

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO**

Monday, February 27, 2012

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m. by Council President Nancy Marincic.

INVOCATION BY: Councilwoman Tracy Mahoney

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Council Members Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich,
Glenn, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Before I go any further I have three or four Council Members who are a little under the weather in one way or another tonight but they still made it here to the meeting. So if any one of them has to get up for any reason please excuse them. Be patient. It's remarkable that they made it here tonight and I thank them for that.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Reading and disposal of the Minutes from the Special Meeting of Council dated February 23rd and the Regular Meeting of Council dated February 26th.

CLMN SUSTER: Mme. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we accept the Minutes of Monday, February 13, 2012 and also the Special Meeting February 23, 2012 as submitted.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I thought it was February 26th.

CLMN SUSTER: February 23rd.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: February 13th and February 23rd. Yes. All in favor say Yea. All opposed say Nay?

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: The Yeas have it.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL: None.

LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: We will move on to the reports of the Mayor and his Directors. Mayor Collova, you have a report this evening I'm sure?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you, Mme. Chairman, yes I do. First off I want to welcome the students from Garfield Heights who are joining us today at the Council Meeting, Tim Wright and Jackie Prokay. Thank you for joining us. We're looking forward to your report.

I want to start off by saying we've talked about the construction that's going on, the new construction that's going to start this year or in the near future with the different roads, etc. Thursday night I attended the Ward 7 Block Watch and was telling them all about the new construction and I explained to them about Rockside Road being done in August of this year and everybody was very excited. They were pleased to hear that. That was Thursday evening. Friday afternoon the County came in and informed myself and Mr. Krock that that construction will not start unfortunately till the spring of 2013. It's unfortunate but their reasoning was if they started it at the end of the year they would not be able to complete it by the end of the year. They wanted to be able to do it in one construction season. If they start it in April 2013 they will complete it in 2013 instead of having all the problems with the road closed and barrels, etc. going through the winter so unfortunately there's not much we can do about it. I wish they would have told me that, Barry, before your meeting Thursday but unfortunately that's how it worked out. I already asked Father Haren for his forgiveness and he was glad to do it so we're doing great.

Next I wanted to talk to you a little bit about something that we're doing here at the city hall. Transportation on voting day. The Garfield Heights Senior Center will take any Senior or disabled Garfield Heights resident to the voting polls on Tuesday, March 6th. Call Becky on Monday March 5th between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to schedule a ride--475-3244. Please make sure you know your polling location before you call. Transportation will be grouped accordingly to polling locations. So if you need a ride we have it available for you.

Next I want to talk a little bit about a Housing Fair that's going to be hosted by Garfield Heights. The city of Garfield Heights will host a Fair Housing and Landlord Tenant Law Seminar from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday March 13th at Garfield Heights Civic Center. The session is sponsored by the Housing Research and Advocacy Center and it's funded by the Cuyahoga County Department of Development. Topics to be covered during this seminar include landlord/tenant law, fair housing laws, Garfield Heights rental property inspection, registration and ordinances. To register or for information call Darlene English, Education and Outreach Coordinator at 216-361-9240. So that's going to take place on March 13th.

Today Bill Werve came in and we had a long discussion today. Many of our Council people along with myself are getting calls about some of the houses that are deplorable and we're having a lot of trouble trying to keep up with these homes because the banks and the mortgage companies that own these homes are out of State. They don't respond. In many cases even if you cite them they don't do anything so we talked about a different approach. We're going to be doing this. What we're going to do is we're going to get the names of these banks and mortgage companies and we're going to start publicizing every way we can how deplorable they let the houses go to. We're going to try to give them a black eye to see if that will work. We're trying to take a pro-active approach to it. Understand that we cannot as a city we cannot afford to say OK, we're going to go in, call this house a nuisance and then go in and do the work because we have to pay for it. If there's \$10,000.00 or \$15,000.00 worth of work that needs to be done we would have to do it and try to collect the money down the road. There's too many houses for us to do that to so since the laws are really in their favor we're going to try this approach and I hope it works. We're going to try to give them a pretty good black eye if we can.

The next thing I want to talk about a little bit and I know Chief Sackett is going to get into this in his report but about a week or so ago we had a young gentleman that turned up missing from his home and there was a large search party out for him. During this process the Chief called in our CERT team to assist in the search and he's going to get into the details but I got to tell you I can't thank and honor this group enough. What they do in case of emergency is unbelievable. Like I said the Chief's getting into it but I want to thank them personally for everything they do for the city.

