

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

May 5, 2026

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Present were: John O'Grady, President
Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Damika Withers, Deputy County Administrator; Shayla D. Favor, Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney; Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; and Michael E. Ruehrmund, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom Webinar Meeting ID: 811 9053 2115; Passcode: 1803, to attend virtually and watch the session live, [click here to register in advance](#).

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Commissioner O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: Each May, we celebrate Older Americans Month, first established in 1963, to honor the contributions of older adults and reaffirm our commitment to supporting them. This year's theme, "Champion Your Health," highlights prevention, wellness, and the importance of strong communities in healthy aging.

At the Franklin County Office on Aging, that's exactly what we do. Through programs like Senior Options, caregiver support, and home repair, we help residents stay independent and engaged. Our Aging Forward Agenda furthers that work, strengthening services and improving access as our population grows. To our older adults: thank you. Thank you for your wisdom and your continued role in strengthening our community.

For more information, visit franklincountyohio.gov/aging. Happy Older Americans Month!

Commissioner Boyce recognized Commissioner O'Grady's advocacy for older adults and emphasized the County's ongoing work to strengthen support systems and services for seniors. Commissioner Boyce also encouraged residents to recognize Older Americans Month by doing something thoughtful for an older adult in their life or community.

Commissioner O'Grady noted that while Franklin County often focuses on underserved populations, the Office on Aging serves older adults across the entire county regardless of income or background, and encouraged residents to connect neighbors, relatives, or community members with the agency for needs such as transportation to medical appointments, medical devices, or other support services.

Commissioner Crawley connected Older Americans Month with Mental Health Awareness Month, noting that aging residents can be left out of conversations about mental health, substance use, isolation, medication management, and community connection, and encouraged continued attention to supports that help older adults remain healthy, engaged, and connected.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, noted that Franklin County Senior Options Day at Huntington Park will take place on May 21, 2026, and stated that residents aged 60 and older interested in attending the Clippers game with a box lunch can call 614-525-6200 to participate.

Commissioner O'Grady also noted that his youngest daughter voted for the first time this morning, shared that the polling location recognized the milestone with applause, and wished everyone a happy Election Day, encouraging residents to vote.

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Resolution No. 0274-26, authorizing the application to the Department of Justice for a grant related to funding in support of the Conviction Integrity Unit and to authorize the County Administrator to accept the grant award. (Prosecuting Attorney), presented by Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0274-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0275-26, authorizing a contract with CDW Government, LLC for the provision of professional services for on-demand project support and scheduled maintenance (\$100,000.00) (Franklin County Data Center), presented by Renea Ruple, Financial Services Manager, Franklin County Data Center.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0275-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0276-26, authorizing the County Administrator to execute an agreement with the Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. to promote Franklin County as a tourism destination (\$3,525,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Harrison Zeller, Economic Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning, Brian Ross, President & CEO, Experience Columbus, and Linda Logan, President & CEO, Greater Columbus Sports Commission.

Mr. Zeller, Mr. Ross, and Ms. Logan reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce framed the investment as part of Central Ohio's long-term growth strategy, noting projected population growth toward 2050 and the need to invest in sectors that shape quality of life, economic development, tourism, sports, creative industries, and the region's identity. Commissioner Boyce praised the work of Experience Columbus, alongside the convention facilities authority, visitor bureau, and sports leaders, citing the growth of downtown hotels, major events, and the region's ability to host competitions once thought out of reach, and stated that the return on investment is clear as Franklin County works to become one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family.

Commissioner Crawley thanked Mr. Ross and Ms. Logan for their work promoting Columbus and Franklin County as a destination for conventions, sports, and visitor experiences, noting that these efforts require sustained relationship-building and consistent showcasing of the region's strengths. Commissioner Crawley highlighted the recent Alpha Kappa Alpha Great Lakes Regional Conference as an example of a successful event that brought visitors to the area, created a memorable experience, and generated strong feedback. Commissioner Crawley praised the continued focus on demonstrating return on investment through hotel stays, local spending, and broader community benefit.

Commissioner O'Grady reflected on the County's long-term investment in economic development, Experience Columbus, and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, noting that while funding decisions and dollar amounts require careful review, the return on investment has consistently been worthwhile because conventions, tourism, and sports generate hotel stays, restaurant activity, visitor spending, and sales tax revenue that support County services for residents. Commissioner O'Grady thanked the organizations and the County's economic development team for maintaining a strong partnership and for continuing to present thoughtful proposals that strengthen Franklin County's economy.

Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, recognized the County's intentional investment in girls' and women's sports, noting that few communities make that commitment from the outset, and credited the Board, Ms. Logan, and local partners for treating women's sports as both an economic driver and a community priority rather than an afterthought.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0276-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0277-26, authorizing a funding agreement with the Kaleidoscope Youth Center to provide transitional housing supportive services in Franklin County (\$500,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Walter Dillard, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0277-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0278-26, authorizing a grant agreement with Neighborhood Design Center to support youth workforce development and community revitalization through design-based learning programs (\$150,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development), presented by Andrena Austin, Director, Economic Engagement and Community Development, Kaleb Duarte, Youth CoLab Program Coordinator, Riahna Jackson, 2025 Youth CoLab Participant & New Youth CoLab Program Coordinator, Neighborhood Design Center, and Glennon Sweeney, Director, Community Programs & Outreach, Neighborhood Design Center.

Ms. Austin, Mr. Duarte, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Sweeney reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley thanked the students for sharing how CoLab has supported their goals and recognized the program's impact on the South Side, particularly along the Parsons Corridor, where continued investment and support are needed. Commissioner Crawley asked how students learn about the Neighborhood Design Center, CoLab, and paid internship opportunities, including whether the program actively recruits beyond existing community partner referrals.

Ms. Sweeney explained that CoLab recruits students through partner organizations, workshops, local schools, social media, newsletters, past applicants, and community networks, noting that recent outreach has already produced about 30 applicants for the summer program. Ms. Sweeney stated that the program selected Linden this summer because of strong interest from Linden and Northland students last year, and Ms. Sweeney highlighted collaboration with groups such as Erase the Space to match students with the best-fitting opportunities.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0278-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0279-26, authorizing a contract amendment with Freedom Equity Inc. to support small business development, resource coordination, and economic opportunity through expansion of the Build Grow Go platform (\$1,550,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community

Development), presented by Andrena Austin, Director, Economic Engagement and Community Development, and J. Averil Frost, President & CEO, Freedom Equity Inc.

Ms. Austin and Ms. Frost reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0279-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0280-26, authorizing a professional service contract agreement with Jordan Rodgers for peer support and case management services for justice involved residents served through the Franklin County Rapid Resource Centers (\$28,512.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Chief Operating Officer, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0280-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0281-26, authorizing an extension and modification to the subgrant award agreement with Godman Guild Association for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programming under the FY 2023 Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Formula Block Grant (\$3,464.74) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Chief Operating Officer, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0281-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0282-26, authorizing a transfer of General Fund appropriations to support the purchase of replacement equipment for the Franklin County Printshop (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0282-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0283-26, authorizing contract modifications and extensions with thirty-five (35) Temporary Staffing providers for use by any Franklin County agency, court, Board, or Commission (\$5,000,000.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0283-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0284-26, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$1,118,411.18) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0284-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0289-26, approving one purchase for the Franklin County Coroner's Office (\$4,046.32) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0289-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0285-26, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$3,150.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0285-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0286-26, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$2,550.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0286-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0287-26, approving a contract with Franklin County Public Health for an Illicit Discharge Compliance Program addressing the elimination of illicit connections to the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0287-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0288-26, authorizing the execution of the Fourth Amendment to the Amended and Restated Lease Agreement between Franklin County, the City of Columbus, and the Columbus Zoological Park Association (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0288-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner O'Grady abstaining.

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Michael E. Ruehrmund, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read two (2) journalizations into the record:

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 0573-25, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners is required to journalize the following actions:

On Monday, April 27, 2026, the Chief of Economic Innovations & Development provided notice to the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of the following approvals by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

HUD approval of Substantial Amendments to 2019 Annual Action Plan (AAP)

The Board of Commissioners previously approved these substantial amendments on November 25, 2025 (Resolution 0872-25).

This journalization further reflects that on Thursday, April 23, 2026, HUD approved EDP's Substantial Amendments to the 2019 Annual Action Plan (AAP).

HUD's final approval of Substantial Amendments to the 2019 AAP is hereby journalized.

2. The document presented today has been sent to each of your offices by email and is being journalized in accordance with the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 0392-24: Intergovernmental Agreements

The Clerk's Office has tracked each contract signed by the County Administrator under this authority, as required by the resolution.

The list provided today will be included in the meeting minutes.

Resolution No. 0392-24 - Intergovernmental Agreements Clerk to journalize monthly <i>new items for journalization in red</i>	
Date Signed	Contract Information
1/13/2026	Agreement with Dr. Overmire (FCSO)
1/16/2026	2026 PSAP Agreement Cont-8268
1/30/2026	MOU - JFS and FCCS
2/10/2026	MOU - Office on Aging - City of Whitehall
2/13/2026	Wireless 911 Charges - City of Columbus and Franklin County
2/17/2026	COTA TSi Grant Agreement (Engineer)
2/25/2026	JFS Police Services Agreement (FCSO)
3/12/2026	CelebrateOne (JFS)
3/12/2025	2026 Case Management Agreement with FCBDD (JFS)
3/13/2025	HUD Letter regarding CDBG Timeliness (EDP)
4/1/2026	Aspyr Subgrant (BOC)
4/3/2026	Subgrant Award Agreement with Franklin County Public Health (JPP)
4/15/2026	Lead Safe Ohio
4/16/2026	FCDJFS & FCMC '26-'27 Eviction Court MOU
4/23/2026	Parking License Agreement with City of Columbus

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 A.M.

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(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session for Tuesday, May 5, 2026.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



KEVIN L. BOYCE

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

Submitted by:



Michael E. Ruehrmund
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners