

The Ward 17 Dispatch

Councilman Charles J. Slife | Fall 2024



Engage with Councilman
CHARLES J. SLIFE



A Message from Councilman Charles Slife

The days are getting shorter and the holidays are around the corner. It has been an exciting year in Ward 17 and 2025 is shaping up to be just as exciting. I hope that you enjoy this newsletter. To me, they are great ways to help residents learn what is happening in our community.

Looking ahead into next year, here are a couple of items that are on the radar that may interest you:

- **Davinwood Park planning meeting, date/time TBD:** The Office of Capital Projects is working with me to initiate a park planning process for Davinwood Park, located adjacent to Douglas MacArthur School. The hope is to gain feedback from area residents on what they would like to see in the park, so that we can work collectively towards park improvements.
- **Gunning pool reopening, date/time TBD:** Work continues on the full rebuild of the indoor pool at Gunning Recreation Center,

with completion anticipated in the first half of 2025

- **Old Lorain Trail opening, date/time TBD:** Construction work will begin over the winter on the new Metroparks trail that will link Kamm's Corners and the Rocky River Valley. We are hopeful that the project will be completed in 2025.

If you are interested in these meetings/events, or if you are just looking for general neighborhood updates, be sure to follow me on Facebook (Councilman Charles J. Slife) or Instagram (councilmanslife). While these are far from the only ways to stay engaged with my office, they are certainly efficient.

See you in the neighborhood!

Charles J. Slife
Councilman, Ward 17

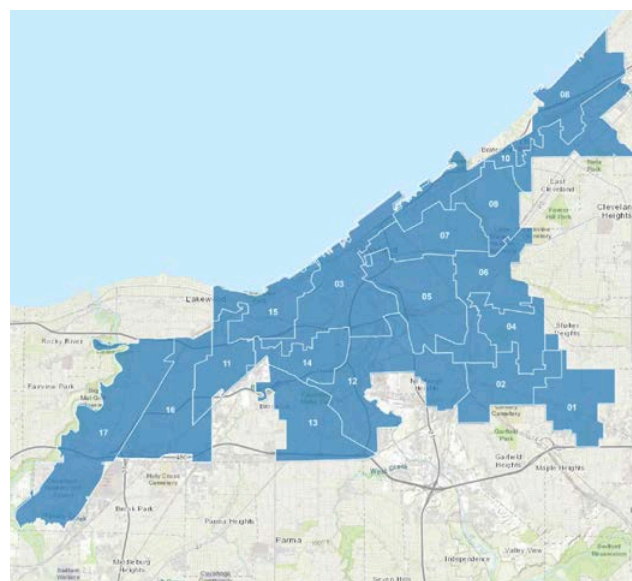
CITY HALL 216-664-4239 EMAIL cslife@clevelandcitycouncil.org WEB clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-17

Cleveland City Council Ward Redistricting

In 2008, Cleveland voters approved an amendment to the City Charter that pegs the number of City Council wards against population, with each ward comprising approximately 25,000 residents. Since that time, citywide population loss has resulted in the reduction of Cleveland City Council wards from 21 to the current number, 17.

Cleveland's official population is determined by the decennial Census, which last occurred in 2020. Given that the Census occurred amidst the Coronavirus Pandemic, there is widespread speculation that many Cleveland residents did not fill out the Census. Regardless of whether or not that is the case, Cleveland's official population is 372,624. Because the population is officially below 375,000, the Charter requires that Council be reduced from 17 to 15 wards.

At this time, Cleveland City Council has retained a consultant who is charged with dividing Cleveland into 15 proposed wards. Ultimately, Cleveland City Council is required to pass legislation that will institute a 15-ward map. It is anticipated that this work will be finalized in the coming months, in anticipation of the 2025 municipal election.



New Cleveland wards must have an average of 24,842 residents, with a maximum of 26,084 and a minimum of 23,600.

Population decline across Cleveland has not been evenly distributed. Compared to much of the city, Ward 17's population of 23,600 has been very stable. In fact, data indicate modest population growth across West Park.

At this time, new ward lines remain unknown. However, it is fair to speculate that redistricting will have a minimal impact on Ward 17, considering its population and location on the edge of Cleveland. It is plausible that Ward 17's current boundary may expand slightly and be renumbered to 15. In any case, please keep an eye on the redistricting process as it is important in ensuring that your voice is represented at City Hall.

Lead Testing



Among American cities, Cleveland has one of the nation's highest rates of children with elevated lead levels. **Young children, especially those under 6, are especially susceptible to lead poisoning because their developing brains and bodies absorb it more easily. Juveniles are affected by lead poisoning when exposed at a young age and it continues to impact their mental and physical development. This can have lifelong impacts.**

Although Lead Poisoning has been an issue for many years, lead poisoning came into the national spotlight ten years ago due to the Flint water crisis in Michigan. Two things worth knowing are:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

FAQs

ANSWERED!

When is bulk garbage collection?

Bulk garbage collection is always the first full week of every month (note, the week begins on Sunday.) Households can place up to 3 bulk items at the curb every month. Cleveland residents can also take bulk items to the Ridge Road Transfer Station, located on Ridge Rd. between Denison Ave. and Memphis Ave.

Is the City still recycling?

Yes, the City is still recycling. However, the program requires households to opt in. After opting in, residents receive stickers to place on their blue can. The recycling truck only collects from cans with these stickers. Cans without stickers are emptied into the regular garbage truck to prevent non-recyclables from contaminating the load. If you wish to opt in to recycling, contact Councilman Slife's office and we will drop off stickers along with details on what can and cannot be recycled.

Who determines who does/does not get leaf pick up?

The Department of Urban Forestry determines which areas of the city get curbside leaf pick up, based upon the number and size of treelawn trees within a neighborhood. **Most of Cleveland does not receive curbside leaf pick up.** The stated purpose of the leaf pick up program is to prevent leaves from treelawn trees, which the City owns, from clogging sewers. It is not designed to be a landscaping service for trees on private property.

Historically, Forestry has determined to collect leaves in 3 zones:

- North of Lorain Avenue, east of Rocky River Drive
- Streets near Drakefield Park

- West of Rocky River Drive, between Lorain Ave. and Puritas Ave.

Leaves are collected by the same workers that plow snow. After plowing is complete, which can be days depending on the amount of snowfall, crews revert back to leaf collection.

Regardless of location, all residents can bag leaves. Waste Collection will accept up to 20 bags of yard waste every week throughout the year. Alternatively, leaves can be mulched. This adds organic matter to the soil and diverts organic materials from landfills.

Who do I call about burnt out street lights?

All streetlights in Cleveland are owned and operated by Cleveland Public Power, even in Ward 17 where CPP doesn't provide power to customers. You can report a burnt out street light by contacting Councilman Slife's office.

How has the City determined where to install speed tables?

Cleveland has begun installing speed tables as a way to calm traffic on residential streets. The Division of Traffic Engineering has conducted traffic studies across the city and has prioritized side streets where traffic volumes are higher and where data show that speeding is persistent.

At this time, speed tables have been installed at three locations in Ward 17:

- Chatfield Avenue
- W. 157th Street
- W 165th Street

Data from the citywide traffic studies can be viewed by visiting data.cleveland.gov and clicking Apps & Maps.

PLAN TO ATTEND

WARD 17

COMMUNITY MEETING

THURSDAY
NOV. 21, 2024
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
WEST PARK BRANCH
3805 WEST 157TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44111

Councilman Charles Slife invites residents and stakeholders to this important community update.

Ward 17 Councilman **Charles Slife**

OFFICE: 216-664-4239
www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-17

Our First Responders

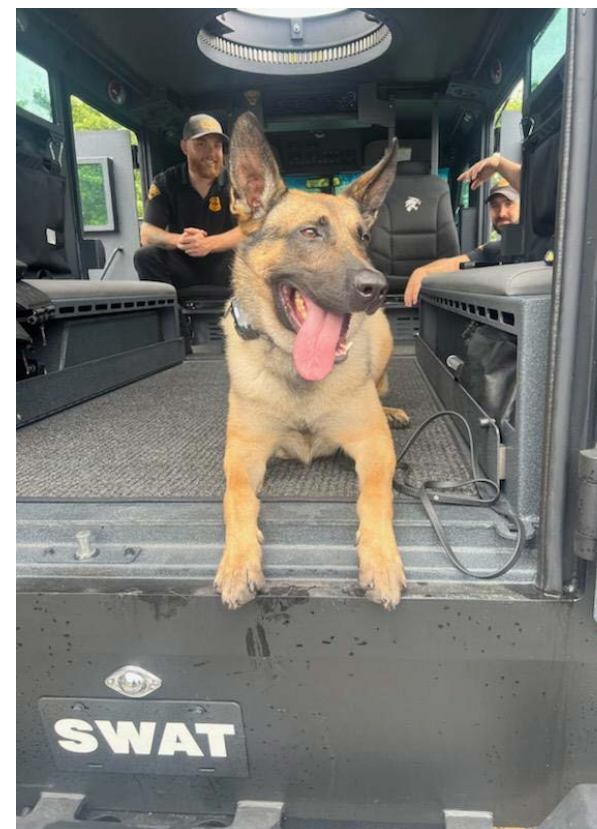
Rank/Name:
Ranger, K-9

Year you joined CPD: 2022

Why did you become a police officer?: *I get to help our community by going on crazy adventures where I find drugs the humans can't find. I also get to go to events and meet nice people, including lots of kids.*

What is your favorite part of the job?: *My human says we're going to work, but it's just play time for me. He always makes sure I'm fed and he always has my favorite treats and favorite toys ready to go.*

Tell us about your human: *My human is a good human! His name is Officer David J. Santiago Jr. #1697 and he joined Cleveland Police in 2013. He grew up in a law enforcement family in West Park (father and 2 uncles in CPD) and attended St. Mark's and St. Ed's. He likes interacting with people all over the city.*



Ranger, K-9 with some humans.



LEAD TESTING CONTINUED

1. Cleveland has a higher rate of childhood lead poisoning than Flint, and
2. The source of lead poisoning in Cleveland has been proven to come from lead-based paint, not water - Cleveland Water does not contain lead and the utility successfully prevents lead leaching out of water pipes through chemical treatment.

While lead poisoning rates are much lower in Ward 17 compared to citywide averages, it is still an important public health matter due to our older housing stock. Lead-based paint was banned in 1978, which means that a significant percentage of homes across Cuyahoga County contain lead based paint. **Children become vulnerable to lead poisoning when deferred maintenance and existing lead paint hazards such as chipping paint create dust that can be inhaled or ingested.** A significant source of contamination is older windows and doors, painted floors and exterior deteriorated wood siding. When painted building components

rub against each other by walking on floors or opening and closing windows a lead dust is created. Children crawling on floors and pulling themselves up onto window sills can come into contact with lead dust if areas of potential exposure are not addressed.

Some toys, Mardi Gras beads, certain facial makeups and home remedies also contain lead.

It is best to hire a professional or contact the local city Health Department if you are concerned about items in your home containing lead. The rule of thumb is that if the house was built prior to 1978 there is a strong possibility that there are lead painted components.

Lead paint does not pose a serious risk to children when it is stabilized and encapsulated by fresh paint, when windows are replaced, and when chipping paint is removed. Routine hand washing and healthy diets can also reduce the likelihood of being exposed to lead.

If children live or visit your home frequently, (more than 6 hours per week) be sure that they get a blood test for lead when visiting the doctor. If you live in a rental unit, your landlord is required to obtain a lead safe certificate from the City of Cleveland.

Smoke Detectors SAVE LIVES

Operation Save A Life, a program of the Red Cross and Cleveland Fire, provides **free smoke alarms and batteries to Cleveland residents.** Smoke alarms are installed by Cleveland firefighters at no cost to residents. Call 216-361-5535.

COUNCILMAN CHARLES SLIFE IN SERVICE



Council is the City of Cleveland's legislative branch of government and is responsible for writing and enacting city laws, known as ordinances. Council has 11 standing committees that meet publicly to write and pass ordinances that impact Clevelanders – housing, safety, public services, employment, the city budget and economic development.



Ward 17 Councilman Slife serves on the following committees:

- Vice Chair**
Transportation & Mobility
- Member**
Health, Human Services & the Arts
- Member**
Safety
- Member**
Workforce, Education, Training & Youth Development

REMINDER: Parking vehicles on front lawns is against the law. Violators are subject to ticketing from CPD.



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The Ward 17 Dispatch



WARD 17 COUNCILMAN
Charles Slife
City Hall Office:
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 220
Cleveland, OH 44114

Visit www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-17

Executive Assistant: Mary Breitweg

Phone: 216-664-4239 Fax: 216-664-3837

Email: cslife@clevelandcitycouncil.org



If you or someone you know
needs help with utility costs,
Call 2-1-1



UNITEDWAY211

Registration for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Winter Crisis Program is now open for income-eligible Ohioans to receive assistance with their heating bills. If you are looking for assistance with utility bills, United Way 211 is here to help. A network of agencies can provide information about payment plans, discounts, negotiation programs, and possible bill payment assistance designed to help people maintain affordable gas, electric, water, and telephone service.

Call 2-1-1 to speak with a trained Community Resource Specialist 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They will work with you to find the best community resources for your needs.

The HEAP Winter Crisis assistance is applied directly to a utility or fuel bill, and it can help homeowners and renters manage heating costs in the winter. For more information, visit the Ohio Department of Development's website at: <https://bit.ly/4dUs11L>

Community Organization Spotlight-Free Books with the Literacy Cooperative



Enroll your child to receive a free book in the mail every month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program. All children under the age of five are eligible to receive a brand new, high-quality, age appropriate book every month instilling a love of books and family reading from an early age. The Literacy Cooperative leads the program throughout Cuyahoga County where 39,000 children are currently enrolled. Enroll your child today by scanning the QR code, visiting: www.literacycooperative.org, text FREEBOOKS to 216-412-9005, or call us at 216-776-6180.



2025



Department of Public Works
Division of Waste Collection



B Bulk Week

H One Day Delayed Collection

H Holiday with Regular Pickup

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			H	2	3	4
B	5	6	7	8	9	10 11
	12	13	14	15	16	17 18
	19	H	21	22	23	24 25
	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan. 1st - New Year's Day (1 day delay)
Jan. 20th - MLK Day (1 day delay)

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
B	2	3	4	5	6	7 8
	9	10	11	12	13	14 15
	16	H	18	19	20	21 22
	23	24	25	26	27	28

Feb. 17th - President's Day
No delay in collection

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
B	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				

Apr. 18th - Good Friday
No delay in collection

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2 3
B	4	5	6	7	8	9 10
	11	12	13	14	15	16 17
	18	19	20	21	22	23 24
	25	H	27	28	29	30 31

May 27th - Memorial Day
(1) day delay all week

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
B	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
	8	9	10	11	12	13 14
	15	16	17	18	H	20 21
	22	23	24	25	26	27 28
	29	30				

June 19th - Juneteenth
No delay in collection

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2 3
B	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	

July 4th - Independence Day
No delay in collection

AUGUST

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
	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	2	3	4	5	6
B	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. 1st - Labor Day
1 day delay all week

OCTOBER

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	23	24 25
	26	27	28	29	30	31

Nov. 27th - Thanksgiving Day
(1) day delay all week

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2 3 4 5 6
B	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
	14	15	16	17	18	19 20
	21	22	23	24	H	26 27
	28	29	30			

Dec. 25th - Christmas Day
(1) day delay all week

B = BULK WEEK (3 items only)

City of Cleveland
Department of Public Works
Division of Waste Collection
5600 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103
216-664-3711
www.clevelandohio.gov

Division of Waste Collection services for your convenience:



5600 Carnegie (Carr. Center) or 3727 Ridge Road, Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
DO NOT leave computers, tires, trees, hazardous waste, or other debris in the drop off boxes.