

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

October 10, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

Present were: Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Jesse Armstrong, Deputy Director of Business, Claims, and Real Estate, Civil Division, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; and Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom conferencing, by dialing (929) 436-2866, Meeting ID:978 8790 2896; Passcode:628826, or by joining at: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/97887902896>

Commissioner Crawley called the meeting to order at 9:12 A.M.

Commissioner Crawley: Good morning. LGBTQ+ History Month is an annual observance that takes place in October here in the United States. It is a time to educate and celebrate the achievements and contributions of LGBTQ+ people, which are often overlooked or erased in mainstream narratives of history, as well as to raise awareness of ongoing challenges and discrimination. This month-long celebration is important because it helps to recognize the diversity and history of the LGBTQ+ community. It can promote greater acceptance and inclusivity of queer people by highlighting the diversity and richness of the queer community and by showing that their members have always been an integral part of society and hopefully strive to create a more inclusive and equal world for all. In turn, National Coming Out Day is celebrated tomorrow, October 11th. It was first celebrated on the first anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights – a date chosen to honor the bravery of LGBTQ+ individuals who decide to come out and live openly. Although it started as an American awareness day, the meaning of National Coming Out Day is still highly relevant to LGBTQ+ communities across the world today. Coming out is a unique experience for each LGBTQ+ person, and we need to remember it is not a one-time event. For those who are questioning their identities or living in an unwelcoming environment, seeing someone come out – whether it is a family member, a friend, or a co-worker – can offer a feeling of hope, solidarity, and reassurance.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): Whether you identify as LGBTQ+ or an ally, celebrating National Coming Out Day is an important way to raise the visibility of our communities, reminding us all of the ongoing struggles LGBTQ+ people face just for being themselves, but also of the joy and pride of being openly LGBTQ+. Here to share more is Svetlana Harlan, Project Coordinator for the Gay Ohio History Initiative.

Svetlana Harlan, Community Engagement Coordinator, Ohio History Connection: In my role, I help manage the Gay Ohio History Initiative (GOHI). At the Ohio History Connection, our mission is to spark the discovery of Ohio stories, embrace the present, share the past, and transform the future. Combined with our core values of relevance, inclusivity, authenticity, stewardship, and working together, I am proud that GOHI is one of the many ways that we are advancing that mission and those values across the state of Ohio. October is a uniquely special time to share the importance of LGBTQ+ History. It is LGBTQ+ History Month in the United States, and tomorrow, October 11th, is National Coming Out Day. The month of October is a time when members of the LGBTQ+ community recognize and celebrate the amazing achievements of activists and community leaders, as well as the tenacity and resilience of our LGBTQ+ communities. National Coming Out Day is a day in which members of the LGBTQ+ community can proudly live their truth and celebrate being their authentic selves without shame and hopefully without persecution. In 2023, National Coming Out Day will be directed by the Human Rights Campaign, a leading organization for LGBTQ+ activism. It is observed around the United States, but also in countries like the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. One of the founders of National Coming Out Day is an activist from Cleveland, Ohio. Jean O’Leary grew up in Cleveland and attended Cleveland State University, graduating in 1971. She championed National Coming Out Day in 1988, hoping to create a day that empowered members of the LGBTQ+ community to speak proudly and positively about their identities. In 1994, the Missouri teacher who founded LGBTQ+ History Month chose the month of October partially because of National Coming Out Day on October 11th. The creation of National Coming Out Day and LGBTQ+ History Month has some Ohio roots and is thus part of Ohio’s history. Recognizing LGBTQ+ History Month here in Ohio is important because it acknowledges the significant contributions LGBTQ+ people have made to the larger story of Ohio. It also gives us a chance to appreciate the full spectrum of LGBTQ+ history – not just the difficult struggles to achieve equal rights, marriage equality, and workplace protections, but also the stories of community, joy, and fellowship. At GOHI, it is our goal to recognize the extensive and diverse histories of LGBTQ+ individuals and communities throughout Ohio, and to incorporate these stories into our larger understanding of Ohio history. GOHI began in 2006, when Outlook Media donated its print run of magazines to start our initial archival collection. Since then, GOHI’s collection has grown immensely, including thousands of manuscripts, physical objects, AV media, publications, and oral histories. This collection is accessible to our patrons at the Ohio History Center here in Columbus, and some of the collection has been digitized and is available on Ohio History Connection’s online platform, Ohio Memory. The GOHI collection provides researchers interested in Ohio’s LGBTQ+ history the opportunity to research in a collection that is specifically designed and built around LGBTQ+ identities and stories. One of the greatest challenges of researching and writing about LGBTQ+ history is the difficulty of tracking down archival sources. Unfortunately, many documents that trace the origins of this rich history have been destroyed or, intentionally or unintentionally, excluded from archival collections.

Ms. Harlan (cont.): That is why collections like GOHI, which aim to preserve these records and make them easily accessible, are so important. In addition to our collection, GOHI's other major focus is community outreach and engagement. From the beginning, GOHI was a grassroots, community-led effort. The LGBTQ+ community of Ohio should be empowered to tell their stories rather than have a narrative imposed on them. That is why we work with community members and organizations to help shape our work at GOHI. This community-centered approach, as well as our mission and core values, are central to the work we are currently undertaking. We are currently in the early stages of a three-year project called Marking Diverse Ohio, which is an effort to create ten new Ohio Historical Markers that recognize and uplift LGBTQ+ stories across the state. There are currently only three markers in the state of Ohio that tell historical stories related to LGBTQ+ topics. Through Marking Diverse Ohio, we are listening to the LGBTQ+ communities around the state to hear the stories they want to see uplifted by an Ohio Historical Marker. We are also offering our expertise and research assistance to make these applications successful because of the historical hardships and exclusion that the community has faced. The prototype for the Marking Diverse Ohio project is Ohio History Connection's most recent LGBTQ+ marker, which recognizes Summit Station. Summit Station is Ohio's longest-running lesbian bar, right here in Columbus. It is Franklin County's first LGBTQ+ marker, but hopefully, it will not be its last. We are hopeful that at least one of these ten markers will find a home here in Franklin County. One of our candidates is the Pater Noster House, a hospice and crisis center for those with HIV/AIDS, that began in the Hilltop neighborhood in 1985. Between 1985 and 2000, over 900 patients were treated at the Pater Noster House at little or no cost. It provided those whom the mainstream medical establishment had shunned, and often by their own families, a dignified place to spend their final days. The Pater Noster House became the center of national attention in November 1990, when Life Magazine published a photo of the dying activist, David Kirby, on his deathbed, surrounded by a family that had previously rejected him. The image was dubbed "the photo that changed the face of AIDS." David Kirby's story was not unique at the Pater Noster House. The folks who volunteered there worked to reconnect estranged families so that those dying of the plague could spend their final days surrounded by family. Given that in the early days of HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ+ community was disproportionately affected, the story of Pater Noster House is an important piece of Franklin County's LGBTQ+ history. Through Marking Diverse Ohio, we are also working to set up a Community of Practice for those interested in learning about how to preserve LGBTQ+ history. The Community of Practice also provides a statewide network for those interested in preserving history. In the future, we hope that the Community of Practice will serve as an advisory council for GOHI, steering the work and engagement with the larger LGBTQ+ community around the state. This October, we encourage you to learn more about Ohio's LGBTQ+ history at www.gohi.org, which is our central hub. There, you can get connected with all of our physical and digital resources, including our extensive library of oral histories. We also link to other Ohio-based collections organized around LGBTQ+ topics. Thank you for your time and attention.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you on behalf of Franklin County and Central Ohio. The history of our LGBTQ+ community is critical, not only to our growing community now, but also to a Central Ohio that will look much different ten years from now. The actions that we take today are a part of what is going to undergird how we think, how we operate, how we build, and how we grow.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): This history is very much a part of that landscape and ecosystem. I want to encourage you to continue to engage us throughout the month. Whether you come back and stand before us to tell us about activities coming up or places we can go to learn more about the paths of our friends in the community, or you just call our office or send us things that will allow us to push some of that information out to the community to make it as inclusive as we can. Let this be the very beginning of a new kind of approach to helping to educate our community in a broader way. We need to include everyone in the conversation around inclusiveness, equality, and freedom to be who you are and who you want to be. Thank you so much for being here today; we appreciate the history you have shared.

Ms. Harlan: Thank you for having me. That was a great reminder that we are having an event at the Ohio History Center with Summit Station tomorrow night. The event is called “Meet the Sheroes,” and individuals will tell their stories from the old days at the bar. If anyone is interested, please head down to the Ohio History Center tomorrow at 6:00 P.M.

Commissioner Crawley: As I think of our motto, “Every resident, every day,” it is important to learn about the history of everyone in our community if we really want to be a welcoming and inclusive community here in Franklin County. As we continue to grow and businesses are coming here, we always want everyone in our community to share in that prosperity and understand the history that comes with different communities. It is important for us, as the Board of Commissioners, to have a welcoming environment for our roughly 8,000 county employees to work and make a concerted and intentional effort to provide services and know what is going on in the community. We want to be able to share events with our staff and show up and be a part of them. Like Commissioner Boyce said, keep us involved, not only during this month, but throughout the year.

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Commissioner Boyce: Our hearts and prayers go out to those families and innocent victims in the Middle East. I had the opportunity to be in the Middle East, in Israel, just a few weeks ago. I had the opportunity to visit the Gaza Strip and speak to Israelis and Palestinians. I can say for sure that no matter where you fall on the conversation around the two-state solution, none of us support terrorism. None of us support innocent people and victims having to live their lives every day in a terrifying environment. Those are our friends and our neighbors. Some of these groups have made threats that their plans go beyond Israel. That should be an alarm to all of us about the fragility of life through the lenses of terrorist organizations. I know I stand with my colleagues in condemning that kind of approach, vision, and action. We will not stand for it at all. I had the opportunity to attend a vigil yesterday evening, and my heart goes out to the families who are residents of Central Ohio who have roots or family in the Middle East. I cannot imagine the type of feeling that is occurring. Some of the stories that are being told are just heartbreaking. It is important that we uplift peace in the region and denounce terrorism. I believe we will be issuing a statement today because we want to do our part in recognizing the travesty that exists and denouncing the terrorist actions that can plague anyone’s life, even on American soil. Many of us are old enough to recall watching the actions of 9/11 unfold.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): I was a young city councilperson then and remember what that felt like. Even though it was not in Central Ohio, it felt like it was right in my backyard. I remember rushing to figure out if I should get my kids out of school and, if I did, where we would go. I remember convening with the Mayor, City Council members, and other leaders to figure out if we needed to cancel school for the day and to determine what to say to our residents. We had intelligence that said there was an unaccounted-for plane near Ohio. The terror of making those kinds of decisions is incredible. I cannot imagine being on the frontlines of that, as the people in the Middle East are right now on both sides of that conflict. Innocent people are going to be impacted, and that is not okay. My heart goes out to all of those innocent people in the region who are suffering at the hands of terrorism. We pray for the victims and their families.

Commissioner Crawley: I was just in Israel, as well, after Commissioner Boyce was there. I have been to Israel, Palestine, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank. This is an unfortunate and complex situation, and no matter where you stand on a two-state solution, innocent lives have been lost already, and more innocent people will die. I think about the children who are affected by adults' decisions, and I get emotional. I decided to go into the military when I was in school at the University of Toledo. I dropped out of college to serve in the military. My father was in the Army and served in Vietnam. My brother was serving in the Army. I decided to join the Navy because the USS Cole was bombed in Yemen, and eighteen service members lost their lives in the Mediterranean in the Middle East. I enlisted in the Navy and began serving in 2000. I served during 9/11, and I supported communication assets for the whole Atlantic Fleet as they moved from our shores over into the Mediterranean. I served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and I have to denounce any form of terrorism, whether foreign or domestic. As Commissioner Boyce stated, losing innocent lives at the hands of terrorism is never okay. We stand with our friends. My former Policy Director, Moriah Lieberman, who you all have worked with, lives in Israel now. I texted her this morning, and she said she is feeling safe right now. But I know people who are not. I have spoken to people who live along the Gaza Strip and to Palestinians. This is not an easy situation, and it is very complex. I stand with my friends in Israel who feel like they should fight back from a terrorist attack to keep their people safe. I know that there are people who are dying in Palestine and Israel. I would love nothing more than a quick and peaceful permanent solution so that no one in Palestine or Israel has to lose their life. My hope is that they can all live in peace and harmony and that children can see themselves growing up and having a future rather than living under constant threat. I cannot even imagine the PTSD that happens. I pray for everyone in both regions. I understand other countries are involved, as well, and I pray for everyone. I hope we can find a quick solution so no more lives are lost.

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Resolution No. 0760-23, authorizing an addendum to the existing contract with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction CCA 2.0 Grant. Addendum Increase of \$366,800 for a new total grant of \$12,202,840 (Court of Common Pleas), presented by Kimberly Canada, Director of Finance, Court of Common Pleas, General Division.

