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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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City of Cleveland Daily News Updates - #316

The City of Cleveland continues to take numerous precautions across multiple departments and divisions amid increasing cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). Below are some important updates. **Mayor Frank G. Jackson signed an order on Feb. 24, 2021 extending the City's Proclamation of Civil Emergency through March 31, 2021.** [Click here to view the order.](#) Essential services such as Police, Fire, EMS, waste collection and Utilities will remain operational.

Mayor Jackson Swears in Director of Community Development

On March 18, Mayor Jackson swore in Michiel Wackers as the Director of the Department of Community Development. Wackers has been serving as Interim Director of Community Development since November 5, 2020. He began service with the City of Cleveland as the Executive Assistant to the Director of the Community Development Department in December 2016. Wackers was sworn in as Assistant Director of Community Development in July 2018. [Click here to view his headshot.](#) View a [photo from the swearing-in ceremony here.](#)

Prior to joining the City of Cleveland, he worked with the City of Middletown, Connecticut for 13 years and ultimately served as Director of Planning, Conservation and Development. Wackers has experience in many aspects of community development including creating and managing projects.

Wackers received his Master of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in Public Policy from City University of New York. He also received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Studies from Elon University. He holds an American Institute of Certified Planners certification from the American Planning Association.

Emergency Medical Service Graduates Five New EMTs and Paramedics

On Thursday, March 18, 2021, Mayor Frank G. Jackson swore in five new Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics to help serve neighborhood residents. The five EMTs who were sworn in include 1 African-American female, 2 Caucasian males, 1 Hispanic male and 1 male whose background was not disclosed. The new EMTs will enhance the staffing levels of the Cleveland Emergency Medical Service.

As a reminder, The City of Cleveland is currently accepting applications for the position of Emergency Medical Technician. The application period runs until March 28, 2021 at 11:59pm. Starting salary is \$15.00 per hour with opportunity for advancement. Apply [here](#). Call 216-623-5233 with questions.

In addition, The City of Cleveland is currently accepting applications for the position of Safety Telephone Operator. The application period runs until March 26, 2021 at 11:59pm. Starting salary is \$15.00 per hour with opportunity for advancement. Apply [here](#). Call 216-623-5233 with questions.

Three Cleveland Police Officers Suspended Following Internal Affairs Investigation

Director of Public Safety Karrie D. Howard announces that three Cleveland Police Officers have been suspended without pay following an internal investigation which began after it was discovered that an officer used excessive force during the course of an arrest. Patrol Officer John Petkac, 30, was terminated from employment on December 21, 2020 as a result of the investigation.

An internal investigation was conducted by the Cleveland Division of Police, Internal Affairs Unit. Findings of the investigation were forwarded to the Chief of Police for review and then submitted to the Office of the Director of Public Safety for final discipline. Director Howard determined that the officers committed violations from inaccurate reporting, negligent duty and failure to intervene. The officers received suspensions within the range of 14-30 days.

Patrol Officer Patrick Valencic, 30, was hired in 2015. Patrol Officer Michael Cozart II, 33, was hired in 2014. Patrol Officer Richard Delvecchio, 28, was hired in 2014.

All three officers were assigned to the Third District at the time the incident occurred. The suspensions will be effective beginning on the officers' next tour of duty. Read the disciplinary letters for [Valencic](#), [Cozart](#) and [Delvecchio](#).

In addition to the termination of Patrol Officer Petkac, six other officers were disciplined prior to the three listed above: Lieutenant Brian Chetnik, 48, was hired in 1998. Detective Andrew Hayduk, 39, was hired in 2009. Patrol Officer Antonio Muniz, 49, was hired in 2009. Patrol Officer Allen Nagy, 47, was hired in 2013. Patrol Officer Rashawn Rahim, 29, was hired in 2014. Patrol Officer Darryl Turner, 36, was hired in 2015.

Limited Number of Vaccines Available to Eligible Cleveland Residents at East Tech and Estabrook

The Cleveland Department of Health will have a limited number of first-dose COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines available for Cleveland residents who meet eligibility requirements as determined by the State of Ohio. These vaccines will be available at two vaccine clinics next week as follows:

- Wednesday, March 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at East Tech High School
- Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Estabrook Rec Center

For registration, eligibility and more, view our flyer both [in English](#) and [in Spanish](#).