The other thing that I wanted to talk about is that this is Black History Month. There's many good programs that have been taking place throughout the country. We had one here last week. The Family Life Center put on an excellent program. There's quite a bit that's going on about Black History Month that's on the TV. It's really interesting if you get into it you want to see something on TV and get some really good history on it that's the place to do it.

I also want to talk for a second about the incident at Chardon today. It was absolutely horrible. Everybody understands that. My condolences go out to everybody in Chardon especially the five victims and more especially the young man who didn't make it. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families. We also had a young man in Garfield Heights that last week a 15 year old young man that got shot. I wish there was some way we could reach some of the youth to tell them how precious life is. It seems like they're missing that, They just don't realize what they have as being a young person and how much life can be so great for them and how recklessly some of these people treat life, but again my condolences go out to all of the people in Chardon and I wish the families well.

To get into tonight's legislation. Ordinance 9-2012. Because of the way the Land Bank does business they don't transfer the deed until violations are corrected. Under this legislation the future homeowner can pull permits and fix the home himself. I think this is going to be a big plus for the Land Bank and for us again getting some homes purchased and some homes rehabbed. I think this is an important ordinance and urge Council to pass it.

Resolution 6. This is a resolution ratifying the appointment of Debra Sarnowski to act as secretary to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Debra will certainly bring along with her to this Board professionalism and she always does a good job. She was certainly my choice for this and I ask Council to make her their choice also. Resolution 7-2012 authorizing Mayor to apply for a Mantis Award grant for the city of Garfield Heights Community Gardens made available by the National Gardening Association. Once again we're reaching out to get money to aid our gardens and we're asking for the grant and that's Resolution 7. Resolution 8 we're applying for a grant on behalf of the city of Garfield Heights from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. This grant is for the Johnston Mill Run and Bike Trail that will eventually tie into the towpath. This will come from the city of Cleveland down through Johnston Park, down the old McCracken from Broadway into Garfield Park and we hope to tie it into the towpath at that point. Resolution 9 is another resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for Suburban Community Garden Grant Program. We're trying to get monies. Every grant that's available we're going after and this will certainly aid in our garden programs as well as the other one that was Resolution 9. With that, Mme. Chairman, you have my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Mayor. Any questions for the Mayor on his report? There being none we will move on to Law Director Tim Riley. Do you have a report this evening?

LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY: Thank you, Mme. President, I do not have a report tonight.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Any questions for our Law Director? There being none we'll move on to Police Chief Robert Sackett. Do you have a report tonight?

POLICE CHIEF SACKETT: Yes, I do. I just want to add a few things to what the Mayor was saying about that missing gentleman. Probably most of you saw it on the news. A 68 year old guy with some mental problems and some medical issues turned up missing. We got the call about one o'clock in the morning on Sunday. By nine o'clock we hadn't found him and we were getting concerned because of the weather and his condition. So we called out our CART team which is essentially a SWAT team equivalent to find missing people. It's a small group of police officers from other cities. Then we called out some search dogs. We decided a couple hours later we needed a lot of volunteers on the ground as quickly as we could to cover a foot search of kind of a large area. So we called out the CERT team. I made one phone call. Within a minute Sheila Roman called me back and said Chief, what do you need? How many you need? Where do you need us? That's all it took. Within 15 minutes I bet CERT people were walking through the door. Chief, I'm here. I'll do whatever you need. Tell me where to go. All told I think we had 22 CERT people respond. That was outstanding. It would have been very easy on that day it was cold very easy to say I can't make it, but they turned out in force. I'll tell you what. They worked long and they worked hard. I see a few of you out there tonight and you could attest the conditions were lousy, the terrain was rough, the weather was cold, windy, snowy, there was mud. They just did their job. They conducted that search just like they trained for. They did a great job. We could not have did it without them. I don't think they got out of there till 7 – 7:30 and I'd be willing to bet if we'd have asked them to stay all night and search they'd have continued to search. They did a fabulous job and I just want to thank you the whole CERT team. It's great to know that when we need a bunch of people to volunteer (good people) you're there and it doesn't take much to get you out so thank you very much.

Also the auxiliary police responded. I'd like to thank them. As it turns out the guy was in a shelter the whole time. We checked the shelter at probably three in the morning. We checked it again around 10 in the morning. They told us he was not there. These shelters they take that privacy thing very, very serious and it cost us a lot of time and a lot of man hours but I guess in the end we did what we had to do and he was found safe so that's a good thing.

Also one other thing I want to mention. Our Police Department Annual Report is done. I passed it out tonight to the Council Members. The Mayor got it last week I believe. If anybody's interested I believe it's going to be on the Website. It would probably cost too much to make a lot of copies of it. It's too big to e-mail so if anybody wants to go on the Website probably later in the week it should be on there if you want to see it. If you have any questions you can give me a call. With that you have my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Chief. Any questions for the Police Chief this night? There being none, Service Director, Tim McLaughlin. You have a report?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mme. President. In the last two weeks with the weather being off and on every day which is a great thing we were able to get the patch crews out with the cold patch and get some of the larger potholes throughout the city. I also was able to get the tree truck out and take care of some problem trees from the winter from the wind and stuff. I'll probably have more tomorrow because I saw some of them already hanging. I got to clean some catch basins and stuff. Normally these things we can't do in wintertime and this has been a great winter so far. We did have some salting and plowing and it was kind of limited and looking forward to spring. That's my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Any questions for the Service Director? There being none, Recreation Director Bob Dobies. Do you have a report?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Mme. President, Council Members, good evening. Just a couple of things. T-ball signups will begin March 1st and will continue through March 31st. Softball signups will be starting right around the corner about mid-March. I'll get the information at the next meeting. Last I just would like to remind that the Recreation Department we're earmarked March 10th. I left you copies of the flyers at the ice rink for Residents' Appreciation Day. We will have open skating from 1 to 6 p.m. that day. We'll also have a Lucky Seven raffle. A resident from each Ward will be able to win a prize. There will also be a few bikes from what I understand from our Chief there compliments of our Police Department and a grand prize basket. This afternoon will be for residents only. Proof of residency will be required. This is in consideration of all of us going through some difficult times together and we hope to provide a fun-filled afternoon with free skating and giveaways. Hope to see you there. There are flyers on the table there for anybody else that's interested. Thank you. That concludes my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Mr. Dobies. Any questions for the Recreation Director? There being none we will move on to my favorite City Engineer David Krock. Do you have a report?

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: I sure do. Thank you. I just want to update everyone on the Henry Street project. At the last Council Meeting we talked about the noise issues we'd have there for about six weeks. Well we have an update on the schedule. We expect that work to start either tomorrow or Wednesday of this week. I saw them out there today getting prepped so once that work starts it will be 24/7 work for about six weeks. That's my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I thought it was going to be less than six weeks? Is it going to be six weeks?

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: I think their schedule said into early April but I think as we learned with them last time six weeks might be short.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: If you want to keep being my favorite you're going to shorten it. OK. Thank you. Any other questions for the City Engineer? There being none we'll move on to Finance Director Ron Tomola.

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: Thank you, Mme. Chairman. I just wanted to inform Council even though we're only two months into the year, there's been quite a bit of activity that will affect our finances. I'm working on updating the Five Year Forecast that we've given to the State. As soon as I get that done I will get it out to all of you and then probably toward the end of March we'll be looking at our first adjustment for our budget. That's my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Any questions for the Finance Director? I have one. What changes?

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: You heard about the Fire Grant that we got so there's some changes there and we have to adjust the appropriations for that. There were some expenses for some of the sewer projects that I missed when I gave you the appropriation ordinance and I have to make some adjustments for those. It's all reimbursable from the County sewer funds so it's just I need to adjust the budgets.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: OK. Thank you very much. We'll move on to Building Commissioner Bill Wervey. Do you have a report?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: Just a couple things. I'd like to urge passage of Ordinance 9 and it was brought to my attention that I hadn't been updating Council on vacant houses so right now (you take this with a little bit of a grain of salt) we've got about 860 vacant houses. We've got about 600 houses that are in some stage of foreclosure. We've got 160 houses that are bank owned and out of these about 270 that have point of sales and are actively being marketed. As I said before you can't take these figures and add them up and come up with a total figure because some of them fit into more than one category. That's about where we stand right now. That's all I have this evening.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Any questions for the Building Commissioner? I didn't forget about you Ms. Kuban. Economic Development Director Noreen Kuban.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Thank you, Mme. Chairwoman. Briefly, regarding Resolution 8-2012 I just want to point out that this is for a planning grant for this trail. It is not for construction and on Resolution 9-2012 this is for Community Garden Number Three which will be located at Crudell Park at the end of East 97th Street or accessed by East 97th Street.

Also we're having a Foreclosure Planning Event. Last Council Meeting I indicated that it would be on March 24th. That has been changed to March 31st from 9 till 12. It's a Saturday morning. Anyone who is having trouble with their mortgage—either it's in foreclosure or they're at risk of going into foreclosure is welcome to attend. This is a three city event. Anyone in the County can attend and it will be in our dining room.

Key Bank is going to have their Annual Neighbors Make a Difference Day. These are for some projects that will be completed on May 24th. Ideas for projects should be submitted to me. The deadline for submission to the Key Bank folks is March 16th so if you have any ideas for projects that can be completed in four hours submit them to my attention. That concludes my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Any questions for our Economic Development Director?

CLMN DUDLEY: Yes, Mme. Chairman. What organizations or is any lenders going to be there to assist the people through the process?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: We're going to have the County Court of Common Pleas Mediation Program, ESOP, Neighborhood Housing Services and probably Cleveland Housing Network. There will probably be a couple housing counselors from each agency there so they will be able to talk to multiple people at the same time.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Any other questions for our Economic Development Director? There being none that concludes the reports of the Mayor and his Directors and now we will move on to Comments by Citizens on tonight's agenda. Oh, I almost forgot about the school. We have two representatives from the Garfield Heights School System. Would you introduce yourself and give a report?

Tim Wright: Yes, thank you Mme. Chairman. My name is Tim Wright. I am a senior at the Garfield Heights High School. I'm here to let you know some of the good things that are happening at the high school. This past weekend our basketball team beat Elyria to earn their

second straight NOC Valley Division Basketball Title with a score of 62-54. This is the basketball team's 4th Valley Division Title in the last five years. They will be playing in sectionals this Saturday in Solon depending on who wins the Maple Heights and I believe Bedford game is who they will be playing this Saturday. Also this year the football team won NOC Conference. Tied it with Brush High School so we have a tied conference title. The record of the football team was 5 – 5. Also we had a senior student, Steven Schillero, placed 7th in the State of Ohio at Division 1 State Diving Championship. He's our only diver at the high school so he's representing us very well.

Our show choir competed this weekend in Twinsburg. We came in 8th out of 18 schools this year. We have traveled to West Virginia, Marysville, Ohio to compete. This coming weekend we will be in Solon competing and after Solon we will be preparing to go to Florida to represent Garfield Heights in March. Also we are celebrating Black History Month on Wednesday. The presentation starts at 6 p.m. in the Performing Arts Building. The show choir will be performing one song, so will our little ones in I believe the Little Theater Program we have in the city and also at the Garfield Heights High School if you would like a Bulldog Pride shirt they are \$10.00 so if you want a shirt go to the main office and you can buy a shirt and if any of you would like a levy sign to put in your front yard they are free and also you can go to the high school and pick one up and this coming Saturday we are hosting a spaghetti luncheon. The meals are \$10.00 and you can call and they will bring the food out to you. That's the end of my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Any questions for our school representatives?

CLMN VAUGHN: Where is the spaghetti dinner going to be held at?

MR. WRIGHT: In the cafeteria of the high school.

CLMN VAUGHN: What are the hours on that?

MR. WRIGHT: I believe it's 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CLMN VAUGHN: OK. Thank you very much.

MR. WRIGHT: Excuse me. 12:30.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Any other questions for our school representative? There being none now we will move and once again I apologize that I almost overlooked you. Now we will move on to Comments By Citizens on the evening's Agenda.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

CLERK: Comments are strictly limited to brief statements not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to the legislation on the current evening's agenda.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: And no citizen may speak more than once. If you would like to comment regarding the legislation this evening just raise your hand. Anybody? There being none we will move on to ordinances and resolutions.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: The first one on the evening's agenda is Ordinance 09-2012. Will the Clerk read the title?

ORDINANCE NO. 09-2012

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1309.07 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS RELATIVE TO HOME PURCHASERS THROUGH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION.

MOVED BY NENADOVICH TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clmn Nenadovich.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Ordinance 09-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-2012

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DEBRA SARNOWSKI TO ACT AS SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO, DURING THE PERIOD COMMENCING IMMEDIATELY.

MOVED BY MAHONEY TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clwn Mahoney.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

CLMN DUDLEY: Before I vote, she's going to do a great job and I vote Yes.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Perfect candidate. I know she'll be great. I vote Yes.

AYES: Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Welcome aboard, Debbie. Resolution 06-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-2012

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR MANTIS AWARD GRANT FOR THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS COMMUNITY GARDENS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION.

MOVED BY SUSTER TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clmn Suster.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Resolution 07-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 08-2012

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR A GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION.

MOVED BY SUSTER TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clmn Suster.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Resolution 08-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-2012

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR SUBURBAN COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS' COMMUNITY GARDENS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION'S URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.

MOVED BY SUSTER TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption and Mr. Suster just wait. Beginning with Clmn Suster.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Resolution 09-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: That concludes Ordinances and Resolutions for this evening. Now we will move on to Miscellaneous Comments by Citizens and I'm going to ask our Clerk to read the rules because she reads so well. Thank you.

CLERK: Comments shall be restricted to any problem a citizen has which has previously been submitted to their City Councilperson or to the city hall department directly involved. If submission of a problem to a department or a Councilperson has been made and there is a lack of service rendered in this regard, then the problem may be presented during comments from citizens at this meeting. It is the intention of this rule that no request of a first nature be presented on the floor at this time.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Anyone wishing to speak tonight raise your hand. Come up, give your name and address for the Clerk and spell your last name please.

David Mays, 8250 Green Drive. First of all I'd like to thank the Mayor and the Police Chief for their comments about the search group. I was part of that group that was up there. Unfortunately the area I was assigned was the apartment buildings off of Turney and Rockside. I walked around those buildings and it was disgusting. The amount of garbage bags, toys, everything else just laying all over the place. In fact I found three side doors open which I walked in the building on. Door knobs missing. There's nothing to stop anybody from getting in those buildings and I don't know if the Service Department can do anything about it or not? Contact the owners? But that should be fixed. Somebody should look at the amount of garbage laying around those buildings. It is absolutely disgusting. And the ones down at the end of that street--the end street that runs right--those buildings back there, I was in back of those. Those garbage dumps were over filled. Glass all over the parking lots, wine bottles, beer bottles, kids' seats, everything. This is Garfield Heights. I don't think the residents—I should have to put up with stuff like that. Thank you.

CLMN VAUGHN: Mr. Mays, we've had a problem over there as long as I've been sitting on Council and I know Mr. Wervey and myself are constantly over there trying to get them to pick up. When you were back there on a Sunday their trash gets picked up on Monday by their private company. That's one of the reasons why a lot of trash and stuff was laying here. They hadn't been picked up since Wednesday. But I will give the management committee a call and tell them that they need to clean it up again. Thank you.

POLICE CHIEF SACKETT: Can I respond? Can I add something to that? The gentleman that runs those buildings (Valley Lane and Andover) are owned by the same company. We've had a lot of problems in the past. The last couple years that the guy that took over has been outstanding with us. He actually asked us when something goes on there of a police nature what he can do to help. Mr. Vaughn will mention it to him. Knowing what this guy's done in the past and how cooperative he's been I'm thinking he's going to be very receptive to that and he'll probably take care of the problem.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Chief. Anyone else wishing to speak tonight raise their hand?

Barb Stapleton, 5613 East 139th Street. It's more or less a comment on my concerns. Last meeting I sat in the back of the room listening, hoping that there would be some mention of the drug problems that our city is facing and the only thing that remotely came close to it was the diversion program at the high school. I'm not knocking that. My son was in it and actually fell through the cracks through it, but I understand that most important discussions about drugs with these kids starts with their parents. The unfortunate thing is that's where these kids are learning it. There are a lot of parents in Garfield some I know personally that are selling drugs, selling their prescriptions, selling their heroin to kids at the high school and the kids at the middle school. It's all been reported. I've talked to the police that were in my house last week. They are already aware of all the names that I've mentioned so they're all watching them. My question is, is there anything that we can do? The DARE Program fell through the cracks. When the officer left the program left. My kids were in the DARE Program and they were great in it. They thrived through it. Soon as he hit 10th grade that's the end of that. I have done everything I can to keep my kid off drugs aside from keeping him locked in a cage. We all know that's illegal. They still got to him. There needs to be something, some program for the kids to help them. Some program that the city could help these kids get off the drugs, not start on the drugs, report what they can, where they can go to be safe with it.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: If I may, I have a couple comments. First off, we have been aware as a Council and as a Mayor of the different e-mails that have been going around about the problem with heroin in Garfield as it's being stated in this Website or whatever it is this program is that's going on. I don't know if you're a part of that or not but there's a lot of talk about Heroin Heights. Garfield Heights being Heroin Heights. I have a couple things going on. First off, I lost someone very close to me like your son a few years back to heroin. I saw the addiction. I know how bad the addiction is. I saw the death. I know how bad the death is. It hurts me today to know what he went through, what his family went through. I'm very aware of the problems with heroin. I know there are some programs at the school. I've checked into it. I actually have a copy of a few of the programs that they have there at the school and I don't know that there's something else the city can do. Maybe there is and I'd be more than willing to look into it. But I have to tell you something, that there's a lot of people in Garfield Heights and a lot of people sitting here right now that are working very hard to keep the image of Garfield Heights up. We're doing everything we can to make people want to come to Garfield Heights and when I see a rag that calls Garfield Heroin Heights it bothers me. Because it's not true and I don't think it's fair to all the people in Garfield Heights that are working very hard to have to put up with stuff like that. So if there's something we can do as a city I'm more than glad to help, but I'm not going to help people that are trying to tear this city down. Thank you.

MS. STAPLETON: No and actually my concern isn't the heroin. Prescription drugs are I think being sold at an astronomical rate. They're all over and these kids are doing things with them that I would have never even thought of doing what they're doing, but when my kids were at the high school there wasn't any programs for them. There wasn't any secure place they could go. They've been out for three years now but there was no place for them to turn if they needed help.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: If I may, Mme. Chairman, I think the Chief has something he could follow up with that would be interesting?

POLICE CHIEF SACKETT: If I could just briefly, first I appreciate your coming up and speaking your mind. You mention the DARE Program. You're right that program was discontinued when the officer left but to tell you the truth you know kids go through DARE in 5th grade. A lot of studies, a lot of people in the know, will tell you the DARE Program is not truly very effective

against drug use in the teen years. That's why to tell you the truth it's not filled now. If we thought that was a big help we would certainly find a guy to put in there.

The second thing you know you mentioned prescription medications versus heroin. They're very related in a lot of respects. What happens is they get hooked on prescription pills because it's kind of a clean type drug and it does not have that real negative feel to it and they are so expensive and it's basically the same drug in a lot of ways. Heroin is very cheap and that's why one leads to the other in many cases--certainly not all the cases.

I don't know if you're aware Wednesday night at the JVS there's a program this Wednesday night out there at 6:30. It's specifically for parents and students regarding the abuse of prescription drugs. It sounds like kind of what you're asking for. So I don't know what your plans are for Wednesday but it sounds like maybe that could help you out? There are a lot of programs out there from what I'm told, a lot them are available to people with insurance or money and there's not a whole lot that if you don't have either that then the wait is enormously long. But I have a list of many, many programs and I've been looking at this the last couple months and I have a list and if you want to give me a call I have some printouts here. If you go on our Website right on the police part of the city Website right underneath the phone number right on the first page you will see a narcotics link and if you click on that you're going to find a list of Narcotics Anonymous meeting places and your going to find some treatment centers. That's just a start of what I have here. If you want to give me a call I'd be more than happy to help you out. Cities don't typically run these type of programs but we can maybe be the conduit to get you in touch with the County and social service agencies that do?

MS. STAPLETON: OK. I had my son picked up Thursday night by the police and taken to Marymount and he didn't fit their criteria. That's what they told me and sent him home.

POLICE CHIEF SACKETT: You know maybe you need to give me a call and I'm not a professional in that addiction type of help but I can hook you up with certain people. There's actually a friend of mine who's in the community here who went through the same thing you are. Her son put her through hell for a long time and I just talked to her in the last few weeks. She's not a professional either but she's been there. She knows what you're going through and maybe she can help you out? But just call me through the Police Department tomorrow please.

MS. STAPLETON: OK. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Anyone else wishing to speak tonight? Raise their hand? There being none, that concludes Comments by Citizens and we will move on to Miscellaneous Comments by Council Members and we're going to begin with Clmn Dudley.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

CLMN DUDLEY: I'm getting the luxury of going first all the time now. First I'd like to thank my friends; also my colleagues, Joe, who we call Uncle Joe, for coming to our Annual Black History Program, Clmn Mike Nenadovich here and also the Mayor and I know my other colleagues that came in the past. They can't make every event. I wanted to let you know that program has been held for six years and is actually an organization that is called CFABC (Citizens for a Better Community). We are the same organization in which I served as President. I was the founder of the program with Pastor John Snell. We do the Annual Halloween/Harvest Party for the kids. We do certain events in the city of Cleveland. We do the Annual St. Timothy Manor at St. Timothy Park, we do a holiday dinner for them to make sure that they are not left off during the holiday season. We also are involved in various activities and we maintain a number of Seniors'

grass right through the summer time so that they don't get into the Court system. So it's a great organization and it's non-political. We don't do no politicking. We don't support no candidates but if you ever want to become a member, have any interest, feel free to contact me. My number's on the scroll.

I'd also like to give my prayers and my thoughts and condolences to the families out there in Chardon right now for the shooting that occurred today and also to the young man that was named T. John Terry that was shot and killed up on 131st because I tell people that could be anybody's child. I was grateful that we had a vigil on Friday and more than 100 kids showed up and I was there for over two hours and it was no accident. It was great to see the children that they cared enough about this child. They understood it wasn't about them. It was about a young man who lost his life. This is just so unbelievable how these individuals are taking lives today. I just can't imagine how somebody could shoot somebody without any regard. So my heart and prayers go out to them. I hope we don't see that in our city let alone anybody else's city again and also for East Cleveland for the young lady who was also shot in the face. Like I say once again I thank my colleagues for the confidence and support and also the Mayor who has been a buddy of mine for years. I told him we were separated as children. Have you seen a movie with Robert Duvall and my other buddy one of my favorite actors?

I would also like to clarify something because I got plenty of calls about my comments last week, numerous people called me and said why didn't Council do anything when I mentioned the school issue? I want to make it perfectly clear because I don't want my colleagues to be blamed or the blame be pointed at the Mayor. We do not have the power to put any kids into any good school district. We don't have the authority to do that so I wanted everybody to understand that. That is by school board. That is not by City Council or the Mayor of the city of Garfield Heights. I do support the children. I wish them the very best and I don't want my suggestion to be misconstrued. My suggestion was that I was looking at a way that would help the district, not harm the district. It wasn't about power and authority. We were making sure that our students can have the best education possible and I'm still a strong believer that every child deserves the right to their education if you live within the boundaries of Garfield you should be in the district provided by your city. With that I still wish them the very best on Election Day and I always will give my support to the district and also to the students. I thank you all and that's it for tonight.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Clmn Nenadovich, do you have anything this evening?.

CLMN NENADOVICH: If I can make it through without choking to death. I apologize for that ladies and gentlemen. Sinuses are draining like crazy. As usual I want you to remember the Vets in your prayers. We lost two more soldiers, We're up to around 3,300 almost 3,400 soldiers we've lost in this war. Let's be thankful for the ones that are still here. The ones that are coming home. Remember them all in your prayers because they're doing their job so we can sit here and do what we do.

Again I'd like to thank Mike Dudley for putting on a great show. He had some great speakers there. He ran a very good program. It was well organized and moved along slowly and the food was pretty good too. It was good food. We had a good time up there.

Also my prayers are going to go out tonight for the Chardon family that lost a child and hopefully the other ones will pull through. They lost two now? Oh there's two down. It's a shame when that happens. Gun violence you know. I'm a member of the NRA, but guns in the wrong hands will do that. With that I wish you all the best and I hope you all stay healthy.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Did you say they lost two now?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Annie just told me they lost two now.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Clmn Glenn, do you have anything this evening?

CLMN GLENN: Yes, I do. I, too, support Michael over there, Black History. even though I was unable to attend I support him. I want to make it known that Block Watch 4 will be the first Tuesday of the month at 7 o'clock. We'll be off and running. The chief speaker there will be Chief Sackett. That's all I have to say.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. I'll go next. I want to remind everybody to vote. I want to let everybody know there's going to be a Block Watch meeting and I believe it's on March 7th. Everybody's invited. Noreen Kuban, you're going to be our speaker, aren't you? OK. That's at seven o'clock at the Civic Center. Is it going to be in the big room again? It will be in the big room. Also I know you're prepared for this, Mr. Dobies, so I can't help but ask. What was the reaction today in our schools? How safe are our schools? You're not prepared at all, are you?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: We all share with the tragedy that occurred in Chardon today and share their grief. I'd like to tell the people here that our district has in place universal emergency procedures that are practiced nationally. Each building has a safety team, an incident command structure team. They conduct monthly meetings. They conduct lock down drills. They conduct locker sweeps. They conduct table top exercises and bully prevention programs which we are hearing part of that situation may have occurred out of what they term bullying today. But I want you assured that if you see by the news reports today that the administration, the teachers, the staff out there acted accordingly in executing the system and I have all the confidence in the world that we would do the same thing under those unfortunate circumstances. So just rest assured that those procedures are in place in the school district and those are gone over routinely every month where the children partake in it and also the administrators and teachers. So if that helps any curiosity in what we do here at Garfield Heights, I'm sure that we would be able to handle a situation, but hopefully it never happens here.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. I feel a little better knowing that. It's just such a tragedy and I pray that's the last time anybody ever has to go through anything like this ever. Having said that, Mr. Suster.

CLMN SUSTER: I'd just like to say that next Monday evening Ward 5 will have its Block Watch meeting. We'll have Detective Doug Dillon who's going to talk about juveniles. Also Saturday night I was able to attend the Cub Scout Pack 361 Dinner. I think everybody from Garfield Heights was there. I was so amazed for the amount of people there they had to have 250 – 300 people there and those kids made out like. It was phenomenal. The food was good. They had 65 prizes and I'm not talking about junk. It was a very nice dinner. Everything was very nice. I would like to compliment whoever I don't even know who the chairman of it was. It might have been Mike's daughter but anyhow they did a great job with that.

And also I heard Chief Sackett mention the CERT team. You have to remember one thing about the CERT team is that it's not an organization that was just put together seven years ago and that was it. There's a lot of people that are involved in it. We have over 100 active members-- some aren't but that's up to them. We're constantly going through different training. In fact this

Wednesday night from seven to nine we're going to go through a first aid course. It's a continual thing. Nine out of 10 times when there is something that goes on, no matter where it's at, whether it's in South Euclid or what and they ask for Garfield Heights to come we always have the best showing of everybody. Good questions are always asked of the people of Garfield Heights and we should be proud of that because there's a lot of time and effort by the people that take care of it,

You know this thing that happened today. I was listening to the news and since Columbine there's been 216 people that have lost their lives through schools or something like that. I happened to be at Hillcrest Hospital this morning when this all was going on and I had some time to kill and I was sitting up in the atrium watching all this stuff develop on television. A guy walked over and he said I'm from Chardon. You know there's no way. It's impossible for something like this to happen in Chardon. Ladies and gentlemen, it can happen anywhere. It disturbs me when I hear things like that thing that went up on 131st the young man that lost his life just walking down the street. It's not just Garfield Heights that has these problems. It's all over. The lady that came up to talk about drugs. It's not just Garfield Heights that has the problem. Independence just had a big meeting in which they said they had 200 – 300 people there to talk about their concerns about drugs. It's not just Garfield Heights. It's all over. I don't care if it's Medina, Strongsville, it's everywhere. As the Mayor said whoever is putting this paper out and we've read it. We get e-mails. It's junk. It's absolute junk and we're trying to get the city back on track. Everybody's doing a great job as far as bringing more businesses into the city. We don't need this bad press. The school just got a bad rap yesterday if you read the Plain Dealer over this levy that they're trying to pass. You know we're trying. We're on the right track and as far as I'm concerned we need to keep these people in our prayers that this happened to in Chardon. Like I said Mayfield Road is right by Hillcrest Hospital. There were so many sirens going on where this was all going on. You just have to feel bad for these people but for this guy to say this can't happen in Chardon. It can happen anywhere—Beachwood, Pepper Pike—anywhere. You had it happen in Orange where you had kids calling up saying there were bombs in schools. They think this stuff is cute, but they don't realize the ramifications of what's going to happen. This poor young man, this 15 or 16 year old kid that shot these people—his life's over. So that's all I have. I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: It's OK. We all feel the same way. Clwn Mahoney.

CLWN MAHONEY: I would like to welcome Tim. You did a good job.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you very much.

CLWN MAHONEY: Not a problem. I'd also like to congratulate the basketball team and Steve Schillero. The Schilleros all their kids are good swimmers. They're an amazing family. Also congratulations to Debbie. I know you'll do a good job. For those of you who don't know Debbie was a former Councilwoman and she just cant stay away from us.

I'd also like to talk a little bit about the incident that occurred in Chardon. I don't know if many of you people remember but Becky Repasky who used to work for our Service Department who we actually lost to the city of Chardon she's actually a swim coach with those kids so I would like a to ask a special prayer for her so that she can help deal with the aftermath as she deals with the kids that she has to deal with from Chardon. That's really all that I have. One other thing. Thanks to our Police Department, our auxiliary police, the CERT team and CART and the search dog team that came to help when we had that missing gentlemen. That's all I have. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you Clwn. Clmn Vaughn.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you. I'd like to thank the Mayor for filling in for me the other night at the Block Watch. I was sorry I couldn't be there but I had to go to work and I was told you didn't talk too long so that's good. I'd also like to thank the Police Department, the Fire Department, Mutual Aid, and CERT team and the auxiliary police for all that went on in Ward 7 last Sunday as they searched for this man. I received many calls from my residents and not one was a complaint. It was all praising everybody and thankful. They felt comfortable and safe with everybody out there working. So you guys did a great job.

This gun thing in our schools and in our society has got to stop. I don't how we're going to do it. I'm going to pray tonight that there's something we can do to do it. Every now and then you receive some good news. A lot of times we say the youth are doing this wrong. The youth are doing that wrong. I would like to congratulate Robert Miller of Orme Road who has received his Eagle Scout. It will be presented on March 18th at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Brecksville before his Court of Honor. Here's a young kid like I said earlier he's doing the right thing. He's gotten his Eagle Scout, he's looking forward to going on to college either at Cleveland State or at Akron U. for engineering. There are a lot of good kids out there. Every now and then we got to take the time to praise them. So with that I am done. Everybody have a good week. Mme. Chairman, motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: All in favor of adjourning say Yea. All opposed say Nay. The Yeas have it.

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Mahoney

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:59 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Nancy Marincic
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council