Ms. Canada reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0760-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0761-23, Toole Design Group, LLC, consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in performing a feasibility study for the Groveport Road Improvements project, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$60,685.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Foster reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0761-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0762-23, requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Holton Road, County Road No. 263, Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Foster reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0762-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0763-23, preliminary allocation and final encumbrance of County Motor Vehicle License Fee (\$5) Funds for the City of Reynoldsburg (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Engineer of Operations, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Foster reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0763-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0764-23, authorizing the application to the Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Assistance for a grant related to additional funding for Postconviction Testing of DNA-Evidence in support of the Conviction Integrity Unit and to authorize the County Administrator to accept the grant award (\$246,310.00) (Prosecuting Attorney), presented by Jesse Armstrong,

Deputy Director of Business, Claims, and Real Estate, Civil Division, Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Mr. Armstrong reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0764-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0765-23, authorizing a supplemental appropriation within the LETF Federal Treasury Fund to purchase vehicles for the Internal Affairs Bureau and the Warrants and Extraditions Unit (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Smith reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0765-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0773-23, authorizing the County Administrator to be designated as Franklin County's "Certifying Officer" and has the authority to prepare and approve all necessary documents related to the county's responsibilities as defined in 24 CFR part 58 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Jesse Armstrong, Deputy Director of Business, Claims, and Real Estate, Civil Division, Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Mr. Armstrong reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley asked who the Certifying Officer was prior to this resolution. Mr. Armstrong stated that the common practice was to have the Director of Economic Development and Planning act as the Certifying Officer and sign those documents. The Prosecutor's Office believes the best and safest route going forward is to have the County Administrator take over the role of Certifying Officer, working in conjunction with the Prosecutor's Office and EDP. Commissioner Crawley asked for clarification regarding the sequence of events in the process. Mr. Armstrong stated that the Board of Commissioners would approve these programs, in general, and then the County would receive applications for particular projects within the programs. It is after receiving the applications that the Certifying Officer would conduct a review to make sure it meets the requirements, and then would sign off on it. Administrator Wilson added that documents such as the Action Plan would be signed by himself, as the Certifying Officer, after action is taken by the Board. The only exception would be if HUD required a signature to start a process, which the Board of Commissioners would ultimately ratify. Administrator Wilson noted that the Prosecutor's Office and the Office of Management and Budget have looked

at this process extensively, and are confident that this process ensures that there are no gaps in communication between the County and HUD.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0773-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0766-23, review of petition to annex 1.463 +/- acres from Madison Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-33-23 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Matt Brown, Planning Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0766-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0767-23, review of petition to annex 9.504 +/- acres from Madison Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-34-23 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Matt Brown, Planning Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0767-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0768-23, to adjust the boundaries between the City of Columbus and the City of Whitehall Case #ANX-39-23 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Matt Brown, Planning Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0768-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0769-23, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached "Discharge of MORTGAGE" instrument for Shanika D. Campbell at 6934 Blackoak Drive, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

Ms. Tiruchelvam reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0769-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0770-23, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached “Discharge of MORTGAGE” instrument for Marques D. Chitison at 510 Whitehall Dr., Columbus, OH 43213 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

Ms. Tiruchelvam reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0770-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0771-23, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached “Discharge of MORTGAGE” instrument for Robert Rumsey at 494 Pamlico Street - Unit T6, Columbus, Ohio 43228 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

Ms. Tiruchelvam reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0771-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0772-23, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$1,372,266.59) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

Ms. Perry-Balonier and Ms. Bumper reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0772-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read four (4) journalizations into the record:

Case #ANX-40-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-40-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on October 4, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 59.743-acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on November 7, 2023. Site: 1335 Thraikill Road, PID #160-000016; and 3709 Jackson Pike, PID #160-000157.

Case #ANX-41-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-41-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on October 4, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 0.47-acres from Franklin Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on November 7, 2023. Site: 4212 Ongaro Drive, PID #142-000028.

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners has received a proposal from the Franklin County Recorder's Office for funding the Recorder's Technology Fund. The Board of Commissioners will hold an administrative session mandated by section 317.321(D) of the Revised Code to discuss the proposal on Thursday, October 12, 2023, following Briefing.

The 2023 committee assignment for the Board of Commissioners regarding Franklin County Planning Commission has been updated to assign Emily Cooner as Commissioner Boyce's designee. The noted assignment will be filed with today's meeting minutes for the record and will be distributed to our internal and external partners who may be impacted by this selection.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 A.M.

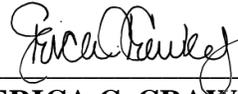
(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



KEVIN L. BOYCE



**ERICA C. CRAWLEY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:



Lauren M. Graessle

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