

COUNCIL MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009

The regular Council Meeting was held on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Euclid Municipal Center Council Chamber. Council President Holzheimer Gail presided.

Members Present: Gruber, Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman,  
Van Ho, Holzheimer Gail.

All Present.

Others Present: Mayor Cervenik, Law Director Frey, Finance Director Johnson, Recreation Director Will, Service Director Gulich, CS&ED Director Pietravoia, Police Chief Repicky, Fire Chief Cosgriff, Asst. Director Beno, Hsg. Manager Drazetic, Sgt.-at-Arms Novosel, Clerk of Council Cahill.

Invocation was given by Rev. Anne McCabe from Boulevard Presbyterian Church.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Gruber moved to receive and approve the Council Minutes of January 20, 2009. Councilwoman Scarniench seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Cervenik and Service Director Gulich presented Res. 13-2009 proclaiming 2009 as the Year of the River, to Claire Posius from Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator and Jane Goodman, Cuyahoga Remedial Action Plan.

Director Will – I would like to remind everyone that we do have our C.E. Orr ice arena, up and running until the end of March. We offer skating lessons and public sessions. You're not to young to skate, we have people age 3. And you're not to old to skate, we have somebody who is 98 years old that is out skating at our ice arena. If you're interested, call 289-8649. We'll get you signed up for a set of lessons or private lessons or have you come to one of the public sessions or attend one of the hockey games.

We also utilize Euclid High School pool for swimming classes and open and adult swim. Again not to old or to young for swimming lessons. We actually start our swimming lessons at age 6 months and we go all the way up to, I think our oldest person in adult lesson right now is 70. Again, you're never to old to learn to swim. It is a huge safety issue especially living right here by the Lake. Give us a call and we'd be glad to teach you how to swim.

This weekend will be ending our Youth Basketball session. On Friday night at the Euclid Sports Plant we will have our playoffs begin. It will be the First Merit Slam Dunk competition. Friday night there will be games from 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00. There will be three games going on at each one of the time slots. On Saturday morning, we'll end the playoffs there at the Sports Plant starting at 9:00 AM. Hopefully we'll be able to see you at the ice skating rink or at the sports plant or at the swimming pool. We'll be starting our sign ups for all of our spring programs, so check it out on the website, give us a call, we always have something for everyone. Thank you.

Mayor Cervenik – The Director also has some presentations to be made to a couple of participants in the basketball program. I know one of the families are on their way. If we could wait for them to come here, that would be great.

The only other comment that I would like to make this evening is I'm sure many of you have seen the news release and the local news on radio and television concerning some of the actions Lincoln Electric is taking to safeguard their financial stability and their strength in the marketplace due to the meltdown of the worldwide economy. I'm here to tell you that the City of Euclid is very proud to have Lincoln Electric here. Regardless of what reporters and other organizations are saying, Lincoln Electric has not violated and will never violate their guaranteed employment practice with their employees. Some of the employees that are no longer working were temporary employees and those that did not meet the guidelines to qualify for guaranteed employment. They are cutting back on hours. At one time they were working as many as 52 hours, they're down to 32. That is all part of the guaranteed employment agreement that the employees agree to work the overtime when necessary and also to reduce their hours when we have situations like this.

Lincoln Electric, just like the City of Euclid is not immune to the ravaging of our economy. I can tell you this, Lincoln Electric is very strong. They ended the year 2008 with a cash balance of over \$275 million and no net debt. They have experienced these downturns before and they have the ability to manage and to prepare and invest in their infrastructure so that when the economy and the markets open up again, they will be ready and primed to move forward. We have no fear and we all need to recognize that Lincoln Electric is doing nothing more than I and you and the

administration have done in order to deal with this economic downturn that we have. Other companies in this city are doing the same thing, which is why our projections are down where they are. News media at times like to overdue companies problems. Lincoln Electric is acting very well and again I'm very proud to have them in the City of Euclid and they are going to be here for a long, long time.

Council President, can we start the agenda and then present it?

President Holzheimer Gail – That's fine. Let me know when they come in and we can take a break and handle that. I will remind the audience and those watching at home that at the end of our meeting, the Mayor will be giving the State of the City Address tonight. Please stay tuned or stay and listen with us.

#### Reports & Committee Minutes

Councilman Gruber moved to accept the Police Report of December, 2008; 2008 Municipal Court Report; Executive & Finance Committee Minutes of 1-15-09 & 1-21-09; Board of Control Min. of 1-12-09 & 1-20-09. Councilwoman Jones seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR LEGISLATIVE MATTERS ONLY

President Holzheimer Gail – I will make a quick announcement, we did have one ordinance regarding the Victim's Assistance Program that was going to be added tonight and will not be added tonight. There were some questions from Council and we will be working to make sure we have a better understanding of how that program will be working so we can ensure that it is the most effective and professional program that we can offer here to the City of Euclid residents.

If there are any residents who wish to speak on any item on the agenda, now is your time. Seeing none, we will move forward.

