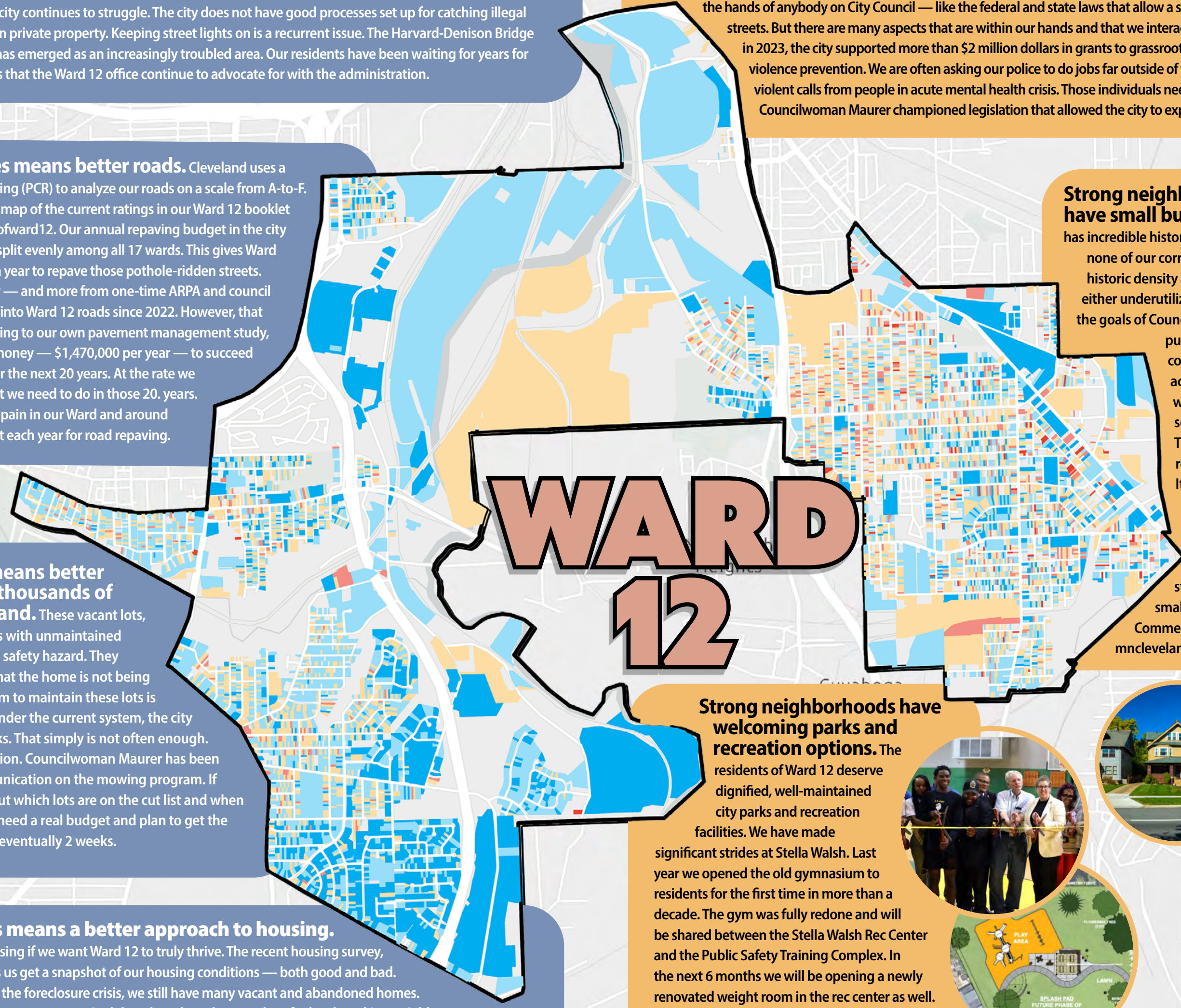
Strong neighborhoods have small businesses. Ward 12 has incredible historic corridors. Unfortunately, none of our corridors have returned to their historic density and too many of our store fronts are either underutilized or abandoned entirely. One of the goals of Councilwoman Maurer's first term is putting in dedicated dollars for our commercial corridor development across the ward. After years of work, we are on the cusp of some very exciting developments. This program will have carrots in the form of dollars to renovate storefronts and help small businesses open. It will also have sticks in the form of increased code enforcement under the Residents First program. It should cost owners something to leave their commercial properties neglected and vacant. Stay tuned for more details, but we are already getting started with people eager to participate. Do you have a small business or commercial property? You can reach Kniel, Commercial Corridor Development Coordinator at kniesel@mcleveland.com to learn more.



Strong neighborhoods have welcoming parks and recreation options. The residents of Ward 12 deserve dignified, well-maintained city parks and recreation facilities. We have made significant strides at Stella Walsh. Last year we opened the old gymnasium to residents for the first time in more than a decade. The gym was fully redone and will be shared between the Stella Walsh Rec Center and the Public Safety Training Complex. In the next 6 months we will be opening a newly renovated weight room in the rec center as well. We have improvements and new equipment coming at the Forest City Park and Calgary Park. We are working with Metroparks to better maintain the Treadway Creek Trail. We recently won huge grants to help us finish the Downtown Connector Trail to Slavic Village in the next 5 years and develop solar installations in both Old Brooklyn and Slavic Village.



