

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEAR WEST THEATRE  
After nearly 40 years as Executive Director of Near West Theatre, theatre founder Stephanie Morrison Hrbek is passing the baton to new Managing Director Mike Obertacz. Morrison Hrbek plans to continue working part time to help with the theatre's endowment campaign. (See related photo and story on page 6.)

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Panel discussion addresses opioid epidemic in Cuyahoga County

by Chuck Hoven

Residents, community agency representatives and local experts joined together to listen to and interact with a panel addressing the opioid crisis. The panel discussion

held at Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital's Castele Center Auditorium on October 11 was titled *Heroin, Fentanyl and Carfentanil: The Triple Threat on our Doorstep*.

Lutheran Hospital President

Donald A. Malone, Jr served as the moderator of a four-person panel featuring Chief Executive Officer of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County Valerie A. Harper; Cleveland Catholic Diocese Bishop Nelson J. Perez; Assistant United States Attorney Justin Seabury Gould; and Common Pleas Court Judge Joan Synenberg.

Moderator Doctor Malone stressed deaths from opioid overdoses nationwide, this year alone, are projected at over 60,000 fatalities, more than the 58,000 soldiers that died in the entire Vietnam War. He noted that opioid overdose deaths in Ohio are the highest in the nation, in both per capita deaths and in actual numbers of deaths. He said in Cuyahoga County, in 2016, there were 720 deaths attributed to opioids.

Malone said aggressive treatment of pain in the United States has resulted in the highest prescribed use of opioids in the world. He noted that 631 million opioids were dispensed by Ohio pharmacies in 2016 and that represented a 10% decrease from 2015.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gould talked about the difference between heroin and the synthetic opioids: fentanyl and carfentanil. He said the increased potency of these synthetic opioids is the cause of the dramatic increase in overdose deaths. He said that heroin is twice as potent as morphine; fentanyl is 100 times more potent than morphine, and carfentanil is 10,000 times more potent than morphine. Gould says a dose of carfentanil, the size of a half a grain of salt, could kill you.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gould said these lethal drugs are getting into the United States, being brought in by human trafficking mules, com-

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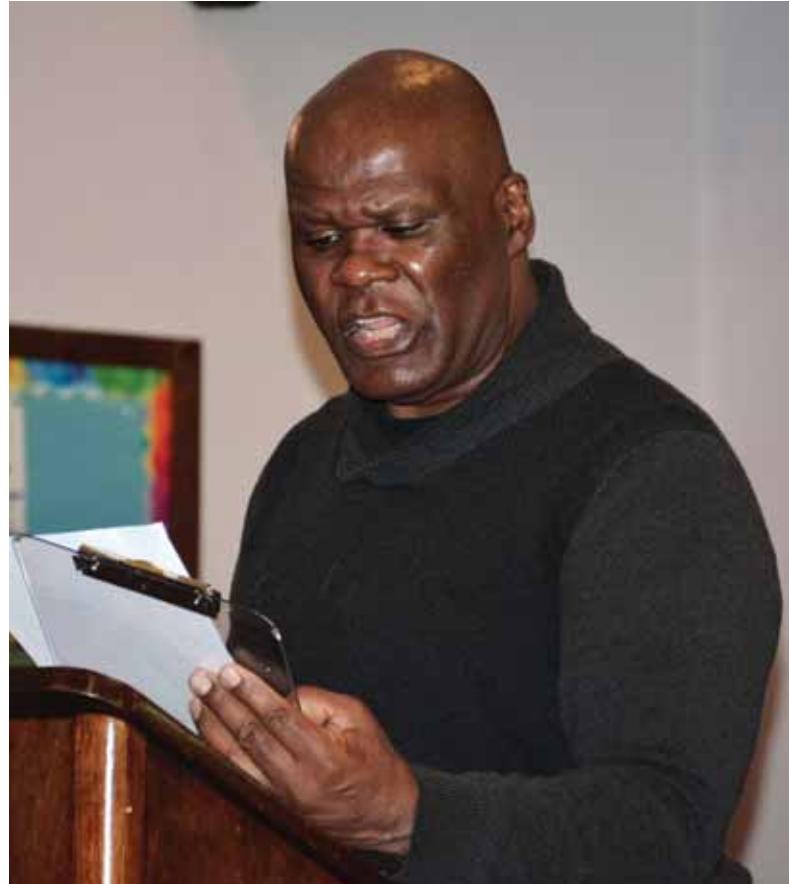


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, October 14, 2017; Cleveland Truth Commission on Poverty, Franklin Circle Church, 1688 Fulton Road: William Clarence Marshall offers a passionate reading of a speech by Genevieve Mitchell in which Mitchell asks listeners to imagine a world where Europeans had been enslaved in Africa and were now the victims of poverty and racial disparity.

## Cleveland Truth Commission hears testimony at a day long session in effort to put poverty on trial

The movement to End Poverty Now continued its efforts in Greater Cleveland with the Cleveland Truth Commission on Poverty held at Franklin Circle Church in Ohio City on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The Truth Commission on Poverty was billed as "putting poverty on trial."

A statement in the program for the event, offered a description of

the Truth Commission: "The Truth Commission on the Right Not to be Poor is part of the broader effort to revive the 1968 Poor People's Campaign by bringing together the struggles of the poor and dispossessed today. As part of this New Poor People's Campaign, the Truth Commission understands poverty

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Tuesday, October 10, 2017; Neighborhood Media community newspaper press conference and round-table discussion about Cleveland Police pursuit policy, Visible Voice Books, 2258 Professor Avenue: Cleveland Police Department Motorcycle Unit Police Officer Frank Leyva and Sergeant Dennis Lally display their new off road vehicles, helmets and protective gear. Three motor bikes, (BMW GS650), were purchased by the Cleveland Police Department to use to engage off road vehicles in Cleveland, said Cleveland Traffic Commissioner James P. Muhic.

Wednesday, October 11, 2017; Panel Discussion: Heroin, Fentanyl, Carfentanil: The Triple Threat on Our Doorstep, Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital Castele Center Auditorium: Prevention Education Specialist Maria Ivelisse Pérez answers questions and passes out information at the Hispanic Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program's booth. Prior to the panel discussion, guests picked up literature and talked to the staff of various mental health and treatment programs that serve the community.

## Community newspapers engage with city officials in roundtable discussion on police pursuit policy

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, at Visible Voice Books in the Tremont neighborhood, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams, Cleveland Traffic Commissioner James P. Muhic and Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack joined representatives of community newspapers in a press conference and roundtable discussion concerning the Cleveland Police Department's pursuit policy.

Rich Weiss, publisher of *The Tremontster* and Executive Director of Neighborhood Media, organized the press conference. Weiss explained that at several meetings of block clubs in Tremont, Cleveland Police Officers had referred to "a no pursuit policy." Weiss asked if there was such a policy in Cleveland.

Mayor Frank Jackson said the City of Cleveland had an "appropriate pursuit policy." He said, "As you know, a pursuit can end in disaster for those doing the pursuit, those being pursued and those people caught up in the pursuit." He said there are different rules for different types of pursuits, but "There is no blanket do not pursue policy."

Police Chief Calvin Williams said the Cleveland Police Division has a fifteen-plus page policy governing police pursuits -- when police can pursue a vehicle and when they cannot. "Basically, we pursue vehicles that are involved in a felony crimes, crimes of violence and ... vehicles where we suspect the driver is intoxicated -- operating a vehicle while intoxicated."

Chief Williams said the Cleveland Division of Police also has a "tactical policy for all terrain vehicles, specialty vehicles, dirt bikes -- things like that."

"The mayor kind of touched on it a little bit; when you pursue a person for a suspected crime in the streets of any city in a vehicle, some vehicles in excess of 2,000 pounds, there is a certain danger in that. Our job, is to lessen that danger, as much as possible, while still being able to do our jobs," said Chief Williams.

Chief Williams said, "For us, it is proposition that we weigh the benefit of catching that person, and this is addressed in our policy, versus the

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PHOTO COURTESY OF LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesday, October 17, 2017; Lincoln West High School Food Pantry, 3202 W. 30th Street: Lincoln West High School Students volunteer to pass out fresh produce at the food pantry. In November, the Food Pantry will be open on Tuesday, November 14th from 4-5:30 p.m. Enter via the parking lot on the North Side of the building.

#### ARTS AND CULTURE

##### PUBLIC POETRY WORKSHOP. FREE!

Saturday, Nov. 18 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Cleveland Public Library – Main Library, 325 Superior. Participants will get hands-on poetry writing experience and will discuss ways to strengthen their craft. Open to writers of all ages, levels and backgrounds. Bring 10-15 copies of a poem. Sponsored by Literary Cleveland. For more information, visit [www.litcleveland.org](http://www.litcleveland.org)

**GOLDEN** is presented by Cleveland Public Theatre's Education Department and Cleveland YMCA's Y-Haven Program. The project introduces theatre arts to formerly homeless men recovering from substance abuse and mental health challenges. Free performances at Cleveland Public Theater's Gordon Square Theatre, 6415 Detroit, on Thursday, November 2nd at 7:30pm, Friday, Nov. 3rd at 7:30pm, and Sunday, Nov. 5th at 3:00pm. Donations accepted. Free Tour Performances in the community on Wednesday, Nov. 8th at 5pm at Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority at Outhwaite Homes Community Center at 2452 East 46th Street, Cleveland, OH 44104, and on Sunday, Nov. 12th at 2pm at Lakewood Congregational Church at 1375 West Clifton Blvd. in Lakewood. Free, donations accepted.

#### CUYAHOGA COUNTY

The Cuyahoga County Charter Review Commission will accept proposed amendments to the Cuyahoga County Charter. Through monthly meetings between now and June 2018, the Charter Review Commission will consider amendments and eventually submit recommendations to the County Council, who will determine proposals for public vote. To propose an amendment for the Commission's consideration, complete and submit the Proposed Charter Amendment Summary form at [http://bc.cuyahogacounty.us/pdf\\_bc/en-US/CRC/ProposedCharterAmendmentSummaryForm.pdf](http://bc.cuyahogacounty.us/pdf_bc/en-US/CRC/ProposedCharterAmendmentSummaryForm.pdf) no later than Wednesday, November 15th, 2017, via email to [CharterReview@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:CharterReview@cuyahogacounty.us) or by mail to Charter Review Commission – 8th Floor, 2079 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, OH 44115. Follow the Charter Review Commission's progress online at <http://bc.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/charter-review-commission.aspx?Year=2017> or at Charter Review Commission meetings.

#### COMMUNITY

**BREAD ON BRIDGE TUESDAYS** is a regular Tuesday evening gathering from 6:30 to 8:30pm during which all are invited to drop in to share in conversation, scripture, prayer and song in a cafe set-



*The Plain Press Community Board is a listing of a variety of free activities and resources for neighborhoods served by the Plain Press. The printing of the Community Board is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters.*

ting featuring fresh baked bread, soup, coffee and desserts. Sponsored by The Nehemiah Mission at 6515 Bridge Ave. This is a "no charge" program in which we hope to meet more of our neighbors and host a gathering that truly represents the diversity of our community. The Nehemiah Mission of the United Methodist Church in East Ohio, serves as a hosting center for volunteers who visit Cleveland from around the country. For more information on The Nehemiah Mission and its other projects, visit [nehemiahmission.org](http://nehemiahmission.org).

#### EDUCATION

**JON PETERSON SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** are now being accepted year-round. The program, administered by the Ohio Department of Education, is available for students in grades K-12 who have a current Individualized Education Program (IEP). The scholarship is renewable through high school graduation or the student's twenty-second birthday if he or she has not met graduation requirements. Recipients are to use their scholarship for educational services and/or tuition at the participating private school and/or private service provider(s) of the family's choice. Families who would like to learn more about the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program can contact School Choice Ohio's parent information line at 1-800-673-5876. For more information about all of Ohio's scholarship programs or the wide variety of education options available to Ohio students, visit [www.scohio.org](http://www.scohio.org).

#### FOOD

**HOLIDAY COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS AND TASTING** class will include food preparation, tasting, nutrition tips, recipes and more. Explore healthy cooking options and holiday meal preparation on a budget. Free samples, giveaways and more. Sponsored by Neighborhood Family Practice, at 3569 Ridge Rd. on Thursday, November 16th from 1-2 pm OR 3-4 pm. Spots are limited, RSVP today. For questions or to RSVP, contact Lindsay Perez at 216/281-0872, Ext. 294. Or for more information on Neighborhood Family Practice, visit [www.nfpmedcenter.org](http://www.nfpmedcenter.org).

#### HEALTH CARE

**UHCAN OHIO REMINDS RESIDENTS TO ENROLL IN A 2018 HEALTH IN-**

**SURANCE PLAN:** Open enrollment is from November 1 to December 15. To enroll online visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) for English or <https://cuidadodesalud.gov> for Spanish. Enroll by phone by calling the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY 1-855-889-4325) for free help in your language. To get in-person help visit a trained assister near you: Visit: <http://bit.ly/2zMo9RD> or Visit: <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/#>.

#### MEDICARE'S ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT

is from October 15th to December 7th. During the open enrollment you can change or continue your prescription drug plan; Select a Medicare Advantage Plan designed for comprehensive health and drug coverage; and learn about recent updates to plan changes and financial assistance. For more information and assistance you can call the Ohio Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) at 1-800-686-1578, Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m.- 5 p.m., or call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. Information including specific plan details is available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

#### BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENINGS.

A program called My Body Matters will offer free services to eligible women who meet the following requirements: Are ages 21 - 74, Live in a Northeast Ohio region that includes Cuyahoga County, Are Underinsured and fall at or below 250% of the federal poverty level. Free services include: pelvic exams, pap tests, clinical breast exams, mammograms, case manage-

ment and diagnostic testing (including biopsy and ultrasound as needed). To apply, women can visit the My Body Matters website to complete an online or printable PDF application. Women can also call the Cuyahoga County Board of Health at 216-201-2000 or the Breast and Cervical Cancer Project Hotline at 1-800-443-2168 to find out if they are eligible to receive these free services.

#### THE LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Greater Ohio Chapter will host its monthly "Ask the Experts Teleconference," on Wednesday, November 15 from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. This month's teleconference is called "Wellness Coach: A Healthy Approach to Lupus." For more information or to register, please contact the foundation toll-free at 1 (888) NO-LUPUS or visit [www.LupusGreaterOhio.org/events](http://www.LupusGreaterOhio.org/events) **TELETALK FOR YOUNG LUPIANS** is scheduled for Saturday, November 18 from 2 – 3 pm. This is a call-in teleconference for adolescents who are affected by lupus. The support group is an open, small-group environment that encourages discussion among lupus patients and their families. It is a place where persons with lupus can share their experiences and ask questions. Most discussions focus on the "how-to's" of living with a chronic illness. It is a safe place for people to learn, share and help. Please call 1 (888) NO-LUPUS to register or for more information, or for more information, visit [www.LupusGreaterOhio.org](http://www.LupusGreaterOhio.org)

#### HOUSING

#### WHAT EVERY LANDLORD SHOULD KNOW.

All landlords and property managers should attend one of the Housing Court's annual seminars to be current on state and local ordinances regarding their rights and responsibilities as investment property owners. Judge Ronald J. H. O'Leary and his staff will conduct the next seminar on Wednesday, November 15th

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## Thanksgiving Dinner

There will be a delicious Thanksgiving dinner served at St. Augustine Church, 2486 West 14 Street, on Thursday, November 23, 2017, from 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

If you are homebound and unable to attend, please call 216-781-5880 and we will make arrangements for a meal to be delivered right to your door. Orders will be taken up until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21.

Please call between the hours of  
9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**TODAY'S SPECIAL**

## OPIOIDS

continued from page one

ing in via truck, and being mailed in from overseas. He said the United States Attorney's office is working with governments, like China, to ban the manufacture of some types of opioids; working with truckers to have them help identify signs of traffickers; and working with Homeland Security and the United States Postal Service, Federal Express and other mailing companies, to stem the flow of these drugs into the United States.

Controlling the overprescribing of opioids is another way to combat the epidemic. Most heroin users started with prescription opioids, said Gould.

Dr. Malone said efforts are underway to curb the overprescribing of opioids. He said that Cleveland Clinic has stopped using patient pain as a metric to measure how doctors are performing. Also, pain management clinics can now log into a system to check and see if a patient has already received pain medicine from someone else.

Bishop Perez said while the United States makes up 5% of the world's population, it uses 80% of the world's opioids. Perez said, "In the United States, we don't like pain. We are pleasure seeking beings." Bishop Perez related a story about being sent home from the hospital with pain pills he did not need. He said, "We want comfort. We don't want a hard time. Pain is a hard time. Take a pill and make that go away."

The Bishop advised, "We can't anesthetize ourselves completely from pain. We need a cultural

change. We need to work with the family, if the family is unstable." Bishop Perez talked about family discord and the high divorce rate in our society. He said, "We can strengthen the human heart by strengthening the family."

Bishop Perez talked about the stigma associated with treatment, saying we need to remove that stigma and let people know that treatment does work and that no treatment leads to death.

Dr. Malone mentioned the number of addicted babies now being born. He said the stigma of treatment may be preventing expecting mothers from seeking help. He said expecting mothers need to know "there won't be legal consequences if you come forward."

ADAMHS Board Executive Director Harper said area drug treatment programs saw a significant increase in addicts seeking treatment when they learned they could get treatment because of Medicaid expansion. She said the expansion allowed for families of four, making up to \$24,600, to qualify for health care under Medicaid. She said through peer to peer conversations, the knowledge that treatment works spread like wildfire. She said the ADAMHS Board relies on Medicaid for people in treatment. Talk about ending the Medicaid expansion "makes us fearful," she said. Harper said she is afraid what would happen if Medicaid Expansion ends in Ohio. She urged residents to call their elected state representatives and tell them "we need Medicaid expansion."

Assistant Attorney Gould said because of the potency of carfentanil, there is no safe way to approach



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, Panel Discussion: Heroin, Fentanyl, Carfentanil: The Triple Threat on Our Doorstep, Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital Castele Center Auditorium, Fulton at Franklin Blvd: Panelists (L-R): Cleveland Catholic Diocese Bishop Nelson J. Perez; Chief Executive Officer of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County Valeria A. Harper; Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Recovery Court Judge Joan Synenberg; and Assistant United States Attorney Justin Seabury Gould.

a person who has overdosed. He urged calling 911 when an overdose occurs. He said because of the Good Samaritan Law, you will not be arrested for a small amount of a drug when you call 911. He said first responders to overdoses, have hazmat protective suits. He noted even a small amount of carfentanil touching your skin can cause someone to overdose.

Dr. Malone called Narcan a "miracle drug" that brings overdose victims back to life. He said the problem is that some patients coming to, after being administered the drug, often say, "I'm fine" and leave the hospital while still having the dangerous synthetic opioid in their system. Dr. Malone said it may take 6 doses of Narcan to completely revive someone who has overdosed on fentanyl

or carfentanil, while taking one or two doses to revive someone who has overdosed on heroin.

ADAMHS CEO Harper says her organization has spent over \$100,000 to assist with the purchase of Narcan kits. She says the kits have saved 243 lives and, those are just the ones that have been reported and recorded.

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## Esperanza Executive Director shares information on how to make contributions to help Puerto Rico

### To the Editor:

On behalf of Esperanza, I express my gratitude for the numerous calls and emails we have received from our supporters, checking on the welfare of our family and friends in Puerto Rico and to lend your support in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. More than half - or over 50,000 - of Northeast Ohio's Hispanic population trace their roots to Puerto Rico. As a result, the majority of our Esperanza students, staff and volunteers have family members in Puerto Rico literally struggling to survive, with a lack of safe food and water, no electricity and now a growing threat from disease.

Our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico need your help. The Cleveland

Foundation has established an online giving platform, [cleveland-foundation.org/puertorico](http://cleveland-foundation.org/puertorico), to which local residents can make contributions through November 30. The funds, which were jump started with a \$50,000 seed grant from the Cleveland Foundation and supplemented by a \$25,000 grant from the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, will be transferred directly to the Puerto Rico Community Foundation and specifically designated for use on the ground for hurricane relief efforts in the hardest hit areas. In addition, the Hispanic community and organizations have joined together to host tomorrow a telethon on WEWS Channel 5 to raise funds to provide relief. For more information

on Cleveland for Puerto Rico Relief Efforts, including upcoming events, resources and the latest news, please visit [www.CLE4PR.org](http://www.CLE4PR.org).

Please join us in doing all you can to help our fellow Americans who are struggling to find even the basic necessities to survive. Your support to these programs will help provide much needed short-term relief. As a community, we do anticipate longer-term challenges as friends and family are forced, because of deplorable conditions, to leave the island and join their loved ones in

Northeast Ohio. We believe we will see an increase, in the coming months, for relocation assistance including help with school enrollment and coordination with social services. We will continue to keep you updated on the needs of these families and how you might be able to help.

Thank you for your consideration and please continue to keep our students, families, staff and volunteers with loved ones in Puerto Rico in your thoughts and prayers.

Victor A. Ruiz  
Executive Director,  
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**OPIOIDS**

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Harper said that Project DAWN makes available Narcan kits to people who have family members who are opioid users. She said the kits are available in a number of locations including Thomas McCafferty Health Center on the Near West Side. She said Walgreens Pharmacies have a nationwide policy of helping to educate patients and family members on how to use Narcan kits.

Dr. David Stoven of Lutheran Hospital testified that medication assisted treatment works. He said he believed that patients on Vivitrol, a drug designed to limit cravings, do better than those on other drugs. He said studies need to be done, but the success of methadone maintenance may not be due to the pharmacology but to the treatment structure – a regimen that requires patients to show up for regular doses.

Common Pleas Judge Joan Synenberg, who administers the Recovery Court, agreed that Vivitrol allows patients to conquer the hurdle of craving and focus on recovery. She said in screening individuals in Recovery Court, they have often found dual diagnosis of trauma along with addiction disorder and treat the co-existing conditions together.

Dr. Malone said a dose of Vivitrol can last for 30 days so that individuals can focus on recovery and are "no longer dreaming of drugs." He

praised medication assisted treatment, saying there is "no question, people do better."

ADAMHS Board CEO Harper said access to treatment is a problem. She said when people seek treatment "we need to take them in that day." She said the ADAMHS Board is working to expand residential treatment availability by raising \$1.5 million for expansion efforts. She said Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland each offered one time contributions of \$250,000 toward the effort. Harper says the goal is to add 113 beds in six months' time. Harper said some other efforts underway include ambulatory detox units and recovery coaches. The recovery coaches are recovered addicts that go to emergency rooms to speak with overdose victims and encourage them to seek treatment or learn how treatment works.

Harper said when treatment beds are not available, the St. Vincent Crisis Unit takes people while they are waiting for treatment beds.

Malone asked, "If individuals refuse treatment, what can we do?"

Bishop Perez said he is not an advocate of letting people "bottom out." He said that can become a vicious circle. Instead, he called for helping the family to realize they can be supportive and urging patience. He said the community needs to reinforce the process by making information and education about addiction readily available. For example, he said "The potency of these drugs – who

knows that? You are dealing with fire that can kill you. That is really not out there." Bishop Perez said that when individuals decide they "have to get their life together, we have to be there with support."

Valaria Harper agreed saying "We have to arm families with information. People don't realize that addiction is a disease." She said family members want more information about their loved one and the treatment regime. She said we need to support families and arm them with information.

Dr. Malone said the majority of people suffering from addiction, also are coping with a mental illness. He asked panelist, "How do we address both?"

Harper said agencies used to offer addiction support or mental health services, now agencies do both. She said it is common for people with an addiction to have experienced trauma. She said trauma treatment and the need to treat mental illness can also be layered with treating the addiction.

Dr. Malone said that in his 32 years of working in psychiatry, there has never been more light shined on the relationship between mental illness and drug abuse than there is now.

Bishop Perez, asked how the diocese is coping with the opioid crisis, spoke of educational forums planned for parishes, the work of Catholic Charities, and the rehab services available at programs like Matt Talbot House.

Bishop Perez also said the church has a role in being present for those entering recovery. He said, "The Church deals with things of the heart, soul and spirit that bring us all together."

Judge Synenberg said the goal of the Recovery Court is sobriety. She said the court sees people whose lives are broken and helps them to restore their lives. She said clients of the court often have experienced trauma or death of a loved one. They often have lost the trust of their families and the population experiences rampant homelessness. She said 50% of the women coming to the court are pregnant.

Synenberg talked about Restorative Justice versus Retributive Justice. She said, "lock them up and throw away the key, does not work." With restorative justice, the goal is for them to leave and not come back, she said. The court does have some leverage in getting people to choose treatment, Synenberg added, noting

when the choice is "jail or treatment, sometimes treatment suddenly seems like a good idea."

Synenberg talked about the Recovery Court's graduation program for those clients that have successfully completed treatment. She said this year's graduation was at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and graduates received Indians tickets. Synenberg said the very best part of her job is seeing the reunification of clients with their kids. She said most clients have kids. She said her clients experience emotional pain, isolation, guilt and shame.

Synenberg said it is wonderful to see clients whose lives have been restored through successful treatment. They are once again trusted with a key to their parents' house, asked to babysit for a niece or nephew and can give back to the community by helping other people suffering from an addiction. "There are few advocates as powerful as one that has been through what you are going through," she said.

Judge Synenberg called for providing more treatment beds in Cuyahoga County. She said, "the last thing we want to do is to put someone in jail while awaiting a bed." She said the Cuyahoga County jail is currently the "largest de facto mental health agency in the state."

During the question and answer period following the panel discuss-

sion, several topics arose.

An advocate for Sober houses spoke of their effectiveness in helping individuals kick a drug habit.

Several addicts spoke out about the stigma of addiction and the difficulty of getting on with their lives when people are afraid of addicts, and doors to employment are closed. Judge Synenberg read a poem to heroin from one of her clients that urged "keeping hope alive."

ADAMHS CEO Harper offered some advice to parents on what to look for if they suspect their child is beginning to use drugs. She said some signs are changes in behavior, isolation, separation from friends, new friends, not a lot of interaction, taking money out of your purse, and staying out late. Harper advised parents to have a conversation with their children and arm them with information about the harmful impact of drug use.

A nurse in the audience offered another tip for parents discovering drug use. She said in talking with parents of addicts, she learned that a lot of tin foil in the garbage can is one sign of the snorting of drugs.

One audience member talked about barriers to treatment. He noted that when St. Vincent Charity's Rosary hall began an Uber Transportation program to take people to treatment, attendance at the program jumped from 60% to 100%.

**CLEVELAND POLICE PURSUIT POLICY**

continued from page one

danger it inflicts on that community in having that pursuit. So, if that person gets away, are they going to go commit another violent crime? Or, if it's a minor traffic offense, is it going to be a detriment to society? So, our officers are guided in that way," said Williams.

When asked how familiar officers are with the pursuit policy and if the average police officer, if asked, could site the major points of the policy, Chief Williams said, "They should be able to do that, because they are held accountable for that policy."

Williams went on to say, "Any police officer should be able to tell you the basics. We are allowed to pursue vehicles for violent felonies, for OVI (Operating a Vehicle while Intoxicated), and for anything else that an officer can articulate to a supervisor that warrants a pursuit. They should be able to tell you those three things."

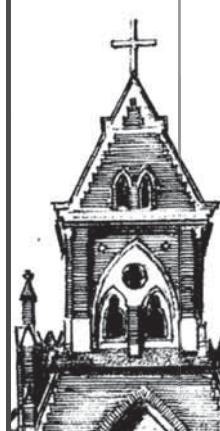
Mayor Jackson said, "The other major thing you have to understand about pursuit policies, and whether...someone should pursue, is there comes a point where you have to check in. You have to notify a supervisor, that you are in pursuit. Then, depending upon what is going on in the circumstances of the moment, you update the supervisor periodically."

Chief Williams said while the officer initiates the pursuit, the supervisor has the discretion to terminate a pursuit or allow it to continue. He described some safety concerns that may influence a supervisor's decision. He said the supervisor will ask questions as to the reason for the pursuit, the direction the pursuit is going, traffic conditions and other factors to help decide as to whether or not that pursuit can continue. Williams noted the front-line supervisor is "ultimately responsible for what those officers do." He said, "If a frontline supervisor allows a pursuit to continue that is not within our policy, then they are just as accountable as the officers that initiated the pursuit."

In a reference to a police chase that ended with police 137 firing shots into an apprehended vehicle, Chief Williams was asked what policy changes occurred since the incident, that would ensure that Cleveland Police Officers would follow the chain of command when asked to beg off, or follow the rules of pursuit when in a pursuit. Chief Williams said, "We have a policy, continued on page 5

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## PUTTING POVERTY ON TRIAL

continued from page one

and the devaluation of human life to be the bedrock of the multiple social crises we're facing, including the crises of racism, militarism and ecological devastation."

Larry Bresler of Organize Ohio spoke of the three tasks faced by the Truth Commission: 1) to expose lies about poverty 2) develop a moral vision and 3) to develop a platform.

A six-person panel of commissioners was tasked to listening to hours of personal testimonies from low income individuals and their advocates telling stories grouped by categories. The categories of testimony included the right to housing, the criminalization of the poor, the right to quality education, the right to health care, the right to living wage jobs, and environmental degradation.

Commissioners were tasked with collecting and recording the testimo-

nies and coming out with findings. Commissioners in attendance were: Reverend Brooks Berndt, an environmental justice minister with the United Church of Christ; Reverend Sala W. J. Nolan Gonzalez, Minister for Criminal Justice and Human Rights with the United Church of Christ; Maria Smith, Supervising Attorney at the Cleveland Legal Aid Society; Marian Kramer, Co-Chair of the National Welfare Rights Union; Edward Little, Team member of the Collaborative for a Safe Fair and Just Cleveland; and Chris Knestrick Director of Operations for the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.

The testimonies will be posted on the Organize Ohio website [www.organizeohio.org](http://www.organizeohio.org). Once in the website

click the heading End Poverty Now go to the heading Cleveland Truth Commission and click Personal Testimonies. As the *Plain Press* was going to press not all the testimonies had been posted to the website.

Organizations sponsoring the Cleveland Truth Commission on Poverty include: CLEAN, Cleveland Peace Action, Cuyahoga Progressive Caucus, For Our Future, Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network, Homeless Congress, InterReligious Task Force on Central America, Move to Amend, Neighborhood Connections, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality, Organize! Ohio, Peace in the Hood, Single Payer Action Network of Ohio, Stop Targeting Ohio's Poor, and United Clevelanders Against Poverty.

**Reminder to Vote:** Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2017. To look at the ballot ahead of time, go to: [boe.cuyahogaohio.us](http://boe.cuyahogaohio.us). Information on judicial candidates is available at: [www.judge4yourself.com](http://www.judge4yourself.com).

## PURSUIT POLICY

continued from page 4

and the officers are responsible for knowing and abiding by that policy, if they don't, there are consequences for the officers as well as the supervisors and anyone else involved in that pursuit."

Mayor Jackson said that during the pursuit that ended up with 137 shots being fired in East Cleveland, if you listen to the tape, some supervisors terminated their officers from the pursuit. He said that those officers that continue beyond that order were disciplined.

Chief Williams said the pursuit policy is designed to make it as safe as possible for officers and citizens. Chief Williams noted that during the 137-shot pursuit incident, some supervisors got on the air, right then and there and said, "you will not pursue, my officers are terminated from this pursuit" while other supervisors didn't and some supervisors didn't say anything. "Our current policy makes it clear on what the duties and responsibilities are for a supervisor in a pursuit. We don't think it was clear enough before. Although, I think it was clear. But, obviously, it wasn't clear enough. So, we clarified it. We made it a lot stronger. We made sure our supervisors understand their responsibility in a pursuit," said Chief Williams

The discussion then focused on the pursuit of all-terrain vehicles such as dirt bikes, and the pursuit policy developed in response to the growing presence of them. Prior to the roundtable discussion, those attending had a chance to see the Cleveland Police Division's new BMW GS650 off-road vehicles parked in the lot outside Visible Voice.

Traffic Commissioner James P. Muhic said the Division of Police purchased three BMW GS650 off-road vehicles along with helmets with inside helmet speakers, chest protectors and protective gear for the officers riding the vehicles. The officers were sent to Alameda County California where they received two weeks of training from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department in the use and operation of the off-road vehicles. Muhic says that funds have been allocated in next year's budget to purchase three additional off-road vehicles. Cleveland officers who have had training, will be involved in training additional officers in the use of the vehicles. Commissioner Muhic said that in purchasing the vehicles and the development of a strategy to deal with off-road vehicles, the Division of Police studied trends across the country to decide the best practices for Cleveland to pursue.

Muhic said the Division of Police will use their off-road, multipurpose vehicles to engage the dirt bikes.

gas in an off-road vehicle. If you brought it in a trailer or a pick-up -- that is different."

Mayor Jackson talked about the holistic approach of the city of Cleveland which he said is unique in the country. He said the strategy not only involves doing enforcement in a safe way, but also involves talking to leaders in the dirt bike community so they can communicate to others about what is improper behavior. He said Cleveland is also looking to create an opportunity for dirt bike riders to have a place to ride locally so they don't have to transport their bikes for an hour and a half or two hours, to go to a place to ride them.

Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack talked about a problem with dirt bikes at Clark Field. He noted the collaboration between community residents, the council-



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

**Saturday, October 14, 2017; Cleveland Truth Commission on Poverty, Franklin Circle Church, 1688 Fulton Road: Journalist and activist leader of the Imperial Women's Coalition Kathy Wray Coleman talks about expensive bonds that contribute to overcrowding in jails.**

man's office, the administration and Second District police that involved intelligence gathering and sharing of information about the dirt bike activity at the park. He said that Second District officers did an incredible job of mitigating the problem at Clark Field. "It has gotten much better," said McCormack.

"I'm familiar with that situation, because I talked to the Sergeant that ran that situation," said Commissioner Muhic. "They handled it correctly. Didn't do it while guys were riding. They waited until they were parked. That was it. No danger. Nobody got hurt and they put a big dent in it."

Traffic Commissioner Muhic urged residents seeing illegal activi-

ty by dirt bikes to call 621-1234 to report the activity. Muhic noted that his officers work with the Communication Control Center to review the calls involving off road vehicles as part of their intelligence gathering operation.

**Editor's Note:** This report was produced through a Neighborhood Media partnership between independent Cleveland newspapers -- *Plain Press*, *The Tremontster*, *The Collinwood Observer*, *El Sol de Cleveland*, and *East Side Daily News*. A video of the round table discussion is available on Tremontster.TV & YouTube at: (<https://youtu.be/uOvPUrx55Oc>).



 "AS MAYOR, ZACK REED WILL NEVER, EVER BUILD A DIRT BIKE TRACK IN CLEVELAND."



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## Near West Theatre hires a new Managing Director

Near West Theatre has hired Mike Obertacz to fulfill the role of Managing Director to succeed founder and executive director, Stephanie Morrison Hrbek. Obertacz began his tenure on October 11, 2017 as the theatre commences its fortieth season. Obertacz will lead Near West Theatre in partnership with Bob Navis, Jr., who will continue in his role as Artistic Director. Obertacz and Navis will carry forward the theatre's mission to offer theatre arts experiences that are inclusive and transformational for performers and audiences alike.

Obertacz previously served as Director of Programs for the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning (CAL), where he managed a staff of 10 and provided oversight to a roster of over 75 teaching artists. Prior to his role with CAL, Obertacz served as Director of Programs with Career Gear, a social service nonprofit agency providing holistic services to better prepare formerly homeless, incarcerated,

and chronically unemployed men to re-enter the workforce and support their families. Obertacz earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University, spent a decade as a professional actor performing in over 45 productions nationally, and then dedicated the last ten years to leading and directing programming for nonprofit organizations in Cleveland and New York City.

"We are all thrilled that our search resulted in the hiring of such an outstanding person. Mike Obertacz brings an incredible depth of expertise, life experience, and knowledge of theater, as well as a lifetime commitment to social justice," commented Board President Jason Bristol.

Bristol also praised founder Morrison Hrbek for her enduring vision and leadership over the past four decades. "On behalf of the board and all who have been involved with Near West Theatre, I would like to thank Stephanie for the vision,

talent, drive, and passion she has brought to this organization and the community," he said. "Her work and the programs of Near West Theatre have provided opportunity for and transformed the lives of so many children and adults in Cleveland. I am grateful she will continue to be involved with the theatre in a new capacity."

Morrison Hrbek has agreed to continue in a part-time role to partner with Obertacz on a forthcoming endowment campaign that will position the theatre for long-term sustainability. "I am excited to see where Mike takes Near West Theatre, and how he builds on the almost 40 years of our artistic and social justice mission," said Morrison Hrbek. "I look forward to continuing to move in and among the generations of alumni who populate our community and whose relatives are now getting engaged at Near West Theatre. This longevity of involvement is a testimony to the power of the performing arts to heal, bind, and create community. I cannot wait to see what comes forth over the next 40 years!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEAR WEST THEATRE

Near West Theatre's new Managing Director Mike Obertacz

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## Two candidates respond to Plain Press questionnaire

The Plain Press sent out candidate questionnaires to both mayoral candidates as well as City Council candidates in Ward 3, Ward 11, Ward 12, Ward 14 and Ward 15. Only two candidates responded – Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey and Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana. Below are the questions and the candidates' responses.

### Plain Press Candidate Questionnaire

**Cleveland has the second highest child poverty rate among big cities in the United States. Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon said Cleveland students could achieve district wide success if they no longer faced the barriers that come with poverty. What strategies would you propose in the City of Cleveland to aid the school district in removing these barriers?**

**Ward 3 City Council candidate Logan E. Fahey:** There's no one answer to removing barriers for students in poverty but it starts with making Cleveland families economically self-reliant. We must continue to create training programs and internships that equip Cleveland residents with the skills and resources to be successful in the marketplace. Innovative solutions like Bloom Bakery and EDWINS have proven that when you give families an opportunity to gain foundational work experience, many of the barriers of poverty are alleviated. Replicating these successful programs throughout the City is a start and a proven method for eliminating barriers and allowing residents to be economically self-reliant.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** Vocational training, more afterschool programming, ensure subsidized meals, build more parental involvement with easier access to meetings, more mentorship and literacy programs.

**What city programs do you support that help low income families and senior citizens?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** I support City programs that effectively help our youth and seniors. Some specific programs that I believe are effective include; senior homeowner assistance grant, Cleveland water affordability program, repair-a-home loans, historic preservation loans and housing enhancement loans.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** The SHAP program needs to be streamlined and expedited for Seniors and Disabled to maintain their homes in a more timely fashion.

**What role should the city of Cleveland play in creating jobs that pay a living wage and jobs for youth?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** The City of Cleveland's role in creating living wage jobs should be through economic development and not

regulation (i.e. minimum wage increases). Creating a strong economy where businesses are flourishing is proven to produce higher paying jobs. This starts with recruiting new businesses and industries to the Cleveland market while also working with current businesses to ensure they are successful. In regard to youth, we must create stronger partnerships between the public and private sectors to spur additional internships and youth training programs.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** We need to have vocational schools across the city and our high schools need to offer more vocational training in each school. We need a strong summer youth employment program, even if we have to create one exclusively for Ward 14.