#### LEGISLATION

##### **Res. 14-2009 (218-09) HUD Demolish NSP**

A resolution urging HUD to use its own funds to demolish condemned and abandoned HUD properties, enabling the City of Euclid to use its Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds for the demolition and renovation of non-HUD homes. (Sponsored by Councilmen Wojtila and Van Ho)

Councilman Wojtila moved for passage, Councilman Van Ho seconded.

Councilman Wojtila – I'd like to request support for this Resolution. As we're all familiar with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program where the City of Euclid is a community that will be provided about \$2.6 million for the stabilization of our neighborhoods.

Currently what we've been doing successfully in the past have been acquiring, I shouldn't say acquiring, but demolishing properties, we were not able to do that with HUD owned properties. This Resolution which is patterned off of what Councilman Brancatelli had done in Slavic Village in the City of Cleveland is requesting that HUD would consider using their funds to demolish distressed and abandoned homes in Euclid, so that we could use the roughly \$2.6 million in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program for homes other than the HUD homes. If we're successful in petitioning this, it would even further our cause that much more with allowing us to use the \$2.6 for non-HUD homes and having HUD take care of their own properties.

We have requested that copies of this, if it is passed, go to the President along with Washington D.C. office HUD, along with the Cleveland Office and our elected Federal Officials, serving the area of Euclid.

Councilman Van Ho – I would like to compliment Councilman Wojtila for stating everything so good. That really is it, that we're asking them to step up and demolish these houses which will make our money go further.

President Holzheimer Gail – Director Pietravoia did you have any comments?

Director Pietravoia – Just to say that we support Council's efforts to try to find ways to make our NSP federal dollars go further. A number of communities are asking HUD to relax some of their rules and find different ways to be more creative with how these dollars could be spent. While we don't know definitively what their answer will be here, we think it is at least worth asking. I would like to thank Councilman Wojtila and Van Ho for bringing this forward.

Councilman Langman – If there are no objections, I think the entire Council should sponsor this. I want to thank my colleagues for bringing this to our attention.

Councilwoman Minarik – I just have a question or a comment. I'm in support of this. My question is, would it have more impact if we could also get other communities, or maybe a second resolution from the First Suburbs Consortium. I'm thinking with just individual communities sending in the resolutions, they could get lost. But it also might get more support if we can partner with other communities as well. Have you guys, you gentlemen thought about that? Thanks.

President Holzheimer Gail – Director Pietravoia, has there been similar discussions at either the First Suburbs, or Mayor at the Mayors and Managers level about working with HUD?

Mayor Cervenik – Yes, we just recently attended a meeting with HUD to try to work out problems such as this. We probably didn't make as much headway as we had expected to, but we will talk to, I will talk to the Mayors and Managers as well as the First Suburbs to do this as well. We're in a little unique position that we do have the NSP funds directly, whereas other communities have to receive them either through the State or the County. So coming from us, being direct recipients of the fund, does mean a lot, but it certainly wouldn't hurt to have their support as well.

President Holzheimer Gail – It is not uncommon, I know Council we often receive copies of legislation that other city council's have passed, and we could send a similar, I could send a letter to other cities asking them to consider similar legislation.

Director Pietravoia – The City of Parma had heard that we were doing this and asked, so I forwarded a copy of the draft legislation. As the Mayor mentioned at the meeting this past week with HUD officials, First Suburb cities were represented and they were, while they discussed this, they were also discussing a contract that HUD is considering entering into with Cleveland to allow them to buy the HUD properties in bulk and at reduced prices. The specific task at that meeting was, will you extend the same offer to the First Suburb communities. So they are now working with the First Suburbs to draft an agreement that we could enter into similar to Cleveland's.

Councilman O'Neill – Just to clarify, we will pass this tonight and then piggyback on any other Resolution with the First Suburbs?

President Holzheimer Gail – I think that makes sense. Any additional comments?

Councilman Gruber moved to close debate, Councilwoman Scarniench seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Roll Call: Yeas: Gruber, Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman,  
Van Ho, Holzheimer Gail.  
Passed.

President Holzheimer Gail – I believe we have our guest here and if we'll take a step back in our Agenda and have a presentation by Director Will.

Director Will and Mac Stephens presented Tiara Molson and Marquis Greer with the 2009 Junior WNBA and Junior NBA Award.

#### **Ord. 15-2009 (219-09) Amend Code Window Coverings**

An ordinance amending Section 1775.02 "Duties and Responsibilities of Owners and Operators" of the Building and Housing Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Euclid, to provide additional requirements for owners and operators of commercial buildings in the City of Euclid to maintain windows and store fronts and prohibiting certain materials as permanent window coverings. (Sponsored by Councilman Wojtila)

Councilman Wojtila moved for passage, Councilman Langman seconded.

Councilman Wojtila – This legislation that we have in front of us tonight has to do with commercial properties owned and operated within the City of Euclid. It brings the treatment or how we handle and what we require on the window coverings more in line to what we've had in our residential uses. The suggested changes and the changes I'm hoping we vote in tonight would not allow items such as plywood, blankets, sheets, newspapers, flags, banners, to cover a window.

What's driving this change in my mind is often times a closed storefront, the owner or the operator of the space feels compelled to throw up something in the window to make it looked closed. To me it really detracts from the neighborhood and detracts from the storefront. In working

with Director Pietravoia, his department had a change that I hadn't considered but is part of this and I support it. It does allow a temporary covering of uniform material in the windows for no more than 30 days which would allow somebody doing a remodel of something to that sort the time to block the windows in a tasteful manner but yet accomplish the remodel that they're trying to accomplish. I don't know if Director Pietravoia has anything more to add, but I would ask for everybody's support of this change to 1775.02.

Director Pietravoia – This has been an issue over the years with temporary coverings. I've dealt with most members of Council here at various points on different properties in the wards throughout the city. I do support this. We support this as a department and think it will help strengthen our ability to cite these and make it clearer what we're looking for in the way of temporary coverings.

Councilman Van Ho – The word banners, what if a store was putting up a banner for a sale or something like that, would this prohibit that or not?

Director Pietravoia – No, we do have separate provisions in the Code that allow a certain percentage of the window area to be used for advertising or banners like you're describing.

Councilwoman Minarik – So the terms, flags, banners, signs or other similar materials, that's for covering the entire window? I'm just concerned that we're impeding their ability to advertise.

Director Pietravoia – The intent here as Councilman Wojtila introduced the change was when someone was trying to cover the entire window either for semi-permanent time period because the store is empty and they don't have a perspective tenant. We were concerned and that's why we asked for the addition. There are times when someone is remodeling and they want to protect the equipment and things that are there on a daily basis, so they like to cover the windows during that remodeling time period.

Councilwoman Minarik – My concern is that it is not very specific and so it can be interpreted as hampering a business's ability to advertise. Because it doesn't specify and I know because we have other signage laws about the size of a window, but I'm particularly concerned about flags, banners, signs or similar materials for businesses that are not abandoned but are actually in operation. This almost implies that they cannot put anything on those windows that promotes their business.

Director Pietravoia – If they were attempting to cover the entire window and use it as a window covering, your concern is probably valid. We do have, I believe and perhaps Asst. Director Beno can tell me the percentage, I think it is up to 65% of the window can be covered for advertising purposes and that would include the banners and signs that are in this language.

Councilwoman Minarik – Could we offer some kind of an amendment to this to make it very clear that this is only if the entire window is covered?

Asst. Director Beno – I think when you look at the Section that this is in, in its context, this is within a maintenance section, it is clearly not a section that regulates signs and displays. This is a section that goes into maintenance and situations where people are blocking windows in order to provide security or something for storage on the inside. This is not about an active business.

Councilwoman Minarik – Okay, my next question is, the situation with the dry cleaners on Euclid Ave. that took so long to remove that plywood. What happens in a circumstance like that where the parties are so involved that it took much longer than 30 days. What's the remedy for that based on this ordinance?

Asst. Director Beno – Actually that section, that issue is covered in the next section, section I, of this same larger section of code. This change does not affect that. That one was a situation where we were an enforcement action against the owner there. It finally was taken care of by the owner and the insurance company. This change does not affect that case at all. That was a boarded up prior to construction.

Councilman Langman – Director Pietravoia or Mr. Beno, if a store is closed and yet the main display window is in good shape, but they use that sort of generic brown paper to screen off views of the interior. Would that be permitted under the way the provision or the proposed changes read?

Asst. Director Beno – The generic brown paper under this provision could be used for the 30 days and then after the 30 days if the storefront is still vacant, being used for storage or some

miscellaneous use like that, then they would have to go to an actual proper window treatment type of covering, blinds or curtains, the same as we have in the residential sections of the code.

Councilman Langman – My concern was, I didn't want to create a tremendous expense while the storefront might be empty, while at the same time, addressing the aesthetic concerns that are mentioned here. But you don't feel the way that reads that would force undo investment in a more permanent screening while the storefront is empty?

Asst. Director Beno – Basically that issue is related to kind of 30 days. They can go with a very inexpensive covering for 30 days. If it is going to be a much longer period of time of vacancy, then I guess we're then, the way this is written, we would be expecting them to take some minimal investment into a regular window treatment type of covering. They can be relatively inexpensive drapes, sheers, blinds of some sort, which are not very expensive per square foot, but they would have to be a commercial product that's meant for a window treatment.

Councilman O'Neill – Just real quickly, I have some concerns from a police and fire standpoint when they start covering up these windows. Certainly from a police standpoint after hours or if the building is closed, an officer's ability to look inside that establishment and make sure nobody is inside, maybe burglarizing it or whatever and if Chief Repicky would like to expound on that, chime in anytime you want. Same with the Fire Dept., you get a call, response to that location whether it is a fire alarm or not, the ability to quickly look inside from the outside without doing any damage to access the building is advantageous. So I would caution on what we're allowing, how much coverage over a window. There's a reason we don't completely cover windows and those are two reasons right there. If either one of the Chiefs want to say something about it.

Chief Repicky – I have to agree with Councilman O'Neill. Unfortunately some of our stores cover up well over 65% of the windows. If we're driving by and trying to slow down and look in, they either have other merchandise for sale or signage and we can't see inside the store. That should probably be looked at. We're not going to go out and enforce it at this time, but it is a concern for safety of our businesses in the city.

Councilwoman Jones – One question I have is, once this is passed, if it is passed tonight, how will this be enforced? Will it be as a complaint comes in? Also, once this is passed, when will it become effective and how are those storefronts that currently have not the proper type of window coverings, will they be notified about this or how would that take place?

Asst. Director Beno – I'll try to answer those in order. In terms of the first question, how would it be enforced, it would be on a complaint basis. In regard to the effective date, that would be 30 days from passage. In this case, this is an amendment to the building code, so there would not be any grandfathering in. Once the effective date rolls around, then the code would be enforceable. Basically we could, even in the interim period, issue a notice telling people when the effective date comes around and ask for voluntary compliance. If they don't comply after that, then we could issue a violation notice.

Councilwoman Minarik – I hate to belabor this, because I'm not sure of the context of this. In the code, is this specifically related to stores that are closed? Or does this include operating stores as well? It includes all storefronts, whether they are in business or out of business, correct?

Director Pietravoia – As Mr. Beno was pointing out earlier, it is in the maintenance section, so it would apply to all stores whether they are operating or closed. In most cases an operating store while we do have cases where they tend to cover more of the window than they're supposed to with advertising they typically wouldn't cover the entire window when they're in operation.

Councilwoman Minarik – I'm still concerned about the term, flags, banners, signs or other similar materials not intended or designed as a window treatment. I do think that does hamper the businesses that are in operation. Those are the words I don't like.

Director Pietravoia – I think it would be important at a minimum to keep the other similar materials in there because we don't know what someone might try to use as temporary window covering that would be inappropriate. As long as that is in there which broadens our ability to look at the situation, personally I don't know how Councilman Wojtila feels about this, but I would have no objection taking the terms, flags, banners and signs out, as long as we're saying, blankets, sheets, newspapers or other similar materials to make it clear that we are going to look at a broader range of possibly inappropriate materials.

Councilman Wojtila – The terms, flags, banners, signs or other similar materials came right out of the comparable residential section. We merely just used that from the residential, but I'm not opposed to striking flags, banners or other similar materials.

President Holzheimer Gail – Just to clarify, I think Director Pietravoia asked if other similar materials could be left in. Just flags, banners and signs.

Councilman Wojtila – Yes, I'm sorry.

Director Pietravoia – I think it would accomplish the same objective.

Councilwoman Minarik moved to amend to remove flags, banners and signs. Councilman Van Ho seconded.

Roll Call: Yeas: Gruber, Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Van Ho, Holzheimer Gail

Nay: Langman

Amendment passes.

Councilman Van Ho moved to close debate, Councilman Wojtila seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Councilwoman Minarik moved to suspend the rules, Councilman O'Neill seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Roll Call: Yeas: Gruber, Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho, Holzheimer Gail

Passed.

**Res. 16-2009 (217-09) Landmark Commission**

A resolution to appoint Ruth Flannery, and re-appoint Roger Kelly to the Euclid Landmark Commission. (Sponsored by Mayor Cervenik)

Councilwoman Jones moved for passage, Councilwoman Minarik seconded.

Mayor Cervenik – There are two positions opened on the Landmark Commission and these are my nominations to fill those. The first is Roger Kelly. I think most of you know Roger. He has been a resident for the City of Euclid since age 10, going back to 1947 and he is familiar with many of the historic developments in the city. He's been a member of the Friends of the Henn Mansion and a Trustee since 2001. He's been deeply involved in the preservation and restoration of the Euclid Landmark Commission. In addition to his lifelong residency in the City of Euclid, Roger's wife, Judy is also a lifelong resident of Euclid and her grandfather was the Chief of Euclid Police in the late 30's to the late 40's. In addition her father was a 35 year Euclid police officer and their son is now a Euclid Police Officer. Roger is the Vice President of the Friends of the Henn Mansion, Chairs the Euclid Landmark Commission and is a trustee of the Euclid Historical Society and a part-time volunteer with the Police Athletic League, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs Program. I think Roger has served this Commission well and deserves to be re-appointed.

Ruth Flannery is a new appointee although not new to the City of Euclid. She has resided here for over 40 years. Ruth currently works for Playhouse Square and is actively involved in the development and renovation of the Playhouse Square District and Historical Theater. Her intimate knowledge of 20 years of renovation projects and in depth understanding of the history of the Playhouse Square District has made her invaluable in her role as a Research Assistant for the Historic Tax Credits of the Historic Theaters and redevelopment of area properties as a destination.

Some of her professional accomplishments, she has been administrative assistant to the vice president of real estate development at the Playhouse Square Development District corporation. She is the former president of the League of Historic American Theaters. She also manages architectural and real property records, presentations, historic images and artifacts. I think she will be a very added and very positive addition to the Landmark Commission. Those are the two I present to you this evening and I strongly urge your accommodation to these appointments.

President Holzheimer Gail – Mr. Kelly is here this evening, thank you for being here and for your continued work.

Roll Call: Yeas: Gruber, Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho, Holzheimer Gail.

Passed.

**Ord. 17-2009 (220-09) Truck Purchase**

An ordinance to amend Ordinance 11-2009, to provide that the purchase of two (2) 2009 Compact Pick Up Trucks at a cost of \$12,455.50 each for the Building and Housing and Weatherization Departments, and one (1) 2009 full size Cargo Van for Public Buildings Department at a cost of \$18,928.50 will be funded from the 2008 Capital Budget. (Sponsored by Councilman Wojtila by request of Service Director)

Councilman Wojtila moved for passage, Councilman O'Neill seconded.

Director Frey – Obviously you're not having a Yogi Berra moment. You had this piece last meeting and I apologize to Council. We had initially listed the 2009 Capital Budget as the funding source and in fact this left over funds out of the 2008 so we are keeping our "i's" dotted and "t's" crossed, we brought this back to correct that.

President Holzheimer Gail – Ground Hog Day. Any questions, comments?

Councilman O'Neill – Do we need to revert the other one or we can just go ahead with this one?

Director Frey – This actually amends the other piece, so we're fine.

Councilman O'Neill moved to close debate, Councilwoman Scarniench seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Councilwoman Jones moved to suspend the rules, Councilman Gruber seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Roll Call: Yeas: Gruber, Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho, Holzheimer Gail

Passed.

**CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS**

**Res. 13-2009 (216-09) Year of the River**

A resolution in support of proclaiming 2009 as "Year of the River" promoting stewardship of our watershed and encouraging residents, institutions and businesses to become partners in conservation, restoration and protection of our natural resources. (Sponsored by Mayor Cervenik and Entire Council)

Councilwoman Minarik moved for passage, Councilman Langman seconded.

Roll Call: Yeas: Gruber, Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho, Holzheimer Gail.

Passed.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Mr. Tod Guntner – 21290 Edgecliff Dr. I just want to take this opportunity to thank everybody that sent a card, letter, e-mail or phoned during my surgery and recovery. I greatly appreciate everybody's comments. I especially want to thank my Pastor, Dr. Jan Yandell, for her blessings and her words of encouragement. Especially to thank all the people who helped me get in and out of the car so that I could go to the places that I needed to go while I couldn't drive. Again, everyone, thank you so very much.

President Holzheimer Gail – We're glad to see you up and about.

Mr. Paul Gorek – 1850 E. 223 St. To Mayor Cervenik, to Council President Holzheimer Gail, and to Madeline our very good ward council person. Thank you for a beautiful job with the snow removal. Also Larry on 223<sup>rd</sup> who helped all his neighbors getting dug out of their driveway. Thank you very much Madeline.

Ms. Alicia Smith – 21850 Nicholas Ave. I wanted to thank Councilman Van Ho. I am an employee of the Euclid Collaborative and Mr. Van Ho took very good care of a client of ours, so I wanted to thank Council in regards to that.

Also to address the other council members. I'm a resident and an employee of Euclid. I just want to become familiar with the Council Board and your services and us collaborating together as

an employee for the Collaborative. I don't know if anyone is familiar with the collaborative, we're a service agency to the Euclid residents here. I just feel like we're kind of a hidden secret. Our clients are sent to us as being the worst of the worst and we're not here just to service the worst of the worst, we're here to service all of the residents of Euclid as an assistance. So, just wanted to introduce myself and the Collaborative here and just become familiar with the Council Board and to thank you all for your service and duties.

President Holzheimer Gail – Ms. Smith, if people wanted to get in touch with the Collaborative or needed some assistance, could you share the phone number of how they could get in touch with you?

Ms. Smith – We're out of the YMCA on Babbitt Road. You can call the direct line, 216-731-7454 and you can ask for any employee of the Collaborative. I am the Resource Specialist so I do a lot of the community outreach and really trying to find the resources in the community.

President Holzheimer Gail – The collaborative has been in existence for several years and if you are an agency and are not involved with it, they do have monthly meetings that are open and would welcome you to come and be involved in that. It is primarily a group of people who service children and families in need and provide a whole range of services. The idea being to collaborate among all agencies to make sure we're providing the services and meeting the needs of the people here in Euclid.

Ms. Smith – The Collaborative meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month 10:00-12:00 PM. We're out of the YMCA 631 Babbitt Road. Contact Number 216-731-7454.

President Holzheimer Gail – Thank you very much, thanks for coming. Seeing no one else we will move forward with Councilmen's Comments.

#### COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS

Councilman Van Ho – One of the papers has what they call brickbats and bouquets. I would like to give bouquets to our snow removal people, the snow plow drivers that clean our streets. Brickbats to some of the private snow plow drivers, as I tried to walk down 222 Street, to go home, I never felt as short as I did when I looked at some of the snow drifts that they had plowed over the sidewalks. So, I would encourage them next time to think about the poor people that have to walk down the street.

I've been asked to say the Foreclosure Prevention Committee has been very busy and they will be having seminars each week in March, which will be Foreclosure Prevention Month in Euclid. March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Church of the Epiphany, all of these start at 6:15 in the evening. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, it will be at the Church of the Epiphany at 210 and Lake Shore. March 11<sup>th</sup>, Indian Hill School, 1941 Sagamore. March 18<sup>th</sup>, it will be at the Shore Room of the Library. March 25<sup>th</sup>, it will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 24490 Euclid Ave.

Anyone who is having problems and is possibly going to be in foreclosure should be there. You should be doing something. There's a radio commercial out that says doing nothing is the absolute worse thing and that is so true. To set there paralyzed and not know what to do, there's a lot of help out there for you and I would encourage you to come and there will be several different organizations there that can help and to work with them. When you lose a home, you not only lose a building, you're tearing a family or a life apart and I think really need to be on it. That's all I have.

President Holzheimer Gail – Just a follow up on that. Anyone who thinks they might need assistance or just wants to find out more information, there is a county hotline and that's 2-1-1, that you can call for information about foreclosure prevention and some of the services that are available. Look forward to lots of publicity and those community events that will be happening in March. Don't wait until March if you are in trouble now, call 2-1-1 and get started on some help.

I wanted to thank the Chamber of Commerce. They held a wonderful event at the High School last weekend, Experience Euclid and it was really a well attended, well put together event. It had activities for kids and community members brought many of the businesses there to make the community more aware of who they were and what was available. I want to thank the Chamber, the City and the Schools for all participating in making that happen, it really was a nice event. Thanks to Councilwoman Scarniench for encouraging us to get a council table there. It was really nice to be front and center greeting people as they came in and being able to talk to them. It was a wonderful event and I hope one that will continue.

The other thing I wanted to talk about, I was able to attend the last Weed & Seed Steering Committee and for those who watched the Council meetings or were here at the last meeting, the

weed & seed is a program through the Department of Justice who has been working the last 10 years here in Euclid. The grant is now over but I wanted to make sure everyone knew the work is continuing. Weed & Seed is a program that weeds out the criminal element in crime and seeds in positive community programs. Weed & Seed committee has been working on the areas of need and will be forming five different committees that will be working on task force issues. Those are strengthening neighborhoods, providing youth intervention for troubled youths, promoting diversity, increasing employment options and working to meet more of the increased basic needs. Those are rough ideas of the committees. We do need people who are interested in working on the committees. If that is something you would be interested in doing, you can contact me or contact Kristal at the Community Police Mini-Station and we can plug you into the committee of your choice. Despite the funding ending, they are going to be continuing to work hard to help improve the Weed & Seed area which is basically the south side of the city. Now that the funding restrictions are not there, anything that we do on the south side can also be used to benefit the north side as well if we develop a good program.

I wanted to welcome Jarrod and Patrick Smith are here who are members of Boy Scout Troop 161. I don't know if they're here for a Boy Scout requirement, but we welcome you. I think that's probably all I have tonight.

Councilman Gruber – I would like to take a moment to also thank the Service Dept. for the job they did with the heavy snow fall in the last week or so. I would like to see that neat little machine that we have on the sidewalks out a little bit more. It was very active when we had one or two inches of snow, but now I don't see the guy anymore so maybe he should get out there a little more.

Director Gulich – We've been getting lots of good commentary on our sidewalk, snowplowing it as I had discussed with Council earlier, it is kind of like a pilot program. Over the weekend, two of those machines were down for a good period of time and we didn't have the overtime for the mechanics to come in and do the repair. They were out today and we'll get them out and up there with those sidewalks.

Councilman Gruber – I hope they're still under warranty, we just bought them. Thank you Director and your crews for all they've done. I'll yield the rest of my time to the Mayor for his State of the City Address.

Councilwoman Scarniench – I, too, want to thank all of the guys. They did a marvelous job. But I do have a question. The only time that I actually got complaints, actually had to do with where a car had been parked, the snow that's there. Do our drivers inform the Police Dept. when there are cars parked on the street, so they can come and ticket them? I figured if they got ticketed once, they wouldn't park there again.

Director Gulich – Unfortunately by the time our guys get there, the damage is done, they have to keep on moving. If we stopped every time there was a car parked there, we'd never get anything done. The Chief might want to make some comments on that, but of course the problem is, we come through there, plow the cars in and then they're moved a few hours later and you're left with a big mess. That is a concern, thank you.

Councilwoman Scarniench – I, too, wanted to thank everybody for Euclid Experience for all of my council colleagues that were able to come. It was fun and even though we were right by the door, we did get to greet everybody as they came in. It was a good experience, I hope they will think about changing it to maybe April next year.

Last but not least, we didn't have our Assets Committee Meeting this past week because of the snow, it is now being rescheduled for February 25, 7:00 PM. Thank you.

Councilwoman Jones – I just want to say congratulations to the two youth that won the basketball award this evening. That just shows that with the determination and focus, you can accomplish positive things. Congratulations to them and hopefully we'll see more of them and more awards given out to youth for that accomplishment.

I also want to say that February is National Black History Month so I want to make sure that take advantage, there's a lot of activities and events going on throughout Cleveland. Take advantage of those, even though it is only supposedly celebrated on February, throughout the whole year we need to recognize Black History because it is an accomplishment. Over the years, there have been a lot of accomplishments that have got us this far. We now have a minority President which now proves that and it is not just proving that now, it's always been that way, with that determination and your faith and goodwill, you can accomplish things that you want to do. We had two youth here that won awards tonight that just shows that and proves that.

Moving onto the next topic of conversation, on January 24<sup>th</sup> we had a Dog Park Committee meeting. I want to say thank you to Ms. Finch for facilitating the meetings that we've been having all along with the Dog Park Committee. I want to also congratulate the Committee, for coming up with three of the committee members as a Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Committee. Thank you for those for stepping up to the plate. We had somewhat of a marathon meeting that day. We were here for about three hours but we got a lot accomplished. We were able to list out our pros and cons for each one of the locations that we came up with and we were able to narrow that down to some of the locations that may not be feasible. No, a location has not been decided yet. Please don't listen to any rumors that maybe going around that a location for the Dog Park has been decided. We've narrowed it down to possible locations, but a final location has not been decided. We will let you know when the next meeting is and we will be looking for other public comments based on what we've narrowed it down to. I look for your comments in the future.

Also I want to say thank you and congratulations to the Service Dept. on the snow removal. We had a lot of snow over the past few weeks and I did drive around on that last snow day and I want to say that the streets were pretty clear. The main streets were clear and the next day all the side streets seemed to be pretty clear.

I do want to encourage, especially business owners that have sidewalks abutting an area that a lot of residents walk through and I know the Service Dept. has their plows out doing the sidewalks but as Director Gulich says, right now they're down, so if there's a business that has a sidewalk where its used a lot by residents, please clean the sidewalks off as well. With that I'll say goodnight and thank you.

Councilwoman Minarik – Good job on the snow. I would like to mention with regard to the snow, if you have a catch basin near your driveway, try to keep that clear because as the snow, if it is covered, that catch basin, as it had done to mine, the water doesn't drain as much, it starts gathering at the basis of people's aprons and then if a freeze comes like it is planning to come tomorrow night, it is a sheet of ice. Try to keep the catch basins clear as well.

The only other thing I have to say, is that I would like to congratulate Mr. Riggan for coming every council meeting. The reason I'm congratulating him is because George is a President of a Neighborhood Association. I think it is really important with all the associations we have in town, that they send representatives to the Council meetings, to hear what's going on, to bring it back, or have someone from that association show up. The reason I think it's important because when I went to the last meeting, George had one perspective of what was happening at the Council meetings and I had another perspective. That's just human nature. If you always rely on the Council people to tell you what's going on, all you're going to get is our perspective and there's always another side to the coin. For empowerment and more control in your neighborhoods, attend the council meetings or watch them more, have someone from the association to come back to their group and explain what's going on. Thank you and goodnight.

Councilman O'Neill – Everybody is being so nice to the Service Dept. so I'm going to say something bad, no I'm just kidding. They did a great job. I e-mailed the Service Director and hopefully he forwarded that information to Scott Reese and the guys down in the trenches that plow their butts off. They do have to sleep sometime, they can't run 24/7. We don't want them piling up a snow plow; 12-14 hours of plowing they deserve a rest.

As far as the sidewalk machines, I did take a ride over to the Service Dept. with Scott Reese and looked over some of the equipment. It is a pilot program like the Director said and some of the equipment from the factory wasn't holding up so they are making modifications on them, making the equipment better than from the factory. I did want to say, however though and reiterate what a couple of my colleagues said that it is the responsibility of the business owners as well as the property owners to shovel their sidewalks. To those snow plowers, the private contractors that plow these lots and bury the aprons and sidewalks, stop doing that. We've got people who have to walk out into the middle of the street and they're going to get hit by a car. To Director Frey, is there something that we can come up, a notification, a flyer or something, that we can place on these businesses depicting the whole ordinance that it is their responsibility to have these properties cleared off, especially in the downtown area where people maybe shopping. We have some apartments along Lake Shore Blvd., some of the folks don't drive and they use the sidewalks safely when there's no snow on them obviously but when these contractors plow them up or don't shovel the sidewalks, it makes it hazardous for the residents.

Director Frey – Absolutely the ordinance does require the adjoining property owner, whether it is residential or commercial to clear that walk. We have from time to time tried to work through the Chamber to get that word out. We need to do that every season, as part of our preparation for winter, we probably need to send that advisement or reminder. I'm not quite sure why because to me as a commercial property owner you want to invite your customers in and to do that I would

think you'd want to get your sidewalks cleared. We will look at some relatively easy way of getting that notice out.

Councilman O'Neill – I would like to thank the folks that got out and dug out the fire hydrants. I noticed at least in Ward 5 there are a lot more fire hydrants that have been dug out than in the past and I thank those people who did that. Also to the people who helped their neighbors dig out their driveways, helped out the elderly residents dig out their driveways. I know the last snow storm I came down the street and there was about 20 people out in the middle of the street, which I'm not a big snow person, but it brought a lot of folks together and it was a good thing. I'm sure Councilman Gruber helped his neighbors up there too. With that I'll say goodnight.

Councilman Wojtila – Reminder to those residents on Lloyd Road and also the Lakeland Civic Association residents that they have meetings this coming Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. The Lloyd Road neighbors, this is for all of Lloyd in the City of Euclid. That meeting is at 7:00 at St. Stephens and the Lakeland Civic Association is 7:00 at Forest Park.

Director Pietravoia, can you give us an update on the JJR Study?

Director Pietravoia – I had a conversation earlier today with Councilman Langman as well. Did finally make contact last week with JJR, had a few final revisions that I'm asking to make on the report. Also had a discussion with Councilman O'Neill because he was assisting to collect some additional data. We've agreed that because time is of the essence that we're going to stop with what we have at this point, issue the report and I hope to have the copies by UPS or some overnight express this week, so that I can get them out to council before the end of this week. We're very close, just a few final minor changes in the report.

Councilman Wojtila – Thank you and that's all I have.

President Holzheimer Gail – Director Pietravoia, did we anticipate having them come before Council to present the plan or are we done with this contract at this point?

Director Pietravoia – We are actually finished with the contract at this point. There are a couple of next steps that we anticipate working with our committee, including Council to look at a work program for next steps. We thought it would be appropriate once we bring them back that they can start off with where the first report, what the conclusions were from the first report.

Councilman Langman – First I'd like to thank Terah McNeal and the Senior Programs. We had an incident with a resident on Richards on Friday, they didn't plan very well for the heavy snow which a lot of us didn't do and Senior Programs really helped out with names of folks that could help them mitigate the snow in their driveway. I know Director Gulich you and your staff helped out too. The residents greatly appreciate it as do I.

Law Director Frey, I know we've talked about this several times about AT&T, u-verse and them carrying public access, the council meetings. Do we have an update of when they might begin doing that for our residents?

Director Frey – The representative Marlene Albright, the government relations representative and former colleague of mine at the County Prosecutor's Office, braved that snow storm the other day and was here for her appointed meeting at 9:00 and met with the Mayor and Lisa Mayernik and myself. We were on a conference call with a fellow from Texas. We now have the specifications for the equipment that we will need to get in place. The good news is once we acquire that equipment to transmit our signal, AT&T will reimburse us that cost. Depending on some of the data lines that we use, we may or may not have a transmission expense. We anticipate in a very short period of time, going out to get the equipment necessary, the router I think it is, and Director Johnson is going to have to weigh in on some of that. But we'll be able to start to transmit the signal to AT&T. They're ready. Mentor and Strongsville I believe are up. We should be joining them shortly. The residents who have the U-verse or Project Lightspeed product will be able not only to get the Euclid Government Channel, but they'll be able to pick up those other communities if they desire to see what is going on in the south west side of Cuyahoga County.

Councilman Langman – Shortly means a couple of months?

Director Frey – I would think in a couple of months we'll be up and broadcasting on the u-verse system.

Councilman Langman – Thank you very much I certainly look forward to that. Just final comments, to piggyback on Councilwoman Jones. We did have a very productive meeting on the potential dog park. I really want to thank the residents who have come out to those committee meetings. They've really taken the ball and run with it. Mrs. Finch has really done a great job facilitating. Kathy Will, she's definitely a plus to your staff and I'm looking forward to progress on that front. We recently had a committee meeting regarding some of our alternative energy options. That went very well, looking forward to making progress on those initiatives also. With that, I know the Mayor is anxious to start his State of the City Address, so with that I'll make a motion to adjourn.

President Holzheimer Gail – I did want to remind folks that our next Council Meeting, because of President's day is Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> rather than Monday. City Hall will be closed on the 16<sup>th</sup> for President's day. The Council Meeting will be Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Please stay tuned for the Mayor's address.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Langman moved to adjourn. Councilwoman Scarniench seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Attest:

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council