



CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 5, 2007

Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 6:20 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Hull, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann
O'Neil, Ruane,
L. Wagner, R. Wagner, Wong

Topic of discussion included general information pertaining to the City Manager's weekly memo.

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, met on the above date at 7:33 p.m.

Edward Kelley, presiding

Council Members present: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Council Members absent: None

Staff present: Carter, Czaga, Downey, Malone, Mannarino, Niermann O'Neil,
Ruane, L. Wagner, R. Wagner, Wong

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Tuesday, January 16, 2007 were approved and signed by Mayor Kelley along with the resolutions passed at that meeting.

"My name is Fran Mentch and I'm here to talk tonight about architectural integrity. I'm a resident of Cleveland Heights for the past eighteen years. Understanding public perceptions matters, if people believe that an area is risky or declining, they act accordingly, with the result that a self-fulfilling prophecy results. Interventions need to be designed in such a way that they will have a positive influence on those perceptions. This cannot be left to chance. I start with that quotation from our 2006 publication by - I sent you some information about [this] by M. Innes and V. Jones, and their paper had to do with Neighborhood Security and Urban Change, and it's right to the point of what we want to talk about tonight, that perception becomes reality, that architectural integrity in Cleveland Heights is so important, it's having such an impact on the perception of our community that we cannot leave it to chance, that we have to intervene in some way and that's why we're here tonight. What am I getting excited about? Why are we here? The architectural integrity at issue are the security doors and the security door we will define as a storm door that is designed in this way with this kind of metal. They

come in all different varieties and you'll see that [Power Point presentation used during her whole presentation]. As a background, just to begin our discussion these are just to review - which you know much better than I do, the city's goals. But why do we begin here? Because, experts say that in the same geographic area community and competition - they vie for resources, for status, and for people. Clearly, that's something that our community is doing now and that's why we're here tonight, because we are concerned about maintaining - being at the head of that competition, not vying for resources, particularly with new residents and, 'Show me the Money' property value's curb appeal, what do people care about - in the end we all care about economy.

So the problem, security doors, they are increasing in numbers and they are not congruent with architecture. They make our community, our neighborhoods look like they are crime-ridden. This perception is not based on reality. It has big economic consequences, primarily in the form of curb appeal and what happens is that perception becomes reality. So we've had a rapid increase in numbers of doors. What's interesting - these pictures come from the area where I live. My whole concern started - maybe some of you from Council remember - I walk the same path with my dog for years and years and I noticed over the years that there is an increasing number of these doors. These are pictures that we took from the neighborhood. What's interesting, the numbers of doors have increased even though the crime reports indicate that crime is going down, so there's really a disconnect. Kind of interesting.

Here are some more doors in my neighborhood. You can see the different types, different styles and they are not congruent with the architecture. This one - and what's interesting is that somebody probably paid a great deal of money for this, because this is probably custom made, because of the shape, it's probably a custom-made door. The people, did spend a lot of money on these. Here is another one, a very nice house, the door is not congruent with the architecture, clearly. And this one is - - too bad you can't see as well - - because I think this is probably a door that is congruent - - I'm sorry we don't have the contrast here because of the light, but I do think that this probably is congruent with the architecture. There are some homes in Forest Hills particularly, where a metal ornamental door is in fact congruent, but as you can tell, not the other ones.

Okay, so why do people install the doors? They do it, I'm guessing for two reasons. The first one maybe being esthetic, because it isn't because of cost, because I know when you took this issue up before, which I greatly appreciated. I know that Richard went to Home Depot and he priced doors. The full-view door to purchase and install it was cheaper than to purchase one of the ornamental - these security doors I'm referring to. So they are not doing it because they are in a financial jam. So they must be doing it for security and makes people feel safe. Well, trying to make somebody feel safe, it's a pretty difficult thing to do. Sociologists say we have a sense of ambient insecurity in our culture now. So, they're putting them up. But what's sad is, essentially these doors are fraudulent because they do not increase security, as I said before crime rate doesn't justify it. When the Chief of Police was at the council meeting when you reported this to me and he said - - I was concerned at that time, I said, "People are going to be locked inside their houses in case of an emergency."

He said, "Oh, no, we just pop 'em off with a screw driver. They are no problem."

Richard also mentioned that some of the doors are made from aluminum. They're easily bent, and the front door is rarely a point of forced entry. So people are spending a lot of money on a door to get security and it doesn't work and it's not helping them really in any way.

The doors give the wrong message. They tell people that this is a crime-ridden neighborhood. You're not safe here, be afraid, it tells people that crimes are - - whether or not it is and it's not fair. And the problem is that it brings about neighborhood deterioration that in fact invites crime. If crime were

an issue that would be up to you to deal with, particularly the police department and citizen deterrence of crime is ineffective unless it's combined with a real coordinated program. Some people won't like this idea, the idea of you are regulating in anyway these security doors, because people - they think they should be free to express themselves. Well, there is some research that indicates people don't really want to be free, what they want is to have equality. And the definition of freedom is - what it all boils down, it's a very complex concept, what it all boils down to is, "I can be free as long as my freedom doesn't impinge on other people". And I think there is no intention to impinge on other people, but these doors are in fact impinging on them economically.

Reasons to set the standards. So we have reasons not to do it. You know, people hate rules. There are so many rules and so many regulations. They all hate the rules until they can use them to protect themselves. Right, we don't like the police except when we need them. Reasons to set standards, usually in the eye of the beholder, the gentleman that was brought in for the civility lecture talked about how small things are important in a community and that aesthetics are important. We react to images, curb appeal, curb appeal, curb appeal - they give the wrong message, etc. These stories do not help the people who even purchase them. We have to act quickly. The doors - it's kind of fun, if I wasn't concerned about it, I would find it enjoyable because, and I invite you all - I ask you all really to drive around and take a partner in the car with you and drive around and observe these doors. Because what you'll find is that they come in clusters. It is in fact, a demonstration of how we are all coming into fashion. Things that you think you're never going to do: tattoo yourself, men wear earrings, whatever, whatever the fashion it is, we end up doing it. And that's what's happening, there is this clustering. It is fun as I said to watch. My daughter and I went out yesterday and drove around just to double check our numbers and I said to her at that time, "I think it's actually too late, because there are so many of them." As you'll see they do come in clusters and I'll show you that on the map in a second.

The doors are prevalent in high profile areas of our community. If you come in to town to go to Cain Park - I love Cain Park - come to see our beautiful new library, if you go to Rockefeller Center, if you come to look for a home, you will drive past many of these doors, this architectural feature. So, here is our example. We have a couple of exciting maps here. You see the yellow map splits the center of Cleveland Heights where this star is. So if you go buy a cup of coffee at Rockefeller Center, and we all love to go to Starbucks, and let's say you're new to the area, you go to buy a cup of coffee at Starbucks. You go around the corner onto Bolton. Bolton is a very short street, you will see four of these security doors in a row. I invite you to go drive there tomorrow to look at them. A lot of people go into the Forest Hills area, there are a lot of homes for sale, it's a nice area and one of the entry ways into the Forest Hills area is to go down Newbury, right off of Mayfield. If you enter, you drive down Newbury, two of the four on one side have security doors, three of the three houses on the other side have security doors, you then make the right onto Rumson and you drive down. One side of the street four of the eight have security doors, one in seven on the other side. Okay, Cain Park. They come to have a wonderful experience at Cain Park, one of the best things about our whole area, maybe the whole state - beautiful, beautiful theaters and you drive down from Mayfield, you drive down toward Cain Park. You're going to pass Boulevard School on your way to the park. On the east side you will see three of the seventeen homes have these security doors, on the west side eleven of twenty-eight. The gorgeous new library. There you are - the new library with the wonderful bridge. I have no homes on the one side - commercial. On the other side, three of the five houses have the security doors and there is one across the street on the corner of Coleridge and Lee, a very nice home has a security home- architecturally incongruent. Monticello, I'm going to move to the neighborhood or I'm just driving down - people check out schools, right? They have very high profile, we're all concerned about the schools. From Monticello down to Cleveland Heights Boulevard, going east from the north side, six of the seventeen homes have the security doors. If you go west on the Monticello side, the Monticello School side of Monticello, six of the twelve have security doors. If you go from Yellowstone to Cleveland Heights Boulevard on the south side, two of the twenty-two. So you have huge numbers.

How can you do this? Why can I ask you to do this? Do you have a leg to stand on? Absolutely. In Cleveland Heights you can't have bars in your front windows, you can't have bars on the windows of doors and businesses establishments. You were kind enough to publish in the Focus an article recommending that full-view storm doors be put on homes. Shaker Heights, you can check into this, recommends different types of doors to their residents. You can't have a storm door on the side of your home with a lock. That's a regulation, check it out. Euclid, within the past year, made a very high profile I think kind of decision about you have to have curtains and not sheets hanging on the inside of your windows. This clearly concerns esthetics in that community and South Euclid has had a very high profile and very aggressive number of actions against abandoned properties. So you do have precedents.

What to do? Well, we have a few suggestions. One would be to require permits for front doors, both the screen and the main door, so that they are reviewed for architectural integrity. Anything that you read about real estate, talks about curb appeal and they talk about the importance of the front entrance. Require that all screen doors installed are the full-view type and we allow security doors on side entrances or work with foundations and grants with the Cleveland Institute of Art to develop new design that are both architecturally congruent and has some security features, not that you need them, but some people they just can't feel safe enough no matter what. There is a real thrust now in the city to have this design center. I guess to build on the industrial design strength that we have in our community. The other option would be to work with the foundation and grants to fund replacing doors at the times that the properties change ownership so that you're restoring the architectural integrity.

We come to the end. I'm going to repeat what I started this presentation with, understanding public perceptions matters. If people believe that an area is risky or declining and they are likely to act accordingly with the results that a self fulfilling prophecy will result. Interventions need to be designed in such a way that they have a positive influence on the perception. This cannot be left to chance. And - - that's the end. So, I invite questions and I thank you very much for your time in giving us the opportunity to present."

Mayor Kelley thanked Fran and asked for her address on Lynn Park.

Ms. Mentch replied, "1413."

Mayor Kelley asked for any questions from Council.

Council Member Tumeo stated, "Thank you very much. This was very informative. I actually learned quite a bit from that. I was wondering just from the standpoint of supporting kind of information that if action were to be taken, I think this would be critical, at least in my mind. Are there any surveys or published research, etc., that demonstrate that change in public perception or loss of property values when these doors start going up in a neighborhood?"

Ms. Mentch responded, "I think that the entire document, if you went to look at that or I can print it out for you. That's really what that's all about. They were concerned about that. There are also studies, which I've looked at, that kind of go not directly at it, but they talk a lot about disorder, they talk a lot about perception. So, under the category of disorder no one actually - I didn't see anybody actually talk about security doors as a form of social disorder, but I think that's maybe because it hasn't been looked at that way. But, that doesn't mean that it doesn't exist and that it doesn't have real impact on people. Probably the studies that would be equally informative would be ones that have to do with peoples' visualization, how people react to visual cues. But, I think you are in fact breaking new ground, but does that mean you shouldn't do it or you shouldn't be concerned about it? My other concern -

there is some literature that talks about the soft signs of deterioration. I guess my real concern is that we've all seen neighborhoods deteriorate, especially in this community. You know we don't have to go very far to see a neighborhood deteriorate. But this is the truth, if Cleveland Heights does deteriorate, there is nobody here who is going to live to see it turn around. None of us will live that long. I don't know if my daughter will live that long, because we all know from history, this is not a secret, what happens when there is urban decline and how long it takes, if it ever does turn around. I can take this as pretty serious business. Obviously, I wouldn't be subjecting you to this. I wouldn't be subjecting you to our Power Point."

Council Member Caplan stated, "This is very interesting and wonderfully well put together."

Ms. Mentch responded, "Thank you."

Council Member Caplan continued, "I have a couple of questions. One is, have you actually talked to any of the people who do have the security doors on their houses? And do you really see in the places that you commented on and that you took pictures of, whether the houses themselves are deteriorated or whether they just have those doors on the houses and the houses are really in good shape? The reason I ask you is because I wonder if you're making an assumption as to why people put those doors on their front doors and what I'm getting at is that first of all, the bad guys don't usually come in the front doors. That's number one."

Ms. Mentch responded, "Thank you."

Council Member Caplan continued, "The second thing is, well, if you don't have air conditioning and you want to open your front door and not pay attention, if you have one of those doors, you can lock the door, the door is open and you have some sense of comfort in being upstairs or downstairs or wherever and having the door open. I don't happen to have one of those, it wouldn't go in my house, but I also wouldn't leave my door open if I were not in the same room with that door because I would be uncomfortable knowing that someone could come in my screen door and there would be nothing I could do about it. I wonder if you've had any interaction with - - have you talked to any of the people that have them and do you in fact see that correlation between the door and the condition of the house?"

Ms. Mentch replied, "The door and the condition of the house is not the correlation. The correlation is between the presence of the doors, the perception of crime, and what the perception of crime does to the neighborhood."

Council Member Caplan responded, "But see, I think that's your assumption."

Ms. Mentch said, "No. Well, I'm sorry, go ahead."

Council Member Caplan said, "No. That's why I'm asking you. Why did people put the doors on their houses and is the house deteriorated that has the door? And if that's not the correlation then I question your hypothesis actually."

Ms. Mentch added, "Okay. I think that we're addressing two different questions. It has been dark in here. Some of the houses that have those doors are nice. The houses are in nice condition. So I'm not saying that the door goes on a deteriorated house, my concern is the affect that, that perception has on the neighborhood. I'm going to buy a home or someone I work with, a friend, is going to move. My friends are going to retire and I say, 'come live near us', and they're taken by a realtor and they drive down the street, nice houses maybe, half of them, a third, 20% of them have those security doors. The

message is, there's crime here - you're not safe here. That's really my concern. I think the idea, have I talked to people who have those doors? I brought this up at the civility lecture. The gentleman said, 'talk to the people that have those doors'. And frankly, I have a lot of nerve, but I don't have enough nerve to go knock on the door and say, 'can you tell me why you have this door up?' I think it's a beautiful question, but without some legitimate pretense for asking that, I don't have enough nerve. Again, this is the case, this is why this is so hard. This is a case where you are going to, in fact, make some people unhappy. It's back to that same old thing, the common good, the greater good and I guess what I ask is, put yourself in a situation where you ask someone that you work with to come and move into your community, you know a nice \$250,000 house. Those homes have yet to be - have to address this. Those neighborhoods have yet to address those issues. But, have them come and look around and really, genuinely that's really the question. We don't deserve the perception that we have crime or those things. We don't deserve that. And that's not the intention of those people putting up those doors. They're not trying to hurt anybody else, but that's the message that it gives. This is a dangerous place. We have to be locked inside of here."

Council Member Tumeo stated, "Just two observations and it comes from the fact that your presentation was very well put together and very informative."

Ms. Mentch thanked him.

Council Member Tumeo continued, "One is, just as my personal opinion in these kinds of issues is there's another issue that needs to be balanced. I think Shaker was a good example and I think if you ask a lot of people in Cleveland Heights and other places in Cleveland, Shaker may be perceived as over-regulated in terms of what you can and can't do. And whenever you start to think about a government entity telling people what they can and can't do with their own property, whether or not we have the legal justification, seems a bit disquieting. It's somewhat of concern to me personally. I'm struggling with that and trying to get a handle on that, but I think the other thing that is problematic to me is you very clearly laid out that security doors don't offer security. And therefore, to say that people perceive the neighborhood as unsafe because they see something that appears to be generally known not to offer security, there is a logical disconnect to me. So, while I understand what your concerns are - that's why I originally asked about the study and I think this is what Councilwoman Caplan was getting to, I think people put them up for other reasons than security and I believe that the perception of people seeing them is not as negative as - it's about security - because people understand it doesn't offer security. So, I'm not quite sure that the impetus is there as strongly as you're feeling it."

Ms. Mentch responded, "Well, I appreciate you know your addressing the logical disconnect because there is one. There really is one. They're putting up, for whatever reason, part of it's security, I mean. I think Bonnie addressed that. She's saying, 'well, it gives you a safer feeling', whether or not people don't burst in your front door, but it gives you a safer feeling and it is a logical disconnect 'cause they really don't offer security. But we do all kinds of illogical things. We throw salt over our shoulder, we say *gesundheit*, we go to the doctor and ask for penicillin when we're getting over a cold and penicillin doesn't kill virus, I mean we do all kinds of things. I think what it really is, it's that - and people are going to get unhappy. We don't like the whole idea of you coming after me, you're telling me what to do, the government interference. We know the drill. It's there. But there are certain times and certain occasions when you have to have - that's why you're here - you have to have the vision to be concerned about the community in the long range - in the long period of time. I remember there was a quote from - I think it was Robert Kennedy, when he said, 'there's always going to be 25% of the people who aren't going to like me'. But you do what you have to do, is you have to decide - you have to have a higher, moral, ethical - some kind of quality, some kind of vision for the community, beyond those people who are going to be unhappy. They may be unhappy, but when they go to - invite people to their home - sell

their home - when you want your friends to move into this community, they won't be unhappy. It's that thing of temporary discomfort - but long range - it's for the best. And that's really where my argument is. It took me a long time to work through this argument and ask the people who know me. Long time. Reading and thinking and talking - long time. I don't like that either, but at the same time you have to understand that we live with each other. We live in a community and that there are certain things that we have to do in cooperation to move forward and I don't want to belabor the point, but governments do think all the time that people don't like. I rest my case."

Council Member Dietrich asked, "I'm thinking about what you said about more and more of them going up. And I am wondering if you've ever thought that maybe this is one of those things that is evolving, so that what used to mean something doesn't mean it anymore? That maybe these doors started being security doors and now they've just become something people like. Like a fad, like the boys with the long white tee-shirts and at first that was a very rebellious thing to do and then now all of a sudden it's what everybody wears to school, so it means less. I'm wondering if the impression of deterioration is almost part of what would be their original - the original purpose of these doors and that maybe these doors aren't used that way anymore, that they're just not even thought of as being really a security door anymore?"

Ms. Mentch replied, "I think that's a really interesting point. I love that whole idea of how something that we don't like initially we take on a different perception of it and it ends up being okay. I do like that. I think that's interesting and I've done it myself. I'll never wear those shoes, that's disgusting, six months later, 'oh they're pretty'. Oh, I agree and it's really fun to think about those things, tattoos being an example of that, men wearing earring, other things. I think it's fun. I think there is a difference between - clearly there is a big difference between a person who puts one on their front door and a person who drives down this street and sees 30% of the doors on that street have that appearance. I do think that's an issue, but I think that if we could have that experience or talk to realtors or drive people down a street, and ask would you like to buy a home on this street, that they are going to react, that the message no matter how attractive the door, the message really is going to be there's crime in this neighborhood and if you want to stop a sale - you talk about crime - people freak out about it. They really do. But I think it's an interesting question. I like the question, I thought about that, but I don't think we're that far along. Maybe in certain areas. I don't know, but it's a fun thing. Imitation is part of the fun thing."

Council Member Evans concluded, "I just want to thank you for this presentation. We're not going to solve it this evening and just recommend that we put it on an agenda, on a committee and talk about it more in detail then. But you gave us a lot of information, but I don't see it going any further this evening."

Vice Mayor Montlack added, "I want to say it was a well-organized and presented report. I happen to believe that there is some perception that security doors offer security. I think that may be why they're called security doors."

Ms. Mentch interjected, "Ornamental doors, if you go to buy them."

Vice Mayor Montlack continued, "Well, I'm using the common lay language, the kind that I use. I think that when people believe for whatever reason that something gives them protection they are tapping in to the most basic of all of our concerns. I can recall a certain series of events that happened some years ago having to do with what Cleveland Heights used to laughingly call, it's sign ordinances. And at that time there was quite a bit of discussion regarding the place of security signs, whether they would be permitted or not. And the folks on council and in other places spent a lot of time on that issue."

I think it became important just because of that important feeling that we can understand that all of us, human beings have about protection of ourselves and our families. I guess I wanted to suggest, given some of the concerns I've tried to articulate, that maybe the first thing you see is how the folks feel about it in our community? If it strikes a chord and if there is dialogue, I think we'll have an ear for that, and perhaps the first step in many kinds of issues like this is one of public discussion and education. That's my feeling. There really wasn't a question exactly in there but I wanted to say that. Thank you."

Mayor Kelley stated, "I want to wrap it up, Fran, by also thanking you and I do want to ask you a question. I'm sure there were streets you surveyed that there were no doors like this on the street."

Ms. Mentch replied, "We by no means did a - what we did - it started because of my dog walking and then - -"

Mayor Kelley interjected, "Right. Right. I just want to make the point that there were streets that you probably did look at that there were no doors like this on those streets."

Ms. Mentch answered, "Right. That is part of what a community is about. Every city has various little areas within it and they are not all the same and clearly Cleveland Heights is that too."

Mayor Kelley said, "And there would be no way of us knowing how many people have actually taken these doors off and put on a new fresh door, a door similar to a door that you and I have on our front doors. We have no way of either counting that or calculating that where people have moved into a particular neighborhood or a neighborhood that I live in Forest Hills where you showed some of these doors that are present on a Newbury or a street like that where they've actually removed the security door and put in a fresh country door or a half door with a screen or whatever. So there is no way to calculate that. Another point I want to make and this is no disrespect to what you've said and I think someone made this point about Shaker, I don't want to be like Shaker Heights. I love being what we are here in Cleveland Heights and being able to have this discussion. Again, I want to thank you for bringing this up to council and I think it's time to move on. Believe it or not on this cold night we have a bigger crowd than I expected. So we are still in the personal communications from our citizens and I don't know if - Vicky is there. I think you wanted to talk to us tonight, so if you want to you can certainly have the podium."

Mayor Kelley asked Richard [Wong] to put the screen up.

"I'm Vicky Knight. I reside 1519 Crest Road and I have resided there for 31 years. In December - I'm going to read it so as not to go off on any tangents."

Mayor Kelley replied, "Do what you need to do."

Ms. Knight read, "In December, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education heard a proposal and approved the proposal to divide the Millikin School property at 1700 Crest Road into two parcels. The seven acres of woods and marshland now offered for sale is the refuge of many species of wildlife. Many displaced from ponds and over ten wooded acres cleared for condo development and earlier a much smaller portion for a new US post office for Cleveland Heights. You'll recall that the federal officials explained to us that the federal government need not observe the buffer zone that had been agreed on to separate the Severance Commercial Development from the Millikin neighborhood. This strip of woods and marshland next to Severance Town Center is part of our shrinking commons. There's an unpaved road in it, sometimes dump trucks come and dump stuff there, but when they're not there, neighbors meet and walk, some with dogs. Access to this road from the Crest

Road cut-thru to Severance was recently denied - the gate was locked - sign: 'danger'. There is no other common green space within a mile. Until this past summer, Millikin neighbors met at the playground next to what was once our elementary school. Traditional Jewish and Islamic families mingled with grandparents, teens, pre-schoolers and quite a few of those families don't use the public schools but they do pay taxes. Families with young children depended on the tiny fenced-in area: the swings, slides and climbing bars and castles. This past summer, the playground was locked and dismantled. Even the rubber safety mats were ripped out. For years Millikin neighbors walked to a toy-lending library, a beautiful gymnasium, pre-school services, drop-in groups for various families and ages, and free classes - most staffed by volunteers. Over major objections not only from neighbors, but from many other parts of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland, the Childhood Center and Parent Center were both re-located to University Heights and the Taylor Road campuses respectively. I do not believe that the board of education has preceded in a way that respects the public or terms of the original gift of the land for public use. The Board may be ignoring an Ohio law requiring that school property be offered for a charter school before it may be sold. To three requests for public information I received no response from the Board. I do not find board meetings open to meaningful public participation. Others have commented similarly in the Sun Press on this situation. What are actions the city can take? Are there not state funds to preserve this remaining strip of woods, marshland and wildlife next to Severance? I know that over 90% of wetlands in Ohio have been paved over. We already have drainage problems. The Army Corp of Engineers, before the condo development what used to be the Austin Campus, said that there was a spring there. We're now in a situation where deer for the first time are galloping in our neighborhood through our gardens. Homeless geese walk down Crest Road and occasionally in a not friendly environment in Severance Town Center. What must citizens do in order that the city's parks and recreation department or other entity come to maintain the playground and park on Crest Road? This is a very small space. Could the city purchase, lease or use the Millikin property? Is there any reason a toy-lending library, free classes and community services could not be restored? Most depended on volunteers, sliding scale fees, grants and aid from various sources other than the Board of Education. To my knowledge the Board of Education only lent part of its building.

As of late November, the Board of Education members suggested that the Board would be considering returning some pre-school services to Millikin. There was the suggestion at that time that there would be a considerable public process about the use and sale of that land. It was at the very next board meeting that this proposal was heard and unanimously approved without discussion to divide the land into the two parcels and return, as far as I could understand, the marshland and woods to what was called productive use. Thank you very much. I brought a couple copies."

Mayor Kelley replied, "You did drop that off a couple weeks ago. I did make copies. Vicky, I'll tell you what I know about the property, both properties or the whole property is owned by the school board. They have hired a commercial real estate group to market the properties for them. They are in some kind of a process, where the process is I'm not exactly sure. They're engaging people that are interested in purchasing either the whole property or part of the property. I don't know when their beginning or end date is. It is under their control. To my knowledge they have no plans to come back to that site. They being the school board or in any form/fashion or any design. The lending library you talked about, that was done through Heights Parent Center. It was actually moved down to Taylor Academy. They are situated there. That is all I know at this point in time. That's where things are out there. There has been no change to that schedule to my knowledge. Mr. Downey, do you want to add to that?"

Mr. Downey replied, "The only thing I would add to that is that with regard to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education's statements - about having public meetings and so on, we're not in control of that. However, the city council is very much in control if and when they want to

subdivide that property into one/two/three different pieces of property. That act has to come before the city council and that will be public and notified and so on.”

Mayor Kelley added, “So, if there is any action to follow what Mr. Downey is saying to you that comes forward in the future, in any of our boards or commissions or this city council, those will all be done in public session or public comment will be more than likely brought forth with that. We have no plan before us for any kind of development there or anything like that. To our knowledge we’ve had no discussions with anyone nor will we. As far as I know the process is at that point. Mr. Marcellino is here from the Sun Press who also covers the school board, he may have more information that he could share with you as a someone who covers both entities, but that’s as far as I know where it’s at. We are not entertaining any offer for any condo development on either one of those sites or working with anybody. That’s not the way this council does business there. I don’t know if it comforts you, but that’s pretty much where things are at.”

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Downey stated, “Thank you very much, your Honor. I have several items this evening. This first of which would be to request authority to advertise for bids for catch basin cleaning and for 2007 Street Resurfacing Program.”

Mayor Kelley made it a matter of record and referred it to the Municipal Services Committee of Council.

Council Member Caplan moved that the City Manager be given the authority as requested.

Second by Council Member Dietrich.

Roll Call: Ayes: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Nays: None **Motion passed**

Mr. Downey continued, “Thank you very much, your Honor. In your packets you received a copy of Bid Document No. 2007-03 and -04. The 03 is for the purchase of plastic refuse bags. The lowest and best bidder is All American Poly in the amount of \$51,120.00 and Bid Document No. 2007-04, is for printing services for the Focus Magazine. The lowest and best bidder is Fortran Graphics in the amount of \$40,615.00. Your Honor, I would request that the bid tabulation and award of contract be made a matter of record.”

Mayor Kelley made them a matter of record.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mr. Malone stated, “Thank you, your Honor. I need to notify Council that two resolutions of the Board of Zoning Appeals have been received pertaining to variances in the Zoning Code and are requested by the following: BZA Calendar No. 3118 T-Mobile, 2378 Euclid Heights Boulevard, nonconforming use regulations; and, BZA Calendar No. 3119 Martin Raska, 3967 Elmwood Road, accessory use regulations. Your Honor, I need to make these a matter of record.”

Mayor Kelley made them a matter of record and referred them to the Planning and Development Committee of Council.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Montlack stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There is one piece of legislation from this committee. It is Resolution No. 13-2007(F), authorizing the reprogramming and reallocation of Community Development Block Grant Funds; and declaring an emergency.

As most of us here know, the City of Cleveland Heights is one of those fortunate cities that is an entitlement community, so that we receive block grant funds each year. Part of the responsibility that goes with that, of course, is to use the block grant funds according to the rules and regulations governing that and to use it in the best way possible and doing so our staff watches how the various programs that are funded through block grant funding are working. From time to time they make recommendations. Of course, with regard to block grant funds, that also means that the staff works with the Citizens Advisory Committee for block grant funding on these issues. That is exactly what has happened to the lead up to this Resolution 13. Therefore, finding that one of the programs, the Short Term Deferred Loan has sufficient funding whereas, two other programs could use some dollars. That is exactly what is being recommended here.

So under Section1, the follow reallocation of Community Development Block Grant Funds is hereby approved for these purposes: \$25,000.00 is taken from the Short Term Deferred Loan Program and put into the Violation Repair Program to allow persons who are income eligible, etc., to be able to get a little help in meeting those important violations and keep our housing stock the way it ought to be. \$10,000.00 is taken from the same Short Term Deferred Loan Program and given to a new program that the City staff is working on that the County Board of Health has been very helpful in making recommendations with regard to new procedures and that is the Senior Safety Program, to help seniors make certain modifications in their homes to allow them to remain in comfort and in safety. That is the essence of Resolution No. 13-2007(F) that is presented on first reading for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 13-2007(F).

Roll Call: Ayes: Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan

Nays: None **Resolution passed**

Vice Mayor Montlack concluded, "Keep warm. We'll get through this month and that concludes this report."

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Caplan stated, "Thank you. I have no legislation this evening, but along with keeping warm, some of your pipes might not be keeping so warm and we've been having a rash of households that have been stuck with frozen pipes. Actually, if that happens to you there are several things that you can do. One is that you can easily insulate your pipes, but I think you have to do that before they're frozen, but use a hair dryer. But once you get the water to begin to move through a little bit you need to leave your water open and have it drip so that the water continues to move through. And of course it pains me to suggest doing that, because it is such a waste of water but it is the only way that you'll keep the pipes moving with water. It doesn't happen to most of our houses. The houses that are on slabs, the ranches are a little more vulnerable than the majority of our households. But pay attention. Pay attention if in your garage it is very cold. You might want to put an electric heater there for a little bit near the pipes to make sure that the pipes stay open for - maybe it'll warm up by the end of the week, but to really be paying attention to that. Once you have opened them up a little bit if you

have this problem do leave them open. Dripping water in this case is really a good thing. So pay attention to that.

A special thanks really to the city public works department who has done an unbelievable job in keeping our streets safe and free of ice and they've been out continuously as you have seen and it's really been wonderful to be able to go from one place to another without having to worry about if we're going to get stuck. The other thing the public works department has done and I really want to congratulate all of them on their participation in helping us recycle better and that is we've been getting better and better rewards for recycling. By rewards, you know that if you recycle all that paper, somebody buys it from us. So not only do we not put it into the ground and pay to have it put into the ground, but somebody is purchasing it from us so it doesn't go into a landfill and we are getting money for the materials that you are recycling. So don't forget, it is easy to do the bottles and the glasses. This past weekend I was with several people at a social event and somebody said what can we do about global warming, how do we save our planet? And I said I hope you recycle. Somebody said, everybody does the bottles because it's easy. And I said what about opening your mail over a paper bag? Well, that takes a lot of space, what are we going to do? It's too much work. It may be too much work. It doesn't smell. There is nothing bad about it and every week you can go put it out on your lawn and it gets whisked away and we get paid for it. So, open your mail, put in those cereal boxes, put in the Kleenex boxes, everybody has colds, put in those Kleenex boxes whether you're done with them. The tubes from all the other paper products, when we really should be using rags instead, but nonetheless, pay attention. It really makes a difference. I will tell you that I have probably two to three times as much recyclable stuff as I have refuse that is going to go into a landfill. You can do that too. I'm not either, although I know you don't believe it, I'm not even overly compulsive about it. So try and do your best. Open your mail over a paper bag and you will be astonished how much garbage you won't have and how much recyclable stuff you do.

Other than stay warm, be careful. The kids are not in school, be careful, there are children out all over and they are walking in the streets because we're not very good about shoveling our sidewalks. So be careful, drive safely and that's all I have."

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council Member Wilcox stated, "Thank you, your Honor. There are two pieces of legislation before the committee. There are also two resolutions from the Board of Zoning Appeals and they came from the January 17th meeting. Councilwoman Evans attended that meeting and I'm going to ask her to read those into the record first."

Council Member Evans stated, "Thank you. There are two resolutions as Councilman Wilcox said. The Board of Zoning Appeals meeting was January 17, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. These applications were heard pursuant to the requirements outlined in Subsection 1109.06 and 1115.07 of the Zoning Code. Each of these applicants clearly demonstrated there were special conditions and circumstances resulting in practical difficulty and complying with the requirements of the Zoning Code, and, further, that the variance was in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Code, and that the public health, safety, and general welfare were safeguarded and substantial justice was done.

I will start with the first calendar number which is 3118. The Resolution reads, whereas, T-Mobile, 2379 Euclid Heights Boulevard, in a S-2 Mixed-Use district, hereinafter referred to as the "applicant", has made formal application requesting a variance from the nonconforming use regulations of the Zoning Code to permit a wireless antenna equipment cabinet to occupy an on-site covered parking space where the site presently provides only a small percentage of the required on-site covered parking.

The applicable provision of the Zoning Code is contained in Subsection 1173.01, which requires that accessory uses not be allowed to increase in nonconformity. Section (1) reads that the applicant will suffer practical difficulty if the variance is not granted because the property has access to adequate parking to meet its needs, the placement of the cabinet will result in no net loss of parking on site due to the creation of an uncovered parking space next to the cabinet, there will be no adverse impact on neighboring properties, and there are no other feasible locations for the cabinet. Number (2) The issuance of special permit is hereby authorized to permit a wireless antenna equipment cabinet to occupy an on-site covered parking space, as shown in plans submitted to the Board. Number (3) The applicant is required to obtain a building permit prior to installation. All construction which is the subject of this application shall be completed within 3 months of the date of approval of this resolution by City Council. I would like to submit BZA Calendar No. 3118 for passage tonight.”

Second by Council Member Tumeo.

Roll Call: Ayes: Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich

Nays: None **Resolution confirmed**

Council Member Evans continued, “Thank you. BZA Calendar No. 3119 Martin Raska, 3967 Elmwood Road, in an ‘A’ Single-Family district, hereinafter referred as to the “applicant”, has made formal application requesting a variance from the accessory use regulations of the Zoning Code to permit a recreational vehicle to be parked partially in a corner side yard, and partially in a rear yard on the concrete pad next to the garage. The applicable provision of the Zoning Code is contained in Subsection 1121.12, which requires that recreational vehicles be parked only in rear yards. Section (1) states that the applicant will suffer practical difficulty if the variance is not granted because the triangular shape of the lot makes conformity difficult, the location next to the garage minimizes its visual impact on the neighborhood, and the necessary screening is already in place. Number (2) The issuance of a special permit is hereby authorized to permit a recreational vehicle to be parked partially in a corner-side yard, on the concrete pad immediately to the north of the garage. Number (3) All relocation which is the subject of this application shall be completed within 3 months of the date of approval of this resolution by City Council.

Now, I would like to recommend that I’d like to move that we amend Section (2) which actually describes the recreational vehicle not to exceed the size of the existing vehicle which is approximately 7 feet by 14 feet to be voted on before the calendar. I’d like to move that.”

Second to the amendment by Council Member Wilcox.

Roll Call: Ayes: Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans

Nays: None **Motion to amend passed**

Mayor Kelley called for the roll for BZA Calendar No. 3119, As Amended.

Roll Call: Ayes: Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley

Nays: None **Resolution confirmed**

Council Member Wilcox continued, “Two pieces of legislation. The first one is Resolution No. 14-2007(PD), approving the award of a contract by the construction manager, Al. Neyer, Inc. to Cleve-

land Cement Contractors, Inc. for the construction of the Cedar-Lee Parking Garage; and declaring an emergency.

I'm pleased to read this legislation tonight because it means we're actually starting the construction of this parking garage. We've talked about it for a long time but with the passage of this resolution and the beginning of construction next year at this time, we'll actually be able to park in this garage rather than just to talk about it. That's important, obviously, as well as the fact that it's the first phase of the mixed-use project on Meadowbrook and Lee known as the Terraces. And also I should remind everyone that it demonstrates the commitment that Council has made to the Cedar-Lee merchants to provide more parking. Hopefully, those 358 spaces will be available the soonest by the end of the year. The city, just to review, we went through a RFP process to choose Al. Neyer, Inc., who is an experienced design builder. Council then entered into an agreement with Al. Neyer to construct the parking deck through a construction management process. That agreement was authorized pursuant to provision of our Codified Ordinances of the City, which permit the city to retain a construction manager for permanent improvements exceeding one million dollars. Al. Neyer then prepared bid packages, 19 separate bid packages and bid this out for each bid package and also in one lump bid package and as a result of that they came back with a recommendation for the lowest and best bidder for the entire garage to Cleveland Cement Contractors, Inc., for a price of Four Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$4,950,000.00). Based on our review and the recommendation of our staff and Al. Neyer, we believe that this is in the best interest of the city.

So this Resolution then provides that Council approves the award by Al. Neyer, Inc. to Cleveland Cement Construction, Inc. of Bid Packages BP-01 through BP-19 for the construction of the Cedar-Lee Parking Garage, at a total cost for all Packages of Four Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$4,950,000.00), and determines that such award is in the best interest of the City and its residents. I offer Resolution No. 14-2007(PD) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 14-2007(PD).

Mayor Kelley stated, "I would just like to say Matt Blankenship is here from the Neyer Group and I believe two other people, all the way from Cincinnati where they are from. Although they didn't play in the playoffs to get to the Super Bowl either as we didn't do in Cleveland. Hopefully in the years to come we'll have some nice zany bets between the City of Cleveland Heights and their city council members and Dave Neyer and his group - lord knows when that will be - but it's great to have you, it's been great to work with you as Council Member Wilcox said. We went through a very thorough process. We had seven people interested in this interview and we came up with you. It's great and we look forward to it. I believe there is a trailer on site as we speak today. So the old adage if you build it they will come, but I like many of us, spent those rather warm Saturday nights on Lee Road looking for a place to park and couldn't find one, so this will be cured in the near future, possibly before this year ends. We're looking forward to working with you, not just on the parking garage but on the mixed-use development, putting the retail and the housing that will go there - it's a very exciting step for Lee Road. It will be an anchor in the middle. It will lock the Cedar-Lee Theatre and the library and everything in between. We are so excited to have this happening here in Cleveland Heights. It is something new, dramatic, not seen here in Cleveland Heights. You have a lot of experience, you've done in Dayton and Cincinnati and I believe in Pittsburgh and other places. So this is very exciting. It will be something new and exciting here for Cleveland Heights and it'll be something that will measure some of our future developments by and it will send a clear message to not just the merchants in the Cedar-Lee area but people in Cleveland Heights that we are healthy, we're alive, we're well, and that we're going to be doing even more. Just as the Coventry Road area, the beauty and the splendor of the streetscape that has been done down there and the beauty of an upscale Marc's has generated a lot of positive energy

down there, if you can believe what an upscale Marc's has done. But, we're looking forward to this and as soon as the weather clears we will see cement and things coming up from the ground and who would have believed a 358 space garage could do this, but it will do even more and I know we're looking for a March groundbreaking to start selling some of those units there and establish some of the commercial space.

I also want to publicly thank the Goldberg Family and Ohio Savings. We could not be at where we're at today without the help of the Goldberg Family, staying with us through the process, being partners and then being your first tenant on the first floor. It's always good to have a bank involved with you on something like this and they stayed with us, they partnered with us. Some of the land is being used to do this. They have been with us through thick and thin and really I want to publicly thank them for what they did to make this happen."

Roll Call: Ayes: Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack

Nays: None **Resolution passed**

Council Member Wilcox continued, "Thank you. Next, I have Resolution No. 15-2007(PD), authorizing an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium for funding through the Consortium's HOME Program for the City's single-family homeowner rehabilitation loan programs; and declaring an emergency.

I should point out, that many times up here we've talked about new housing and new development, but still the bulk of the efforts and money that we spend in the city really goes to maintain and improve our existing housing. And this is another one of those programs among many other that we approve every year.

By previous resolutions, this Council authorized the City Manager to enter into agreements with the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium, for funding for the City's single-family homeowner rehabilitation loan programs including the Deferred Loan Programs and the No-Interest Loan Program.

This legislation would renew those agreements. Since 1998 the City's Deferred and No-Interest Loan Programs for elderly and low and moderate homeowners have been funded with these HOME Funds. The loan provides for a maximum of Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) to rehabilitate the home by adding improvements as well as bringing the home up to Code.

This legislation in Section 1 authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium, for funding through the Consortium's HOME program for the City's single-family homeowner rehabilitation loan programs. The agreement shall be for the period of March 1, 2007 through March 31, 2009, and shall provide for funding from FY2004 and FY2005 HOME Funds in a total sum not to exceed Two Hundred Seventy-nine Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$279,630.00). I offer Resolution No. 15-2007(PD) for passage tonight."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 15-2007(PD).

Roll Call: Ayes: Wilcox, Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo

Nays: None **Resolution passed**

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Council Member Evans stated, "Thank you. I'd like to present Resolution No. 16-2007(PSH), establishing a Senior Safety Program to assist income-qualified senior homeowners with the installation of safety items and elimination of trip hazards to prevent falls; and declaring an emergency. Whereas, falls in the home are a major health risk for senior citizens; and it would be in the best interest of the City and its residents to establish a Senior Safety Program. This Council hereby establishes the Senior Safety Program, which shall be administered by the City's Housing Preservation Office in conjunction with the Office on Aging and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and funded with Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Program shall provide qualifying low and moderate income senior homeowners with a one time grant in a maximum amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to eliminate trip hazards and purchase and install safety items such as grab bars and railings to prevent falls. The Program shall be operated in accordance with Program Guidelines to be established by the Housing Preservation Office and approved by the City Manager, Director of the Department of Planning and Development, Housing Programs Manager and Director of Law. I would like to present Resolution No. 16-2007(PSH) for passage this evening."

Mayor Kelley accepted Resolution No. 16-2007(PSH).

Roll Call: Ayes: Caplan, Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox

Nays: None **Resolution passed**

Council Member Evans continued, "Thank you. That concludes the legislation for this evening, but I would like to remind our residents that City Hall is always open and in the event you may need to leave your homes because you have lost heat in this type of weather, you need not stay there. You can come to City Hall and use the police entrance door to gain entry into the building and stop there and ask them where you can go. Make sure you bring a blanket or two. But I assure you it will be much warmer than staying at home in a very cold home. That concludes my report."

Mayor Kelley reiterated, "Remember, the police entrance is in the back of the building, just go around to the back there. Thank you, Councilwoman Evans."

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council Member Tumeo stated, "Thank you. I have no legislation tonight, but I do have a couple of items. First of all I would like to move the appointment of George Gilliam to the Board of Zoning Appeals. He's been the alternate on that Board for a while. He served the City a great deal on boards and commissions. He was on CAC and we have an opening there and that's a relatively important one that we get filled. His experience as an alternate has been stellar. He's been there at times when he didn't even have to vote, he always shows up. I think it is appropriate that he now steps up to fill the full position. So, I would like to move the appointment of George Gilliam for a three-year term effective immediately."

Second by Council Member Wilcox.

Roll Call: Ayes: Dietrich, Evans, Kelley, Montlack, Tumeo, Wilcox, Caplan

Nays: None **Appointment passed**

Mayor Kelley added, "I just want to comment for one quick minute. I want to thank F. David Gill who was on the Board of Zoning Appeals and who is retiring after twenty years of services who I talked to on the phone today who will be joining us either at our next council meeting on Tuesday, February 20th or one of the Monday meetings in March to let us express our thankfulness for him serving for these twenty years by honoring him and giving him a proclamation or a plaque. Again, thanking him for those twenty years. I did have the opportunity to talk to him on the phone today and we weren't scheduled to have him here today, but like I said either at the next meeting in February or one of the two meetings in March. We want to thank him for his nearly twenty years of service on the Board of Zoning Appeals and we're very fortunate as Councilman Tumeo said to have George Gilliam ready to step in as he served as an alternate for the last four years. Again, I want to thank F. David Gill. I think everyone on this Council feels - I know everyone on the Council feels that way. Thank you for twenty years of service and we'll officially do it either later this month or definitely in the month of March depending on F. David's schedule. Thank you."

Council Member Tumeo continued, Speaking of boards and commissions, we have a couple of spots left, especially on the CAC who we are still searching for a representative from the Millikin neighborhood. If there is someone who would be willing to step up and serve in that position, please get your application in. My committee is going to do its final report to the Council next Monday, so I really need to have that ASAP. So, if you do that, that would be great.

Finally, just as a comment. I would like to thank both Fran and Vicky for coming tonight and expressing your thoughts. It struck me, especially with Vicky's that the hallmark of this council and I'm very proud of that, is that a very open discussion - even - we don't necessarily agree and when issues come up our citizens know they can come here and tell us and we will listen. And I think that's in contrast to other bodies we've heard of, but I'm very proud of that for ours."

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Member Dietrich stated, "Thank you. There is no legislation, but since it is Community Relations and Recreation I always have lots of events to tell you about. February is a pretty full month for things to do here in Cleveland Heights. The Heights Community Congress, as you may know is sponsoring a series of three forums, on race, class and diversity. The second of the forums is coming up this Wednesday night, February 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the community center and the third of the series is on February 28. The first one was, I think, a week and a half ago and there were over 350 people there. It was a very lively conversation. It was promised to be a courageous conversation and I think it was. Something that sort of got acknowledged broadly by the whole group was that although we have an integrated community we don't socially integrate as much as we might. What resulted from that night were various groups of people from the audience setting up dinners in private homes with people that they might not normally socialize with. So that was a very nice concrete outcome from that night. I just urge you to attend on the seventh and the twenty-eighth for a continuation of that.

At the community center also, February 9, 10 and 11 is the Raymond Robinson Hockey Tournament. On the following Friday, February 16 is the final teen-night of this year unless we decide that they are so popular that we need to have some more. These are for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. They go from 7:00 to 9:00 at the community center. The kids have a blast. They are becoming so popular. We started these, I think, this is our second or third year to be doing them. The last time there were 253 kids there at the January one. So, if you have 6th, 7th or 8th graders send them to the community center on February 16th. Then, that Sunday, the 18th, you can come to the community center and watch the Ohio High School Figure Skating Championship. The following weekend, even more exciting, 22nd through the 25th, is the United States National Short Track Championship. These are the real events. This is the short track championship for the United States. You do need tickets to go to that and you get them by calling the

Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.

Finally, Reaching Heights is sponsoring an encore of Reaching Musical Heights which is an event that they put on several years ago where music students both vocal and instrumental from all the public schools all grade levels form together into concert groups and perform at Severance Hall. This is February 26th, Heights students performing in concert at Severance Hall. To go and see the performance the tickets are \$10 and \$20 and if you want to go to the benefit, which has a reception and box seats, it's a little bit more expensive, that's also happening at 6:00 and the phone number to call for Reaching Heights is 932-5110. As you can see, February is packed and I trust that out of all those things there is something you might like to do. Hope to see you all at one of those events. That's all that I have. Thank you."

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Kelley stated, "I, too, want to mention Heights Community Congress and compliment Kasey Greer and obviously, Nancy Dietrich is our representative to the Board for the excellent program a little under two weeks ago. Really got the ball rolling and got the community restarted and refocusing on race and I know there are two more forums to go and hopefully they are as well-attended and spirited as the last one.

I want to also congratulate Brendan Ring. I was at his founders day dinner last night. Last night was in particular was for Beaumont School. It doesn't matter who the event is for, it's always crowded. He had three settings again, at 5:00, 7:00 and 9:00 and I don't think anybody in the place could care about a Super Bowl and the fact that the Browns weren't in it. But, Brendan, again, did it and donated nearly \$10,000 to Beaumont School and I'm not sure who the nice recipient will be next year, but Brendan certainly gives back to the community.

I want to also say, there is so much cold and negative degrees and wind chill factors and we've all talked briefly about it, but I think the important thing is whatever neighborhoods you live in, if there is someone that's by themselves or an older person there, take the time out of your schedule, not necessary to go next door and knock on the door, but maybe to call and make sure they are alright or make sure they have some kind of a food supply or water or if they have a heating issue or let us get involved if we can. Now we're not going to be able to go to every single house in the city, but there are certain things that we can and cannot do, so take the time out of your busy schedule. You don't have to go knock on the door to door, but maybe call that one person on your street that lives two or three doors down the street, that's alone or whatever or recently lost their significant other person or their younger child moved away and they are alone, because this brutal cold for the past couple days - maybe for the next two or three days or whatever it is, reach out, give them a call. It's just as easy to pick up another quart of milk or some water or some food or some vegetables for them and make sure they're comfortable or if they do have heating problem, senior citizens, traditionally do not want to leave their house under any circumstances. So these are the people we need to reach out to. If they do have a heating issue or a frozen pipe issue as Councilwoman Caplan talked about we may in some circumstances - and Alex Mannarino has already reached a number of thirty or so people that we've helped out - we can help them out or get them out of their house - -. The last thing we want to do is for someone to freeze or some kind of issue like that because we didn't reach out. Just let us know. We have a great senior staff headed by Carol Rich to help people out. So let's spend a little time in the next few days or if later this month we get into this frigid weather to reach out to a neighbor or friend or somebody who may live on a different street than you, but couldn't be alone and needs our needs. We'd rather do it here first in Cleveland Heights and help people out or as Councilwoman Evans said, use City Hall or come to our community center. We are more than happy to help out. That's what we do in Cleveland Heights and that's what we are about.

Thank you for coming to our meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2007. We are adjourned at 8:56 p.m. Thank you for coming."

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Kelley, Mayor
President of Council

Thomas K. Malone
Clerk of Council

/mwc