Battery Park Avenue Extension Project; West 73rd Street to West 70th Street (City of Cleveland - Ward 15)

Beginning Monday, March 29, 2021, City of Cleveland, Division of Engineering & Construction will begin construction of the sewer improvements included in the Battery Park Avenue Extension Project. This work will take place on West 73rd Street just south of Father Frascati which will necessitate the closure of West 73rd Street between Father Frascati and Marina Court.

Detour of traffic on West 73rd Street will be as follows:

- Northbound traffic will be detoured to westbound Battery Park Avenue to northbound West 74th Street to eastbound Father Frascati.

- Southbound traffic will be detoured to westbound Father Frascati to southbound West 74th Street to eastbound Battery Park Avenue.
- Intersections and driveway access along West 73rd Street will be maintained at all times. Road closure and detour signs will be placed on either end of the construction during the week of March 22, 2021 informing the public of the impending construction work.

The Battery Park Extension construction is being administered by the City of Cleveland, Division of Engineering & Construction. Improvements include:

- Construction of a 340 feet extension of Battery Park Avenue via a dedicated 60 foot wide public Right- Of- Way to connect West 73rd Street and West 70th Street.
- The roadway extension includes construction of two 10' vehicular travel lanes with 8' wide parallel parking and 5' sidewalks on both sides of the street.
- ADA-compliant curb ramps and crosswalks will be installed at intersections with West 73rd Street and West 70th Street.
- The chicane shape of the new street and curb bumpouts will slow traffic and increase safety.
- Underground electrical conduit banks will be installed along Battery Park Avenue and the West side of West 70th Street together with appurtenant vaults and new LED light poles.
- New 8" ductile iron pipe water main will be installed along Battery Park Avenue.
- New underdrains and drainage facilities will be installed on Battery Park Avenue.
- Overhead power lines and power poles will be removed and new LED light poles will be installed on the west side of West 70th Street approximately 800 feet north from intersection with Battery Park Avenue extension.

The work on this project will take place Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The sewer work on West 73rd Street will be completed by April 30, 2021.

Questions? Contact the City of Cleveland Engineering & Construction Inspector David McKinney at dmckinney@city.cleveland.oh.us or at 216-857-7638.

Editor's Note: Road construction invariably presents hazards to the public. All travelers are urged to use caution in construction zones. Public safety and the safety of workers is a top priority.

Other Important Reminders (Previous Announcements)

Mayor Jackson to Host Tele Town Hall on March 24

Mayor Frank G. Jackson will host a telephone townhall to update residents on public safety, COVID-19 vaccines and more on Wednesday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Residents may register for the free town hall event at <https://vekeo.com/mayorfrankjackson/>. The night of the event, registered participants will receive a phone call and will only need to answer the call to enter the telephone town hall. Those who are unable to participate by phone but would like to listen during or after the event, can tune in on the [City of Cleveland's Facebook](#) page where the call will be livestreamed.

RTA and Civic Partners Provide Free Ride to Vaccination Centers

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is partnering with Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland to provide All Day passes good for a free ride on bus, rail and paratransit to the Wolstein Center and [vaccination sites](#) throughout the county. [Read the full release here.](#)

City Hall Parking Enforcement

There has been an increase in parking violators on the ‘horseshoe’ behind City Hall, thus preventing access by emergency vehicles and the availability for temporary parking for pick up and deliveries to City Hall. Therefore, effective Monday, March 22, 2021 the City will begin parking enforcement and violators will be ticketed. City employees wishing to obtain parking in the Willard garage or free parking in the Cleveland Municipal lot may contact the Division of Parking Facilities at 664-2999.

Mayor Frank G. Jackson Announces Return of the Exterior Paint Program

The City of Cleveland invites residents to take advantage of its 2021 Exterior Paint Program. Applications must be received by April 30, 2021.

The Exterior Paint Program provides paint and materials to homeowners who wish to paint the exterior of their homes. Labor is not included. The goal for 2021 is 500 homes with a total allocation of \$500,000 for the program.

“The goal of this program is to help residents protect their home investments, improve housing stock in our neighborhoods and create a better, more equitable quality of life,” said Mayor Frank G. Jackson.

Homeowners, as well as tenants, who meet income guidelines, are welcome to apply for the program. Funds cover the cost of up to \$1,500 for owner occupants or up to \$750 for tenants in paint and materials, though restrictions do apply. Inspections of the property must also be conducted. Applications must be received by April 30, 2021 and the painting must be completed by October 31, 2021.

