

## **County Council Regular Meeting: May 23, 2017**

Observer: Marcia Goldberg

*This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Cuyahoga County Council and is not an official statement by any League of Women Voters in the county. For the official disposition of all agenda items, consult the Cuyahoga County Council website at [council.cuyahogacounty.us](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us)*

### **I. Introduction.**

President Dan Brady called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. All Council members were present by 5:03. The meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

### **II. Antecedents, Announcements & Public Comment.**

County Executive Armond Budish said that he had just returned from Columbus, where his portrait was unveiled and added to those of other former Ohio Speakers of the House. He said it's too bad the county doesn't have enough money to commission portraits—so he gave Council members stick-figure drawings of himself. A little levity to start the meeting.

Ms. Liu spoke again about the poor conditions at the Payne Avenue homeless shelter for single women. She has brought this up at previous Council meetings as well. She ended her statement by asking Council to “do your best to help us.”

### **III. Business Transacted**

\* On third reading, a resolution was passed unanimously to spend \$5.5 million for emergency homeless shelter services for single adults. However, Council took to heart Ms. Liu's and others' comments about the Payne Avenue shelter: Frontline Services' contract for \$964,524 was extended only until the end of this year. The \$4.5 million contract with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry for services at the Lakeside Avenue men's shelter was extended until Dec. 31, 2019.

\* Other significant items that passed unanimously on first or second reading:

-- Agreements with Cleveland Public Power for an electricity-generating solar-power project at 9400 Memphis Ave. in Brooklyn. This resolution does not increase the city's \$68 million contract with CPP, and Council members said they considered it an exciting and innovative project. Ms. Simon complained about the state's refusal to support stricter energy-generating standards but said this solar project could save the county up to \$4 million. Mr. Schron added an amendment to the agreement encouraging the use of American-made products—an amendment Council unanimously supported.

-- An extension of University Hospitals' lease of space at the county medical examiner's building until May 2027. The lease expands the hospital system's data center in the building and will generate \$5.9 million in income for the county.

-- An extension until May 2022 of the county's lease of office space at 8111 Quincy Ave. for a total cost of \$5.5 million, and spending \$650,000 to renovate leased office space at 9830 Loraine Ave. that's used as a centralized training center for Health and Human Services.

\* A proposed ordinance regarding firearms was introduced. Subject of a May 24 Plain Dealer article, this legislation would require any preschool or daycare provider that contracts with the county to prohibit firearms in their facilities. Sponsored by Mr. Hairston and Mr. Miller, it was referred to Council's Education, Environment and Sustainability Committee. According to the Plain Dealer, gun advocates have advised Council that the ordinance is superseded by state law, which does not allow political subdivisions within the state to enact any of their own firearm laws or regulations. But Council's documentation says that state law allows the prohibition of firearms at daycare facilities.