

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, February 22, 2016

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m. by Council President Joseph Suster.

INVOCATION BY: Councilman Gene Glenn

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Roll call please.

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Council Members Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Tonight we also have as our guests Joey Roda, who is a Boy Scout here in the city of Garfield Heights.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: We will move on to the reading and disposal of the Minutes of the last Meeting.

CLMN VAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, as to the disposal of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Garfield Heights, Monday, February 8, 2016 I would like to make a motion that we accept the Minutes of the last Council Meeting as written.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On the motion made by Mr. Vaughn to accept the Minutes as printed, all those in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed?

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke
That passes with 7 Yes votes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE: None.

REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: We'll move on to the reports of the Mayor and Directors. Mayor, do you have a report for us this evening?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do, thank you. First off, I also want to acknowledge the Boy Scouts that are here today. The reason for them being here is because of their involvement in the community. I attended a Ward 4 Block Watch that was put on by Clmn

Glenn and there was a group of Boy Scouts that came to find out about the community and what they could do to help. I think it's a great thing. I know when Mr. Glenn gets his opportunity to talk he's going to tell you a little bit more about it, but thank you for being here. We appreciate your efforts.

Next, I want to read a letter I got from the Board of Elections.

Mayor Collova:

We have always been impressed by how engaged Garfield Heights residents have been in the election process. Between voter turnout, poll worker enthusiasm and the support we receive from your office, your community has set an example for others to follow. We are looking forward to another great election on March 15th, but seem to be a little behind in our recruitment efforts for election support workers in your community. More especially, we need people to help transport sensitive information and election materials to and from voting locations across the area, among other duties imperative to conducting a successful election. The job specifics are listed below.+

If anyone is interested, they would call this Anthony Black, Special Hiring Coordinator, at (216) 443-3232 extension 7303. Anyone who is interested in working with the Board of Elections for the March election. If you don't remember what I said and you don't see it on your television, please contact my office for more information.

Next, I want to talk about a visit that I made to the middle school last week. I met with the 7th Grade Rebels from the middle school. I have to tell you I couldn't have been more impressed in any of my visits anywhere. They had 75 or 80 young men and young ladies from the 7th Grade that are considered rebels at the middle school. I talked to them for about 45 minutes. I could not believe that 75 or 80 kids sat there and listened to me, conversed with me in the best behavior I can possibly imagine. My own kids didn't behave like that when I talked to them. I'm seriously impressed beyond belief. Some of the questions they asked were absolutely amazing. There is a good group of kids out there and we don't seem to see them as often as we see the bad kids. Some of the things they talked about helping the community and some of the things they're getting taught at the school, down the road as to help this community. When they start at that young age and it works through high school, I can only see positives so I congratulate the Middle School Rebels for a great 45 minutes. I could not have enjoyed it more.

Next, I want to talk about another program I had the opportunity to attend the other night and that was the Black History Program that was put on by Clmn Dudley and his team. What an unbelievable program this was. I know I seem to say that a lot about programs but I have been to the Black History Program probably the last six, seven, eight, nine years- whatever it's been- and this one was by far the best of them all. They had great attendance. They had a great program. They honored about six or seven Ward 1 people as far as citizen's awards, people that have achieved citizenship awards. They were well deservant. They had a guest speaker that I wish I could bring him in and talk to everybody. His name is Clarence Bosman from Maple Heights. He was Dr. Martin Luther King's driver and he told unbelievable stories about Dr. King and his family (some of the trials and tributes they went through). This guy was phenomenal. Mike, I don't know how you got him, but he was great. I want to congratulate you guys for a great program and I hope it continues to get bigger each time. We're going to fill up that theater next year, I know it.

CLMN DUDLEY: Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Good job. After talking about the good things, I'm going to talk a little about the bad things that are going on. Some of the things that are not only aggravating me beyond belief, but are aggravating many of our residents and rightfully so. I am so tired about reading the paper about someone getting shot, about somebody being robbed. It's happening in Garfield Heights and we hear about it in Garfield Heights. We live in Garfield Heights, but believe me, I go to Mayor's Meetings and it's happening everywhere. It's a new time. It's a new generation and these people are absolutely crazy. I am fed up with it.

I know that I am going to talk to our Judges and I know they don't handle the serious cases, but I'm going to talk to our Judges because I'm going to be honest with you, I want them to get the maximum. When we catch somebody doing something wrong, I want the maximum. I don't want any breaks for anybody. They are ruining this community and other communities and I'm going to tell you what. I'm tired of hearing about police brutality. As far as I'm concerned, they're not brutal enough. I wish when they caught these people I wish they would never want to commit a crime in Garfield Heights again. I think this is totally crazy what we're going through. It's not only in Garfield. It's across the whole country. This is crazy. I don't know what we can do, but I wish there was some way we could put a forum together and come up with some new laws and new regulations. After so many times you get in trouble in the city, we could throw them out of the city. Something. We need to do something. I guess I'm just venting. I'm going to have to research into it more, but I'm tired of hearing about this. Every week the Chief texts me that somebody else got robbed. Somebody else shot a gun. It's getting ridiculous. Maybe we ought to start shooting back? I don't know.

With that said, I will now move on to tonight's legislation. Ordinance 6. What's happening here is that there was a COG formed and we went into the regional dispatch and that COG was joined with the same kind that we had with our SWAT Team and our SEALE Team. We, because of some accounting reasons and liability reasons are now going to form a separate COG. We're asking Council for support on that. Ordinance 7, a request from Judge Nicasastro to change the security at the Court. She came to the Caucus and explained it very well. I support this 100%. Ordinance 8 is a labor contract between the city of Garfield Heights and AFSCME AFLO-CIO and I want to tell you the negotiations went very well. Once again, these are young men and women that have not had much of a raise in the last few years and once again have foregone a raise because they know the financial situation. We gave them a little bit in longevity because they were behind everybody else and also because their medical is much less than everybody else pays because they are under the AFSCME program. I commend these Union people, the AFSCME people, for once again taking a hit for the sake of the community. I appreciate it. It's an excellent contract and I urge Council to support it. With that, Mr. Chairman, you have my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you, Mayor. Does anybody have any questions of the Mayor on his report? Does anybody have any questions of the Mayor on his report? I'd just like to make one comment, Mayor, and I'd like to commend you on your comment as far as how to straighten things out.

CLMN DUDLEY: I want to let you all know that the Mayor has come to every Black History Program that we held in the city of Garfield Heights. Him and Jeannie has came out when it was snowing cats and dogs and it was too cold for me to walk to the door. They have showed up and supported our program ever since that I started putting it on. When he became Mayor, I put it on a year or so before he got elected, but after that he always shows up and shows us support. That means a lot to people to see his face, not just to watch him on television, not just to hear words, not just to get a message on the telephone, but to see him there. Mayor, when I

say I love him like my brother, I mean it. You can love people two ways. You can love them like Matthew 5:44 in which God tells you to love him, you know how that go, or you can love him like I love this fellow here and I do love him like he's my brother. He's a good man. Thank you for coming out Mayor. Thank you for Chief Byrne for coming out too. We really appreciate that support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Anybody else? There being none, we'll move to Law Director, Tim Riley. Do you have a report this evening?

LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY: No report tonight, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Next, we'll move on to Police Chief Bob Byrne. Do you have a report for us tonight?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT BYRNE: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I started off not having a report, but after hearing the frustration, I just wanted to say a couple words about what the Mayor had to say. I get people's frustration and it does get a little cumbersome at times to see these reports come over constantly. You've heard me say it before and I'll say it again. All the issues that are coming up, I want you to know that we take these very seriously and we're working on them. A couple meetings ago I mentioned we had that robbery at Little Caesar's. We worked on it. The guys are in jail. We had a Shell station robbery. It was a pretty nasty one where a gun was put to somebody's head. The guys in jail.

The investigations take a little time and you got to work with us, but we take the types of things that happened on Granger Road the other day very seriously. Our guys are working on them. Anything that we can legally do to get those people out of there; we're going to do it. We're going to do our part to make this city as safe as we can. As I've said before, if you see something, say something. Let us know. We're willing to work with you and we're doing the best we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Any questions of the Chief on his report? There being none, I will make a comment to this because I talked to the Chief this morning about that house on Granger Road and I'm going to be working and I hope I can work along with the Chief and the Mayor and also Mr. Wervy about putting a report together to be submitted to make that a nuisance residence. There is two different ways you can take care of it. You can either tear it down or you can board it up. That house has been a problem on Granger Road for the last four years. There were other tenants that lived there. We had to have them evicted. These people moved in. They have the same problems over there and the gentleman that lives next door I know him quite well and that man has a hard time sleeping. There was a meeting Sunday night with the residents in that area and the guy directly across the street from that house, his wife is pregnant and he said I was just glad a bullet didn't fly our way. So there's something that has to be done. It isn't that no, we can't do that. Something is going to be done, because enough is enough. We can't want more people to move into our city if we're going to have incidents like this. That's all I have.

Service Director, Tim McLaughlin. Do you have a report for us this evening?

SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. President. A few months ago, I mentioned about problems with the trash collection. The problems continue and have gotten worse. I'd like to go over some of the things. The rubbish can be put out in November to March 30th at 4:00 p.m. the night before. Starting April 1st it can

be put out at 6:00 p.m. We'd like to have the rubbish cans taken in no later than 12 hours after they were put out. We have a problem with the holiday schedule, which has been the same in the 38 years I've been here. The last couple holidays we've had like 50 . 60 calls from people who put the rubbish on the wrong day. The company is not going back any more. It's become a problem.

The days that the company does not work are:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- and Christmas Day.

The days that they do not work are:

- Presidents Day
- MLK Day
- Christmas Eve
- New Year's Eve
- Veterans Day
- and Columbus Day.

They're a private company. They don't take off on those days. Plus as we negotiated the contract a few years ago, those cost a lot of money for them if they have to pay overtime and they are the ones that we agreed that they would work. It's always been this way, but it's become a problem.

Recycling. We've probably had in the last month over 100 cans that were not picked up. They do not have recycling in them. Let me go over what the recycling is. That's the light green can, the smaller of the two.

Recycling will take:

- newspapers
- magazines
- corrugated cardboard
- aluminum cans
- steel and metal cans
- plastic
- and glass.

Recycling will not take:

- siding
- carpeting
- baby diapers
- grass clippings
- wood with nails in it
- styrofoam
- and plastic bags.

These are things as we go out and look at them. Then they sit out there and then I end up having fights with people about what's in them. They say they're not clear on what's in them.

Most of the ones that I know. My can at home still has the flyer on top of it attached to it that tells you what it takes, but it's become a problem.

One of the other things that continue to be a problem is evictions. People are moving out in the middle of the night, middle of the week. The other day somebody got evicted on a Tuesday and their rubbish pickup wasn't till the next Monday and they had a tree lawn full. More than one house. We've had a bunch of them the last couple weeks. Probably in the last two weeks I've had fights with 20 different landlords who don't even live in this city. Don't care about who put out what. They moved out. They didn't pay their rent. Then it becomes the city's problem. We're trying to work on this, hunting down some of the landlords. The other day I had a conversation with a guy in New York. He could have cared less about what we had to say. We will try to address it and take care of him. We turned it over to Building and asked questions, etc. I just wanted to go over this really fast because it keeps getting worse. I'm trying to find a way to shut it down and get it back to where it was. When we first started doing this with the cans it was fine, but as we've gone along I don't know if it's because of different people or renters, etc. I don't want to pick and choose but we have a lot of people that don't want to follow the regulations. I would say in the last two months we had easily 100 and a lot of them had to do with renters who got evicted or just didn't care. We're still working on it. I do get some calls from residents a lot. People's garbage is out early, etc. We are trying to address it. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Are there any questions of Mr. McLaughlin on his report?

CLMN DUDLEY: Maybe this is for the Law Director or Building, but Tim, when you have those individuals could they live out of town? The guy lives up in New York. If he don't want to comply maybe there should be something that can be put together that if he failed to comply and move his property within a reasonable amount of time that he do not be allowed to rent that property for a certain period of time. You take away his income. We can't hurt him with a conversation, but when you take money out of people's pockets that's the quickest way to get their attention no matter what position you hold.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: I understand what you're saying and like you said, the Law Director and the Building Commissioner would have to look at that. It's funny that as I looked into the gentleman from New York the Building Department had him in Court twice. Evidently him being in Court twice him and his partner didn't learn because he wasn't very reasonable about what I was asking him to do. Maybe that's something that they have to look at? I don't know.

CLMN DUDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Is there anyone else that has any questions?

CLMN GLENN: Tim, while we're on the subject, there's an ordinance here in Garfield Heights that the homeowners, the residents or business can be fined and/or a warning. Is that the policy of the city?

SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Yes. I have a foreman that goes out daily. The rubbish company if they don't take something they usually leave a warning sticker on it. I have a foreman that goes out, takes a picture of what the problem is and leaves a notice. Nobody ever calls us back on the notice, trust me. He brings the address and pictures back to my assistant and she tries to start through the Building Department whatever looking up who owns these and calls them. Last week she wasn't in the best of moods because people were

not very nice in their comments to her. The Mayor got to hear one of them that was left on a voice mail. That's what her job is and she's been doing it, but it's hard to get results. Like today, I had to call a lady about something on her tree lawn. She says I removed that. I was evicted. I could care less. She hung up. So now we got to hunt down the landlord. It's a long process. I don't know what the answer is. We're trying to work on it the best we can, but I know there's been some calls about people's rubbish stuff. I know you guys have gotten some calls. We are trying to work on it.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: That it? Next, we'll move on to Parks and Recreation Director, Bob Dobies. Do you have a report for us this evening?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Sure, I do. Mr. President, Council Members, good evening. It's just a short one today. Today was the Lake Erie Monsters at the Rec. I just left there prior to the meeting. There was over 300 people who enjoy watching professional hockey at our rink. The Monsters are good will ambassadors for youth hockey and I can't be more pleased that they chose our facility again. They were here about two years ago and with the efforts of our Garfield Heights Booster Club president and her officers, they were able to secure them to come here again. The team comes; they practice for about an hour. They skate and they skate hard. I'm telling you what. If you had seen some of those pucks flying. They broke a couple of our lights, Mayor. Should I bill them? After practice, they skate with those that are in attendance and go out for the free skate after and they take pictures, sign autographs. I can't believe over the last couple times that they were here, meeting some of those players and the coaches, they do a great job. I'm so proud to be associated with them and an organization. For our rink being smaller than a regulation rink, the players that were there said they actually loved our rink. I didn't see too many Italian players. That concludes my report. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Are there any questions of Mr. Dobies on his report? There being none, we'll move on to our Finance Director, Barb Biro. Do you have a report for us this evening?

FINANCE DIRECTOR BARBARA BIRO: No, I do not, Mr. President. Thank you.

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: Absent.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Next, we'll move on to Social Services Director Kathy Rush-Parssons.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR KATHY RUSH-PARSSONS: Just a quick reminder that we are still taking appointments for the free AARP Tax Clinics every Friday from 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Appointments are filling up fast so call the Senior Center to reserve your appointments as soon as possible. The last few years we actually have had to turn people down. People who called at the end of March or beginning of April. The appointments were full. So if you're interested in getting your taxes filed, please make your appointment as soon as possible. You must bring last year's tax return and a photo I.D. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Are there any questions of Kathy on her report? There being none, we'll move on to Economic Development Director, Noreen Kuban. Do you have a report for us this evening?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

I want to announce that we did receive the CDBG Fund for \$150,000.00 to repair Dressler Road. We applied for \$150,000.00 and we received the full grant award.

Second, I want to remind residents that we are a NOPEC Community, which allows people to participate in savings for electric and gas. We will be posting information on-line so that people can participate or understand what NOPEC does for residents. You may have read in the newspapers about the hardest hit fund. In December of 2015, Congress authorized the Treasury Department to transfer up to \$2 billion to the hardest hit fund. For Ohio that will mean \$97 million that will be coming to the State. Ohio House and Financing Agency administers the fund and the fund can be used for foreclosure prevention as well as blight removal. So we hope that funding will be coming to local agencies to assist our residents and also our city. That concludes my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Are there any questions of Noreen on her report?

CLMN DUDLEY: Thank you, that road needed to be done, to you and whoever put that grant together because it was getting terrible that you couldn't see the drifts with your tires. It could pull you over to the side of Dressler. I appreciate the great job done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Excuse me Mr. Chairman; I would like to acknowledge Patricia Salemi. She was the one who worked on the grant.

CLMN DUDLEY: Like I said to you or her whoever got the job done, thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Noreen, on that NOPEC grant are you going to be putting in something in the Neighborhood News on that?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Yes, we can. It will explain whether you want to participate or not participate and whether you should go with a fixed rate or a variable rate. We have recommendations from NOPEC on how residents should participate and which program they should get involved with.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Thank you. Anybody else for Noreen? There being none we'll move on to Building Commissioner Bill Wervey. Bill, do you have a report for us this evening?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: The only thing I have, Mr. President, is that our partners the Land Bank and our partners in the demolition business continue to take houses down. They are working on doing asbestos assessments on houses that are not down yet. We expect the progress to continue. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Are there any questions of Mr. Wervey on his report?

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON THE AGENDA:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: There being none, we'll move on to Comments by Citizens on tonight's agenda. Would the Clerk please read the rules?

CLERK: Comments shall be strictly limited to brief statements not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to legislation on the current evening's agenda. No citizen shall speak more than once.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Thank you. Do we have anyone that would like to speak on tonight's agenda? Do we have anyone that would like to speak on tonight's agenda?

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: There being none, we'll move on to Ordinances and Resolutions, We'll begin with Ordinance 06-2016. Would the Clerk please read the title?

ORDINANCE NO. 06-2016

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SOUTHEAST EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER (SECC), WHICH WAS FORMED BY ORDINANCE NO. 70-2013 AS A COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) THROUGH A SUBGROUP OF THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SRCG) AND SOUTHEAST AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT (SEALE), TO SEPARATE FROM THE SRCG AND SEALE SO AS TO PERMIT THE SECC TO BE A SEPARATE COG FOR AUDITING AND OPERATIONAL PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by NENADOVICH to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On its adoption, beginning with Councilman Nenadovich.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Ordinance 06-2016 passes with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 07-2016

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A THREE (3) YEAR SECURITY SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH G4S SECURE SOLUTIONS (USA) INC. (G4S+) FOR SECURITY SERVICES AT THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT IDENTIFIED AS EXHIBIT A.

Moved by BURKE to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On its adoption, beginning with Councilman Burke.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn

ABSTENTION: Suster

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Ordinance 07-2016 passes with 6 Yes votes and 1 Abstention.

ORDINANCE NO. 08-2016

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS AND LOCAL 2729 AND COUNCIL 8 AFSCME, AFLO-CIO.

Moved by VAUGHN to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On its adoption, beginning with Councilman Vaughn.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Ordinance 08-2016 passes with 7 Yes votes.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY CITIZENS

PRESIDENT SUSTER: That concludes Ordinances. There were no Resolutions. We will move on to Comments by Citizens. Would the Clerk please read the rules?

CLERK: Comments shall be restricted to any problem a citizen has which has previously been submitted to his/her Councilperson or to the city hall department directly involved. If submission of a problem to a city hall department or a Councilperson is made and there is a lack of service rendered in this regard, the problem may then be presented during Comments from Citizens at a future meeting. It is the intention of this rule that no request of a first nature is presented on the floor at this time. Comments shall be limited to five minutes. No citizen shall be heard more than once.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Is there anyone that would like to speak this evening?

Pat Dovak, 11907 Tonsing. I am here to speak on my behalf and the behalf of all the residents that live in Garfield Heights. I've talked to Suster about this. I just got through talking to Chief Byrne about this. In the last seven days in the general area where I live there have been four incidents. One--shots fired on my street on February 12th at 10:30 at night. Then I had three girls approach my house on Saturday at 12:30 in the afternoon claiming I have their cell phone. They called the Police Department. The Police Department gave them my address, told them to come and get my phone. I know that's not true. But I did call the police and they did come out. Then we had in the Rec parking lot. I don't know if it's a drug deal gone bad, but four kids from Garfield Heights school maybe with a air soft pistol threatening somebody. Then we had Granger and we keep going and going and going with these problems and nothing is being done.

You had work sessions and nothing ever happened. I don't know what the answer is. It's not up to me to give you an answer. It's up to the city to come up with an answer. I'm tired of hearing the Judges say we can't throw them all in jail and then we can't make their parents accountable. Well, God, when I was a teenager my parents were accountable for what I did. Now we can't make these parents accountable? I know that the problem is here and I know that you know about it. I know the Police Department knows about it, but nothing's being done. Nothing. What is the answer? Is there an answer? These kids have to be held accountable. To say by Council that we need to do something. We need to provide. There's a list of things that can be provided for these kids to do. The sad part about it is they got to pay for this stuff. But they'd rather steal and beat up people instead of paying for anything. Maybe you ought to take a look and see why we have all of the foreclosures, all of the vacant houses, because of this problem, all right? And

to say that these parents or the kids don't have the money to pay for what they've done is BS. All right? I'm on a hair from putting my house up for sale and getting out of here. Because I've had enough. Again, in the last seven days in a walking distance all of this has taken place.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Chairman, if I may comment?

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Go ahead, Mayor.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Pat, there's a couple things. First off, I know your frustration. Your frustration is shared by many, as you heard tonight. The reality of the thing is that we are doing a lot of things. We put a Juvenile Diversion Program together. We're working on Boys and Girls Club. We do a lot of things to try to help these kids go in the right direction. What we can't do (at least not to my knowledge) is go into houses and tell the parents you have to be more responsible, because when we do tell the parents they got to be more responsible they tell us to take a walk, I'll take care of my kids, you take care of yours. I would love for somebody to come up and say here's a magic wand. Straighten this community out. Straighten the country out. We have somebody get shot in Granger Road. What should we have done to stop that? We get someone that robs somebody at the Rec Center. What should we have done to stop it? We catch him, we sentence him, we put him away.

Let me respond one time, Pat. But what can we do? We can reach out to the kids at an early age like I go to school and talk to them. We have SRO Officers at all the schools. This is almost as much as (I hate to say it) a way of life and we have to figure out a way how to change this curve. I don't know how to do it, but I can also tell you this. That the reason the Courts financial problems are bad and the reason that the city's financial problems are bad is because people don't have money. The poverty rate in this city is unbelievable. Should we evict them and chase them to another city? If they don't have money what do we do with them? These are people. I have great ideas. Let's straighten this out. I had a lady call me up and say (she sent me an e-mail today) we need the police back on the beat. They got to walk. Get out of their cars and walk. We don't need cars. How do you do that? We'd have to get about 30 policemen to walk this city. Think about it. That's about \$100,000.00 each police officer. I don't think it will work, because when they're walking up one side of town there's going to be a robbery on the other side of town. They'd be laughing because they'd be chasing them on foot. There's a lot of things that we're not happy about because we have to come up with a proper solution. I think it is important that we start making parents responsible and they do in a lot of situations, but the reality of this thing is that this is something that is going on everywhere. I talk to the Mayors. It's in Independence, it's in Brecksville. They have drug problems that are unbelievable. Because of the drug problems they have to steal to buy their drugs. When they steal, they carry a gun. It's crazy. It's the life that's going on all over the country. The best experts in the world have not been able to figure it out. We're trying but I don't know what the answer is. I can tell you this. If you move out of here and go somewhere else, you're just going to be at a different Council Meeting saying the same thing because everybody's having these problems.

MRS. DOVAK: No, I want to make one more comment. I volunteer at Marymount and I'm helping the ladies fill out their ballot for elections. Questions are: What is the city doing about the robberies? Why should we vote for a school levy when these kids are problems? I will say no more.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Let me respond one time, Pat. Most of these kids who have a problem don't go to Garfield. They're not from Garfield. So what do we do with them? Call Cleveland and tell them to close JFK? Do we call and tell them to close up whatever schools are

out there? These kids come from all over. Maybe we should have Maple Heights closed? Because they are the kids that are coming into Garfield causing the problems. I'm not saying we don't have Garfield kids, but I bet if you looked at them a majority of them are from out of the city. Mostly from Cleveland. What do we do to stop that? We could be like Trump- build a wall and not let anybody in and just have our own people. I'm not trying to be funny. This is the difficulty. I hear people tell me this. You're doing nothing, Mayor. But they have no suggestions. Just like you walked up here and said, I don't know what the answer is. It's our problem.

MRS. DOVAK: No, I don't have an answer.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Unfortunately, we got everybody. There's President Obama doesn't have the answer. Think about it. This is happening all over the country. I'm not happy. We're not going to give up on it. I'm not accepting it. We're going to do what we want to do. I just told you I wish that they would catch these kids, men and everything else and beat the shit out of them. I wish they would. I'm serious when I say that. They have to feel pain and know they did something wrong. We can't do that. The laws don't let us do that. Because the first time something happens they take Grandma by the arm too hard there's a lawsuit against them. Don't shoot. Don't shoot. Everybody's lives matter. Everybody's but the police and the residents. So I understand your frustration. I'm as frustrated as you. Please don't take this wrong. I'm not yelling at you. I'm just saying that the frustrations is from everybody. I wish I had an answer.

MRS. DOVAK: I'm not disrespecting anybody. It's just I'm speaking on my behalf and for the rest of the citizens that don't come.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you, Pat. Is there anybody else that would like to make any comments this evening? Is there anybody else that would like to make any comments this evening?

Al Sluka, 8439 Muirland Drive, Broadview Heights, Garfield Heights School Board Treasurer. I think I'd like to address the comments, being a representative of the school board. I was here for another thing. We have 3,600 students in our schools. We can't get them all, but I think we have 3,550 students that you never hear about that do the right thing. It's the 50 or 75 students that command a lot of our issues, a lot of our problems but you don't hear about the 3,550. As a school district, we're responsible for all 3,600. Don't get me wrong. We have our issues, but we have 3,550 kids sitting there that are part of the schools that you don't hear about that do the day-to-day things that are the right thing. You don't hear about them because they do the right thing and they do it quietly. That's what we have in the schools. We have our challenges. We do. But as school district officials, we feel like we need to absolutely try to do the right thing. We try to so the right thing by either the educational process or the other things to insure that our students get the best education and something we also try to do as a member of the community and we like to work in support with the community.

That's why we have Issue 22 on the ballot because we think we're trying to do the right thing for our students. We have a lot of good students that could benefit from both the transportation facility and the athletic complex. We think it's a good thing for the community too. It will have open access. It's outside. Everybody will have access to it. That's what we're trying to accomplish. We try to do this at a least cost and we know it's a poor community. I grew up here. I know this community. I work here. Been working here for 11 years. I understand the community. I understand some of the challenges. That doesn't really stop us from our responsibility to try to do what's right for our students and try to do what's right for the community. That's what the issue's all about. That's what we're trying to accomplish. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Is there anyone else that would like to make any comments this evening?

Terry Olszewski, 9006 West Moreland Road, Parma, Superintendent of Garfield Heights Schools. Mr. Sluka just mentioned the 3,550. I want to make sure that everybody understands that as I go through this you're going today what if? Or did I know that?

In academics alone, our number one priority is the emphasis on instruction in Garfield Heights City Schools. Do you know that our high school offers AP courses in AP calculus, AP American History, AP English? Do you know that progress monitoring in 6th to 8th every four weeks? That means we test kids every four weeks. We look where they're at. We intervene on their instruction and then we move on and we go again and do it again in another four weeks to make sure we know where kids are. There are 19 honor score courses at the high school including honors anatomy, physiology, chemistry, pre-calculus.

Last year at our high school, we earned nearly \$4 million in scholarships for our kids to go on to college. At our Career Center, we have 27 technical offerings for our Juniors and Seniors. That is computer programming, digital design, dental hygienists, health careers and engineering technologies. Our Learning Center provides supplemental activities including behavioral support for flexible non-traditional environment for our 8th and 9th Graders. Garfield Heights Middle School. You can earn credit at the middle school for the high school in health, phys. ed., algebra 1, English 1 and computer 101. Technologies have remained the priority for us. In the technology team is put together nearly 2,000 desktop computers for our kids, over 519 chrome books and 147 iPads.

Did you know that we have made significant investment in purchasing new textbooks for our kids? Pre-calculus books, biology, musicator 5, accountingator 5, accounting K-5 math, 6-8 math, algebra, geometry, algebra 2, K-5 science, K-5 English, health and K-5 reading. In addition to three technology teachers in our elementary schools preparing our young ones to be prepared for technology. We've added three full years of Kindergarten serving over 240 kids each year. Twelve classrooms. 240 Kindergarten students. We provide Kinderbound which is a pre-Kindergarten program to prepare our incoming students and get them ready for Kindergarten. We added this year first time 20 four year olds and a Head Start Program at William Foster. Obviously, you see we're making a distinct effort on our youngest ones to make sure we're preparing them.

The arts. The arts is very important in Garfield Heights. We promote it at the high school where you can take Intro to Art, sculpture, ceramics. I got a lot of talking. Painting, crafts, drawing, advanced studio. Over 50 students participate in our band. At the high school also we have marching band, A Capella Choir, Music Express, Jazz band, concert. At the middle school we have Center Stage is our dancing group that we prepare for the high school and of course Music Express if you have not seen them. I could go on and on about all the wonderful things that are happening in Garfield. I got five more pages. But the important part that I want to make sure that everybody understands is exactly what's been what we are talking about.

When we evict somebody, we're evicting young people too. We're evicting kids. So if you look at what we're dealing with in the city schools just alone in 2013-2014 school year we enrolled 1,083 kids. We withdrew 761 kids. We have 3,600 kids in our school district. Yes, you're making that face. Exactly. In 2014-2015 we brought in 1,085 kids. We withdrew 842 kids. In 2015-2016 as of January, we brought in 791 kids. We withdrew 533 so far out of 3,600 kids. On top of the

poverty issue that the Mayor spoke about on top of transition and mobility, it's a moving target, folks, and you're dealing with it too. Dealing with it with garbage, activists in the neighborhood and I appreciate your help and thank you. I just wanted to give you a little update on everything that's going on and if you want more, I'll send you an e-mail of everything that's in my list. Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Chairman. Mr. O, before you go, there's one thing. Mr. O and I talked about this quite a bit. Mr. O, would you explain to Council and to the people who are here what your thoughts are as far as the kids that start here and complete the school year what the difference would be?

MR. OLSZEWSKI: We've looked at K . 8. Is this added to my five minutes? No? Because I could read more. It's from K- 8 and at one time by the time they got to 8th Grade, we only had 26% of our kids left. So we followed that 26%. Of those 26% stayed with us and graduated they were very successful. So the kids that we keep that stay and that's why we've been pushing to our Kindergartener parents and our pre-school parents, stay in Garfield. We will give you the opportunities, but we need you to stay. We cannot hit a moving target if you don't stay. Poor, rich, etc. if you stay here you're going to be successful.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Mr. LaMalfa has a question.

CLMN DUDLEY: I had a question too, Mr. Chairman.

MR. OLSZEWSKI: Oh, I'm getting good time.

CLMN LAMALFA: In all your facts there, is there any way you could make them pull their pants up when they're walking in and out?

MR. OLSZEWSKI: Fourteen years I been dealing with that and probably a little bit longer. 20 years I been dealing with it. Exactly the same thing. I totally agree with you.

CLMN LAMALFA: Throw them out.

MR. OLSZEWSKI: I'm here. It's a public education. I'm here to educate young people. Does it make a difference if their pants are down or if they're up? There's no law against it. If there was a law against it, we'd be dealing with it. At this point, I have to educate them and that's my number one job.

CLMN LAMALFA: General Patton said when you look like a soldier you'd start acting like a soldier.

MR. OLSZEWSKI: I'm not disagreeing with you. I totally agree. I been referred to as General Patton myself.

CLMN LAMALFA: OK.

CLMN DUDLEY: When you talk about transit in and out, you know what people have to realize is you come from sometimes Cleveland areas. You have a cultural thing going on right now too. A lot of these in and out is a lot of single moms who are coming here temporarily to have their children. I have spoke with some of them and like a couple months later, they are gone. A lot of them you can't identify. Once again when you back up to sports and sporting facility, a lot of

people don't understand that a lot of these coaches are fathers to a lot of these young men. I always tell people you can have a choice. It costs you \$35,000.00 I think to incarcerate a person a year. You look around you say you ask me for \$35.00 a year. But the thing is it's better to have these individuals to be able to have somebody to relate to and once again, it's a culture thing. I can talk to the Mayor about anything. He understands when I talk about culture because he's the only one I can truly have a conversation with. I can have it with AI sitting back there also. You have to have an outlet for the children. People say that's one individual who participates as part of a team. That's not true because one individual might have four or five friends that attach thyself to this child and if they do, that's four or five less children that you have to worry about. Sometimes it's a small price to pay and I'm not a levy-lover.

Everybody up here knows that I don't really love levies, but I love sports. I slip in under the radar. I watch the games. The facility is deplorable. I know everybody's not into sports there but the facility is in fact deplorable. I look at add the pluses to the minuses. There's more pluses to be gained whether other people realize or not than it is to be lost. I don't live in the district, but if this go through and I live in Cleveland district, I raised nine children in the city, and the school district didn't define how my children were when they grew up, but I will be willing to pay the same amount as the people pay as a contribution to the athletic program if the people pass it. People got to understand it's very important that you maintain that sports. The culture whether you're white, black, Hispanic, etc. a lot of them kids depend on the facility and they depend on the guidance that comes from the coaches. I know a lot of kids in the city that loves Sonny, the football coach, and speak highly of him. I know kids who play sports in Garfield Heights and they don't have a father figure at home and their father figure is their coach. I thank you, Mr. O.

MR. OLSZEWSKI: May I respond?

PRESIDENT SUSTER: No. Mr. Glenn.

CLMN GLENN: I have a question for you, Terry. Seems that the judicial system in the city of Garfield Heights education system we all have one common problem- money. The question I have for you. Education is a Federal program. Why isn't it being funded to your needs?

MR. OLSZEWSKI: I think AI can answer that better than me.

MR. SLUKA: Because, like the Local Government Fund, the legislators have not made it a priority. I'm talking about the State and the Federal government. They have not made it their priority.

CLMN GLENN: We need somebody to speak to our Federal representatives.

MR. SLUKA: Yes, we do.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Thank you. Is there anyone else that has any comments this evening?

CLMN VAUGHN: I had a question for Mr. O.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: His five minutes are up.

CLMN VAUGHN: Sorry. I work at Rainbow Babies and Childrens. I'm in the Cancer Oncology Department for the pharmacy. The rise of cancer amongst our young is on the rise. One of the

studies that being done out of Europe is the carcinogens that are being caused from this artificial turf, from these running tracks, etc. Have we looked into any of this with what you're proposing here?

MR. OLSZEWSKI: Yes.

CLMN VAUGHN: And?

MR. OLSZEWSKI: Actually, I have gone past that. They've had new technologies that they're not using the rubber anymore. They're using a synthetic that has nothing to do with the rubber. That was really the one that we've been looking for for our field.

CLMN VAUGHN: OK. I'm going to take it one step further. We, in this country, have not done the studies of these products as they have done in Europe. I will agree we desperately need to fix the facility. My biggest concern is that in 10 years (if I'm still alive and still sitting here) that we're going to have to come back and say between the cancer, the concussions and some of the other issues that we have, we have to go back to a grass system. That's one of the fears that I have just because of what I'm seeing in my professional life on a daily basis. That's where I'm coming from.

MR. OLSZEWSKI: Everybody will have that issue from Brecksville, Medina, Maple Heights.

CLMN VAUGHN: Right. On the same token do we really want to go that route or do we want to wait till these studies come back is my question.

MR. OLSZEWSKI: My answer to that is I think let's see what the voters say and then we can look at what's best for us, but this is going to be a big enough hurdle and I don't want to put the horse before the cart.

CLMN VAUGHN: OK. But you understand where I'm coming from?

MR. OLSZEWSKI: We did investigate. Myself, Mr. Sluka and our athletic director met with a couple groups and had some training on the synthetic surfaces.

CLMN VAUGHN: You understand where I'm coming from?

MR. OLSZEWSKI: Yes, I know exactly what you're coming from.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Don't run away. Mr. O, I've listened to your speech three times besides this.

MR. OLSZEWSKI: But you got to hear the whole one.

CLMN NENADOVICH: I heard the whole one three times. This is the 4th time I've heard your speech and I'm still impressed, but I want to make a comment. We know this here is about the levy coming up, but I did hear you say the figures you quoted and we did talk about smaller community schools, etc. The education here in Garfield Heights, and I speak from experience, it's there if you want it. The cultural background no matter what you want to talk about it's the kid who wants to learn and he has the responsibility and the initiative to learn it's here. The

education like you said you got to have from K . 12. You can't take them for three years here; two years there. But the education is here, barring any athletic field or anything else, they do get an education if they stay in Garfield and my grandson is a product of that. He is a great student because the education is there, but he also has the home life too.

MR. OLSZEWSKI: I think you could say that. You earned it because you're in the buildings and you see what's going on. It's easy not to be in the building and make criticisms and say that those things are happening but you're there so I let you have that right to say the things that you said because that's very true.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you again.

MR. OLSZEWSKI: You sure? Before I sit down again? Because I'm getting old. Again thank you for letting Mr. Sluka and myself present. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Does anybody else have any comments this evening?

David Mays, 8250 Green Drive. That was a very nice presentation that was just presented. I just got a bill from Cuyahoga County, which I paid. I hope everybody hasn't done what I've done the last few years or before the last few years. Look at this and go oh, my goodness, how am I going to pay this bill? This is my tax bill. I'd like to ask the people one question if I can? How many of you live and own a home in Garfield? If you don't mind, raise your hands. How many of you look at your tax bill like I have done for the last years and say wow, that's a lot of money? I started looking at it very carefully. There were some things on here, which I was surprised at.

Homestead. I get a reduction on that and it goes down on some other things. Then I look at tax distribution. MetroParks is 2.09%. \$24.63 of my money. Library gets 1.9%. It goes on down to the County gets 13% of my money, which is \$162.64. Garfield gets 20.93% of my money to be exact, which is \$247.14. Garfield School System gets 59.74% of my money and your money. If you own a home in Garfield. \$705.28 to be exact. If you break it down the school systems get 38.81% more than Garfield does. I personally feel that it's time we start thinking about the city of Garfield and not somebody else. The city of Garfield if I'm right, Mayor, has not had a tax increase since 1970? But other entities keep coming back and saying we need more money. We need more money. I think they should start living within their bounds. We haven't. We need roads fixed, we need more police equipment, we need a lot of things for the city. Fire, maintenance department, everybody. The school district does not come out when I have a fire at my house to help put it out. Only the city does that. But I'm paying the Garfield school system twice as much as I'm paying the city. Can I have more time or not? Is my time up?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Two minutes 45 seconds.

MR. MAYS: OK. I'm sorry I can't tell you how to vote for the levy, but I know what I'm going to do. See my friends and relatives who live in Garfield and make suggestions. I've already made a suggestion to the Mayor to put a levy on the ballot in November. I would be willing to pay the amount of 1.3 as a levy put on which would cost me \$35.00/\$36.00 a month. I would even be willing to pay \$100.00 a month to get some of this stuff fixed in the city. I think the residents have to start thinking about the same thing. I can't tell you how to vote. I don't care how you vote. I don't want to know how you vote, but I think we should start thinking about the city before we think about anybody else.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Is there anybody else that has any comments this evening?

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: There being none wed move on to Miscellaneous Business beginning with Clmn Glenn.

CLMN GLENN: Weqe having a Block Watch March 1st at 7:00 p.m. Weqe going to have refreshments. All are welcome. The Mayor, the Police Chief and Judge Nicaastro (sitting out there) you are welcome to come to our Block Watch. I have some extra Block Watch signs that you can put in your windows.

lqn going to make a comment here. lve been in office this is my 3rd term. I have never, ever got so many telephone calls as I got this week. I had sessions with neighbors on Granger Road, had telephone calls from all over. They wanted to come down to the Council Meeting. I persuaded them that this is not the proper venue for that. We have Block Watches. Hopefully the Mayor, the Police Chief and maybe if you have the time to come to our Block Watch, to address and answer some questions seeing that we have some issues still that we need to talk about. So we can resolve some issues here. Thatq all, Mr. Mayor.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Donq call me Mayor. I concur with Mr. Glenn in his remarks. Like I said, today I spent most of my day talking to different people. One was the Police Chief about this and several residents from Granger Road called me also. But like I said lqn going to work on the things earlier that I had said about having that house considered a nuisance and I know under our ordinance if itq a nuisance it can go so lqn going to work very hard at that because itq been for a couple years that weqe had this problem. As lve mentioned before and I talked to the same people that Mr. Glenn talked to. I talked to them last night. He talked to them last night also. We know their concerns. We will get it taken care of. Thatq all I have. Mr. Burke.

CLMN BURKE: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to remind everybody that March 9th I will be having a Community Awareness Meeting here at the Civic Center, Room 118, 7:00 p.m.

lqn listening to everything tonight. I just want to remind everybody there is not a perfect society out there. What we deal with today with these children, with the crime rate, with the taxes, these are all adequate problems that we are faced with as a society today. Every administrator that works in that school building, the Mayor, his staff, our police officers, the Judges and all of us Council people, everybody thatq involved in this city works hard to try to make this city operate. When you turn on the news and you see the crime thatq committed in this community, I feel that personally we need more police officers, but I get reminded you can have a police officer everywhere and thereq still going to be crime because youqe not going to stop crime from happening. Will it help? I think it would. How do we get there? Do we put a special tax levy on the ballot asking residents like Mr. Mays had stated, asking residents to pay a percentage more or maybe \$5.00 more in order to hire more police officers and maybe fix some roads? I donq know. Thatq certainly something we can talk about. I plan on calling a Ways and Means Committee Meeting in order to talk about those types of things.

But Id tell you what. Kids today. Not every one of them is disrespectful. This whole meeting lve seen three of them sitting right over there. Those two and the gentleman sitting next to Mr. Glenn. And I think those three individuals have been very respectful. I forgot about the lady behind those two fine Boy Scouts there. Sheq been just as respectful throughout this whole evening.

When I look at Garfield Heights everywhere I go, I go out of town a lot. I got to tell you, I was in Cincinnati at our last meeting here. I had to work. I was in Cincinnati. We were on like a break in the evening from one of our sales meetings and they had the TV on and I think it was Duke was playing Louisville, Kentucky, in a basketball game. I look up and I see a kid named Trey Lewis playing basketball for Louisville. I said you know that's the pride of Garfield Heights right there. Because he played right here as a Bulldog. It made me proud to be standing in Cincinnati and watching one of our hometown boys playing basketball for a big name college like that. So not every kid is bad.

I attended a community forum a couple weeks ago maybe a week ago or so with Mr. Olszewski, Judge Nicastro, our Mayor Collova and I think there was somebody from the Cleveland Clinic there too. Do you know that there was a handful of parents there? There was a handful of students there. There were more administrators than there were parents and the people that really needed to be at this community forum. I don't know how we need to get people involved, but we need to all work together to do so. That's all I have to say. I hope that we can all work together to really make this community better and I will call a Ways and Means Committee Meeting and we will talk about ways to fund more police officers. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Mr. Vaughn.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, let me start with some easy stuff. We've got a Block Watch on Thursday evening up on the campus of St. Monica's in the school in the St. Augustine Room at 7:00 p.m. We will be having a guest speaker. We're going to be talking about a lot of the issues that are going on right now.

You know, Mr. Sluka, I got to agree with you when you said there's 50 kids, but those 50 kids are making a hell of a lot of noise for all the kids. We're not just talking to kids in the public schools. We've got another thousand or so that live around here that are in parochial schools, charter schools or home schooling. They are doing the right thing. They're doing their education, they're playing sports, they're being in community service and they're helping out in our community. These are the kids that are commended. Maybe we should start bringing more of them in and that's why every year I ask that we bring in the Top Ten so that the community can see what we have. Because we only hear about the bad, but with the issues we have, we have to address them and I'm glad you're going to have a Ways and Means Committee Meeting and if I have to follow it up with a Safety Committee Meeting to do more in this town, I will call it. We just had one. We discussed a few other issues. We can go into this more. I'm more than welcome to do that.

Now to get off that soapbox, I want to go on to another. I've been driving around, the weather's beautiful. Drove my Ward and I'd tell you trash, folks, is everywhere. I was up at Garfield Commons and I saw a guy take the trash out of his car and just dump it there and leave. You know what happens? That blows in our neighborhoods, folks. Get out. Clean up the trash in your yards. We need to get after the businesses and I talked to the Mayor today. We're going to. We've been on the residents about cleaning up their yards these past few years. I think now we have to start going after the K-Marts and some of these others. Turneytown looks horrible. Garfield Commons does not look good. K-Mart is horrible. We need to take pride in our community. If we want to get businesses to move in here we have to make our community look and be respected and not be Garbage Heights. So folks, we can only solve this problem and it wouldn't take that much for us all to start doing it in our own yards and our own property. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Clmn Dudley.

CLMN DUDLEY: OK. I would like to thank some of the people that was involved in the Black History Program. We have a great director name of Janice Tubbs and she put in a lot of hours and Pastor Snell and also Joyce Tubbs. I want to mention that we had what we called the Distinguished Citizenship Award. We said we would start giving the people an award to those who had something to do with bringing the Ward up a little more and people who are involved in our community. We wanted to reward them. We didn't want to reward them where you give them just a paper certificate. We thought they meant more to us than a piece of paper at that time. So Jan and I talked about it and she came up with the Distinguished Citizen Award. For the first year here that we awarded those I want to say that Ms. Mildred Graves Whitmore was one of our recipients. She's faithfully not just coming here to the meetings that she's been coming here before I even got in Council, but even in the community she makes me aware of things whether you want to listen to it or not. She's going to make sure that you know what's going on.

Our second one a lot of people are going to remember Ms. Sharon Temple and her husband. I'm quite sure some of the people been around town for a while know the Temples. Ms. Temple also has passed and moved on at her homecoming. Her husband took it in her place. He accepted the award.

We had Hellen and Lawrence K. Collier. They was also given the Distinguished Citizens Award. This award is not just given to anyone. They done a lot of things, they made lot of sacrifices throughout the years for the community also.

We also gave one to Ms. Jewell Gilbert, and for you all ain't familiar with her, Ms. Gilbert actually worked for our Congressman Stokes for about 30 years. She's very involved also in the Ward Club.

We awarded to Mae Tommie Lyons and I'm quite sure some people know I seen Betty Fields and Tommie Lyons over the crowds she had over the neighborhood. She don't hesitate to get involved and not get bullied by these individuals in the community. That's what it takes.

We also gave it to Clmn Montana Allmond and Clwn Janet Allmond. Montana was the first African-American to serve on Council in Garfield Heights and his wife was the first African-American lady who served on Council.

We also gave one to our very own Chief Robert Sackett and a lot of you all don't know what Chief has done in Ward 1. He's helped me move mountains. We took care of a lot of bullying situations. He would not hesitate to be there with me if I had a certain door that I wanted to knock on. If I went to the door and a problem exists, he had made several visits to some of the homes. It shut a lot of stuff down. He was very involved in Ward 1. We met sometimes eight or nine o'clock at night looking over something. Ward 1 has come a long way.

We also gave one to a gentleman who owns one of the establishments, Suluman NaJar, because he put a lot of money and took over an establishment, which was a rag hole. The stuff that was in the store had just piled up on the cans. Nobody ever purchased it. The building was deplorable. The lot was deplorable. He worked with me when it came time to challenge somebody. We had drug dealers up on the corner and we had gangs like in the store. He stood there with me when I was telling the people they had to go somewhere else. That's what it takes to build a community.

Last, but not least, I'd like to mention our sponsors. The show we put on was a good show. We put over twenty some hundred dollars into that show. Like I told the Mayor, I ain't going to say what the business is I ain't going to do it on Council floor, but I am going to be starting a legitimate business in the city of Garfield Heights. We were the primary sponsors of this show along with Metro PC, Direct Wireless and Mr. Hero on Turney Road. That was what made it successful. When these awards are given, if you want to change a community you have to get community involvement. That's what the people are for. I wish you all the best. A lot of them cultures are flawless to a lot of these children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Mr. LaMalfa, do you have anything this evening?

CLMN LAMALFA: I got something for the Mayor. Mayor, you should tell Bob the problem of putting a hockey stick in an Italian's hands.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: We discussed it many times.

CLMN LAMALFA: That's it. I want to thank everybody. That's it.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Clmn Nenadovich.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Remember our Vets. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Thank you. At this time, I'd like to introduce Joey Roda, the Boy Scout from Troop 361. He also has a report for us this evening. Joe.

Mr. Joey Roda, Boy Scout, Troop 361. Tonight I was asked to come and talk about what the Boy Scouts is. The mission of the Boy Scouts is to prepare youth to make good choices in their lives by allowing them to live by the Scout Oath and Law. It's a program that builds character, trains them in responsibilities of participating citizenship and develops personal fitness. The Boy Scouts also offers merit badges. Under its merit badge system, the BSA offers many different opportunities to view potential jobs that a Scout might be interested in. These explore over 100 different career options, ranging anywhere from government to plant science.

Another big aspect of Scouting is giving back to your community through service projects. In the past year and earlier this year we've done a lot. We went to Findley State Park and we replaced a culvert. We made some dog treats at the Cuyahoga County APL, decorated St. Therese Church for Christmas, worked the Garfield Heights Summer Fest. In Cuyahoga Valley National Park, we've planted over 1,000 native plants and we've even painted parking lines in the Garfield Heights Police Station. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Thank you.

CLMN GLENN: Thank you, Joe. Could I make a comment here? This is a long history the Boy Scouts have. In coming to City Council these young people are learning how government works at the lowest level. They are getting interested in our community. They do good deeds. I appreciate them coming here today. This is one of many opportunities for kids in our city to participate in. Thank you very much, Joe.

Mr. President, I make a motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On the motion made by Mr. Glenn to adjourn the meeting, all those in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed? Meeting is adjourned.

AYES: Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Joseph Suster
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council