The Department of Community Development’s Division of Neighborhood Services administers services on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested Cleveland residents can obtain applications by calling (216) 664-2045.

Exterior Paint Program Income Guidelines

FAMILY SIZE	INCOME LEVEL	FAMILY SIZE	INCOME LEVEL
1	\$51,600	5	\$79,600
2	\$59,000	6	\$85,500
3	\$66,350	7	\$91,400
4	\$73,700	8	\$97,300

[Governor Dewine Announces Guidance to Vaccine Providers on Phase 1c and Phase 2](#)

Small Business Administration (SBA) – Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loans Update

SBA has announced an additional tranche of PPP funding to assist small businesses. PPP loans are available until **March 31, 2021** to help keep businesses open during the COVID-19 Pandemic. PPP Loans may be eligible for forgiveness if certain conditions are met:

- Employee and compensation levels are maintained
- Loan proceeds are spent on payroll costs and other expenses
- At least 60% of proceeds are spent on payroll costs

President Biden has announced several changes to the program to make it more accessible:

- **Beginning February 24 and through March 10**, only businesses with fewer than 20 employees are eligible to apply in order to ensure that the smallest businesses have access to this program.
- Rules for sole proprietors, self-employed individuals and independent contractors have been modified to increase access for certain felony convictions.
- Elimination of student loan debt delinquency as a disqualifier to PPP loans
- Non-citizen small business owners may use Individual Tax Identification Numbers to apply for PPP.

Information about the program, including matching small businesses with area lenders, can be found at: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>

Students Invited to Apply for Mayor Frank G. Jackson Scholarship Program

The Mayor Frank G. Jackson Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 academic year. The deadline to submit your application is **March 28, 2021**. To learn more and to apply, [click here](#).

The Mayor Frank G. Jackson Scholarship Program was created by the City of Cleveland in 2007 to provide scholarship funds to the following individuals:

1. City employees
2. Dependents of City employees
3. High school seniors graduating from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District
4. High school seniors in the Youth Development Program or involved with the City of Cleveland Department of Recreation

The program provides scholarships of \$1,000 per year for up to 4 years. Selected scholarship recipients must be a full-time (minimum 12 credit hours each term) student at a four-year, public or private, not-for-profit higher education institution.

Scholarships are renewable for up to three additional years from the first awarded academic year. To be eligible for renewal of the scholarship, students must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA and full-time status.

The City of Cleveland's Mayor Frank G. Jackson Scholarship program is administered through [College Now Greater Cleveland](#). For questions about the scholarship applications, please contact College Now at (216) 635-0324.

City of Cleveland & CMSD Release RFQ for Redevelopment of 19 Vacant CMSD Sites

The City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) have today jointly issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select real estate development project teams for the redevelopment of 12 vacant school buildings and seven sites of vacant land owned by CMSD.

“These vacant school buildings and vacant land parcels provide opportunities for economic development in neighborhoods across the City of Cleveland,” said Mayor Frank G. Jackson. “The City of Cleveland looks forward to collaborating with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District on repurposing these assets to foster redevelopment and equity in our neighborhoods.”

The intent of the RFQ process is to identify qualified real estate development project teams interested in each site. Teams are invited to submit site-specific redevelopment proposals for consideration by the City and CMSD. Interested developers will be able to participate in an information session and tours of the building to learn more about the sites. The RFQ and selection process will be facilitated by the City of Cleveland.

“When we developed a plan for the future of our programs and facilities in 2019, the Board of Education asked that we also look at the future of our vacant buildings and property. We are excited to be partnering with the City of Cleveland in redeveloping unused properties and turning them into neighborhood assets,” said CMSD CEO Eric Gordon.

The RFQ calls for redevelopment plans to be guided by principles of racial equity and inclusion with respect to neighborhoods and/or include neighborhood wealth-building initiatives.

[Click here](#) to view the RFQ.

RFQ TIMELINE:

City & CMSD Release RFQ	March 1, 2021
Informational Session w/Developers (12)	March 16 and 17, 2021 (<i>RSVP by March 12</i>)
Deadline to Submit CMSD Documentation Request	March 19, 2021
Building Tours	March 22, 23 and 24, 2021 (<i>RSVP by March 19</i>)
Questions Due	April 12, 2021 (<i>Answers by April 16</i>)
RFQ Responses Due	April 30, 2021
Respondents Notified of Preliminary Selection	May 31, 2021

Following preliminary selections, project teams will work through due diligence and predevelopment before any properties are sold and transferred from CMSD to the selected development entities.

City of Cleveland Establishes Call Center to Answer General Vaccine Distribution Questions

The City of Cleveland has established a call center that is currently available to answer general questions pertaining to the City’s vaccine distribution efforts and assist eligible individuals in scheduling an appointment to receive the vaccine.

- Call Center Number: (216) 664-2222
- Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As a reminder, only individuals who meet the Ohio Department of Health's criteria are eligible to receive the vaccine at this time. Due to limited supply, it will take time for eligible individuals to receive the vaccine. We ask for your patience. As we receive additional supply, we will be opening up additional vaccination sites and scheduling appointments for eligible individuals to receive the vaccine.

Calls Regarding COVID-19 Complaints

With the passage by Cleveland City Council of an ordinance authorizing penalties for non-compliance with Mayor Jackson’s mask mandate, enforcement is now in effect. There are two numbers Clevelanders should call regarding non-compliance:

- **Business complaints:** CDPH hotline at (216) 857-7165

- **Individual or private residence complaints:** Cleveland Police non-emergency line at (216) 621-1234

Cleveland City Council recently approved the mandatory use of masks in public spaces as well as certain penalties for individuals and businesses that do not comply. On July 3, Mayor Jackson signed an amended order mandating the use of masks in public in the City of Cleveland to slow the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus. This includes mandatory use in bars, restaurants, shared office settings, rideshares and other shared spaces.

Citations may be issued with fines for the following:

- Any business or person violating the mask or safe-seating order (which maintains social distancing of at least six feet between patrons) is subject to civil penalties in accordance with Ordinance No. 556-2020, specifically chapters 602 and 236.
- Any business in the City of Cleveland with an employee who becomes ill with the coronavirus is required to immediately disinfect and sanitize the premises. Following a warning, they may be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for the first offense and a civil penalty of \$3,000 for each subsequent violation.

Upcoming Cleveland Transformation Alliance Meetings

The Cleveland Transformation Alliance Committee (CTA) is currently hosting public meetings via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. For more information on these meetings, please visit <http://www.myCLEschool.org>. See details for upcoming meetings below:

Cleveland Plan Progress Committee Refresh Retreat

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/99094175555?pwd=ZDNYTlcrRGxGWWM3SG5zU3lPUnZCUT09>

Meeting ID: 990 9417 5555

Passcode: 875779

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,99094175555#,,,,*875779# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acQZAWHJvN>

Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 22 at 8:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 216-815-0098,571164429#](tel:+12168150098571164429) United States, Cleveland

Phone Conference ID: 571 164 429#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Cleveland Plan Progress Committee Refresh Retreat

Friday, April 23, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/93125169762?pwd=MWNKUE9jUTZNaGpxSXJEWUdTMGZuUT09>

Meeting ID: 931 2516 9762

Passcode: 637409

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,93125169762#,,,,*637409# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adbbpeaKcU>

Cleveland Transformation Alliance Board Meeting

Monday, April 26 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/96577426538?pwd=dU5GLzZqUWlsNSs5THBWV05KWFJRZz09>

Meeting ID: 965 7742 6538

Passcode: 333569

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,96577426538#,,, *333569# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

CodeRED

Sign up for CodeRED alerts to receive calls and emails with important info regarding the coronavirus. To sign up online, visit <https://bit.ly/CLECodeRED>, get mobile alerts by downloading the CodeRED app via the Apple or Google Play stores. Seniors who need assistance signing up are welcome to call the Department of Aging at (216) 664-4383 for periodic phone call messaging.

Previous COVID-19 Updates from the City of Cleveland

[Click here to view previous updates.](#)

For more information about COVID-19, visit the following:

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
- <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/>
- <http://www.clevelandhealth.org/>

About the City of Cleveland

The City of Cleveland is committed to improving the quality of life for its residents by strengthening neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing diversity and making Cleveland a desirable, safe city in which to live, work, play, and do business. For more information on the City of Cleveland, visit online at www.clevelandohio.gov, Twitter at @cityofcleveland or Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofcleveland.