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City Council

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

Date: Oct. 9, 2023

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Summary

- The city's need for more police and concerns about residents' safety are evident in light of crime and unsafe street racing, council members said.

Follow-Up Questions

- What is the city's plan regarding safety for its residents? Also, when will the council inform residents of their findings about police procedures?
- Council Member Kevin Conwell said the arts bring in millions to the city. Does that happen, and what is it used for?

Notes

Legislation

Council passed [Emergency Ordinance 1007-2023](#), which offers financial assistance for building upgrades to the [Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center](#).

Council approved giving Ward 15 [casino revenue funds](#) to Northwest Neighborhoods Community Development Corp. (CDC) for its 2023 [Summer Safety Film Series](#).

Council also gave Northwest Neighborhoods CDC funding to help construct 51 apartment units for seniors on W. 80th Street and Detroit Avenue in Ward 15.

Council passed a [resolution](#) declaring April 8, 2024, [Total Solar Eclipse Day](#).

The city -- along with Council Members Blaine Griffin, Kevin Bishop, and Anthony Hairston -- want to enter an agreement with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation to construct, install and maintain an overhead pedestrian bridge on East 100th Street. The legislation is

going to committees for review.

Council denied a liquor license request for 9305 Miles Ave.

[Editor's note: Check out the [meeting minutes](#) for more legislative action.]

Announcements & Comments

Cleveland Down Syndrome Day is Thursday, Oct. 12, said Council Member Kerry McCormack.

Council Member Mike Polensek spoke regarding reviews of the operations of divisions with [the Department of Public Safety](#). That includes the Divisions of Corrections, Police, Police Inspector General, and Public Safety Administration. The reviews will start at the Wednesday Oct. 11 Safety Committee meeting. The reviews will look at how well the departments have performed and will be ongoing throughout the month, Polensek said.

Polensek is also concerned about the amount of police officers that the city has yet to hire. The city is down 428 officers from what it budgeted for (1,212 officers currently on the force).

Polensek said he would like a game plan to “take back the streets,” including a focus on [people stealing Kia cars](#).

Council Member Stephanie Howse-Jones also expressed concern regarding the large numbers of cars driving around the city erratically. She suggested that the city need strategies to identify suspects.

Howse-Jones also said Cleveland needs to invest in trauma resources for residents and commended council for supporting the Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center.

Council Member Kevin Conwell spoke of an engagement at the Music School Settlement Oct. 12 at 9:30 a.m., which he will attend with Rhonda Brown, the city’s chief strategist for arts. The arts build character in children and should be supported, Conwell said. He added that the arts bring lots of money into the city and can also help with employment issues and safety.

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