Strong Neighborhoods have strong housing. Strong housing doesn't just come from better city services. It also comes from neighbors like you maintaining their properties and investing. The map at the center of this page shows the results of the recent property survey in Ward 12, showing how far we've come but how far we have to go in improving our housing stock. Councilwoman Maurer and the Mayor's administration are investing in home repair dollars to help. Thank you to Western Reserve Land Conservancy for their work on the property survey and providing this map.



Map of Ward 12 Structures Rated A - F

Structure Grade	Color
A	Blue
B	Light Blue
C	Yellow
D	Orange
E	Red-Orange
F	Red

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Ward 12 News



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Additional Ward 12 Resources

First call for help on social services: 211

First call for help on city services: 311

Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Line: 988

Animal Help:

Neighborhood Pets (Low-Cost Pet Food):

216-505-5853

Animal Control / Trapping: 216-664-3069

Animal Human Investigations: 216-377-1630

Arts Programs:

Broadway School of Music: 216-641-0630

Arthouse, Inc.: 216-398-8556

County Property Tax Reappraisals:

216-443-7420, option 3

CMSD Enrollment: 216-838-3675

Food Support

University Settlement: 216-641-8948

Food Bank: 216-738-2265

Legal Aid:

Main Intake: 216-861-5500

Tenants Rights Hotline: 216-861-5955

Library Branches in Ward 12:

Fleet Branch: 216-623-6962

South Brooklyn Branch: 216-623-7067

Brooklyn Branch: 216-623-6920

South Branch (Tremont): 216-623-7060

Senior Services:

Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging:

216-621-0303

Senior Citizen Resources: 216-749-5367

Cuyahoga County Senior Services: 216-420-6700

Cleveland Department of Aging: 216-664-2833

Utility Services:

Cleveland Public Power: 216-664-3156

Illuminating Company (EI): 800-589-3101

Cleveland Water: 216-664-3130

NEORSJ (sewer): 216-881-6600

Water Pollution Control:

216-664-2513

Dominion Gas (Embriedge):

800-3627557

Digital-C/Canopy

(low-cost internet): 216-777-3859

Ward 12 Community Development

Corporations

MetroWest CDC: 216-961-9073

Old Brooklyn CDC: 216-459-1000

Slavic Village CDC: 216-429-1182

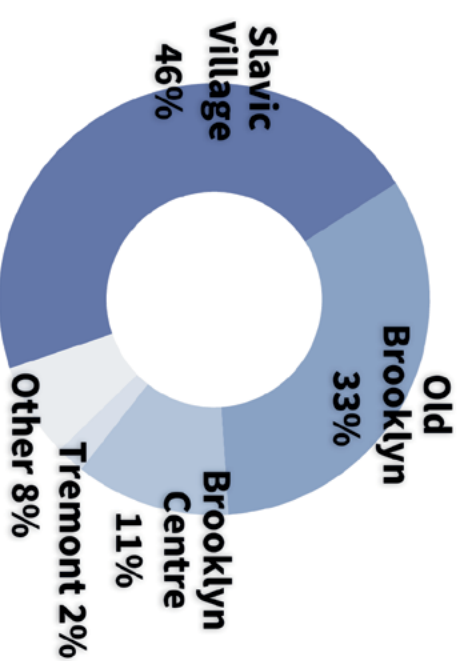
Tremont West CDC: 216-575-0920

Ward 12 At Work

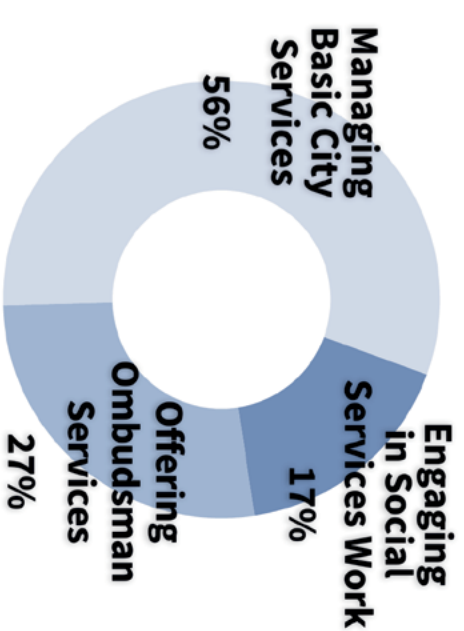
High-quality, trustworthy city services is the central responsibility of City Hall. Cleveland has not always had the best track record of delivering what residents deserve. In these instances, many residents come to the Council office for help. We want to help you get the quality city services you deserve, but we also want to improve the existing systems so that they work better and more seamlessly for everybody. The Ward 12 team does both. Here's a summary of our office constituent services work

Service requests to the Ward 12 Council Office since 2022:

3,314



By neighborhood: Our requests for service come from all over the ward. They are relatively proportional to the population that lives in our different neighborhoods in Ward 12. Our “other” calls often come from stakeholders such as business owners or landlords.



By type: As part of our work to evaluate what these calls cover, we reviewed a random sample of calls, and found that 56% were managing basic city services that could be handled directly by other departments. 17% involved significant social services work and 27% involved being the ombudsman to complex service requests that did not fit into existing city work order systems.