**Describe a path to neighborhood development that is inclusive and does not push out existing low income residents.**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** Inclusive development or responsible development starts with ensuring current residents are protected from drastic real-estate tax increases. In addition, development should be transparent and accessible to all residents, protecting the character of our neighborhoods. It should be noted that the only way for a City Councilman to be able to represent the residents of the Ward, is not to be tied to the developers. From day one our campaign we have been committed to not accepting developer contributions in Ohio City and Tremont because we believe that limits the Councilman's ability to represent the interest of the residents.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** We need to include low income families in home ownership programs, especially with the availability of existing vacant housing. This will help with creating neighborhood stabilization and building investment in our community. Right now, there are so many restrictions and hurdles for low income families to obtain home ownership. Development fees collected from development can be used to create programs to help low income families become home owners. In addition, we need to consider other potential home owner's, single women who no longer have children at home but are looking for housing security and home ownership should be permitted to partake of any home ownership programs.

The community has to be involved in any decision making on investments in the ward, this should not continue to be top down, but bottom up involvement.

**Do you have a plan to assure there is enough affordable housing for Cleveland's low income residents?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** For Ward 3, the only way to ensure availability of affordable housing

continued on page 8



Saturday, October 21, 2017; Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for new Dollar Tree Store, W. 128<sup>th</sup> and Bellaire: Mayor Frank Jackson, Ward 11 Councilwoman Dona Brady and Westown Executive Director Rose Zitiello join with the staff members of the new Dollar Tree store to cut the ribbon.

## Unique features at new Dollar Tree store result from collaborative efforts

The staff of the new Dollar Tree store joined with Westown Community Development Corporation staff, Councilwoman Dona Brady and Mayor Frank Jackson to cut the ribbon on October 21<sup>st</sup> for a new store at W. 128<sup>th</sup> and Bellaire.

The new Dollar Tree store has some unique features that resulted from collaboration with the community. Six four-foot by five-foot LED illuminated wall mounted light boxes on the Bellaire Road side of the building feature historic neighborhood photos. Longtime resident and local historian Ellie Mapson and Director of the Westpark Historical Society Ralph Phigston provided input in the selection of the photos for the display boxes.

Students at nearby New West Tech High School at 11801 Worthington Avenue digitalized and enhanced the historic images under the direction of photography and graphic design teacher Deron Leutenegg. Developers Mark and Kelley Jablonski integrated the photos into the wall mounted light boxes. The photos will be maintained and replaced periodically by Westown Community Development Corporation.

The bicycle racks by the main entry of the store are the result of another collaborative effort. The bicycle racks

were sourced from Metro Metal Works, a trade-building program for homeless men and those re-entering the workforce from prison. The program is administered by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries.

The site preparation for the new store was especially challenging. Ward 11 Councilwoman Dona Brady changed the zoning for the site in 2013 to local retail, in hopes of attracting retail business to the historic African American community. Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation and Westown Community

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Saturday, October 21, 2017; Colgate Court at W. 76<sup>th</sup>: This mural on the back of the Ripcho Studio building brightens the alley. Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization's Community Organizer Ashley Wilson says, "The mural painting created by neighborhood artist Haley Morris funded by the 2017 Enterprise Collaborative Action Grant, started to take shape on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Every Saturday we hold a Pop-Up BBQ for neighborhood residents and painting session of the mural. Residents alongside DSCDO Staff and Board Members help paint the alley way, while a few dedicated artists around the neighborhood have been assisting with the painting of the Ripcho wall."

## CANDIDATE RESPONSES

continued from page 7

is to control over development of the neighborhoods.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** See above, plus, any new development plans in Ward 14 need to include affordable housing to ensure that residents can stay in the community. Rentals are going up and many people who want to stay here are finding quality living space difficult to find.

**How can the City of Cleveland improve its services to small businesses?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** First and foremost, the City should overhaul the entire permitting/inspection process for new business, the current process is bureaucratic and often results in months of delays. Secondly, the City should re-vamp their small business programs/incentives to be more accessible and reduce the barriers to access these services. Finally, we must focus on retaining small business not just recruiting, this starts with creating programs and support to help our small businesses survive and expand.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** My office will have a staff member dedicated to meeting with small business owners to assess their needs. We will also meet bi-monthly with business owners to discuss strategies for improving business and offerings within the community.

**What steps can be taken to encourage Cleveland businesses to hire Cleveland residents?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** For one, the City can use incentives such as forgivable loans or grants to encourage small businesses to hire from within the neighborhoods. But more importantly, it's about connecting businesses to resources such as Ohio Means Jobs, Towards Employment, Luther Metropolitan Ministries, etc.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** Not only will my office feature a job board, but we will work directly with businesses to see what their hiring needs are and to help promote residents to fill those positions.

We need to work on job skills and training, especially with Re-entry programs here in the area. Having Max Hayes at the edge of the ward, it is my hope to partner with them to create programs designed to help the under skilled in the ward.

**Some argue that tax abatements and Tax Increment Financing are necessary for large commercial developments. Others say such handouts are unfair because they shift the tax burden to existing residents and deprive the schools, libraries, county and city of much needed resources. Where do you stand on this issue? Why?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** Tax abatements and tax financing are absolutely necessary for some development projects. The worst thing Cleveland could do is take away solutions/incentives to encouraging new development and growth, especially

when it results in the development of new jobs.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** Residents who are buying \$200, 300, 400, 500 thousand dollar homes can well afford the taxes on those residences. The residents still receive the same city services as other residents and should pay their fair share. **Cleveland has been offering 15-year residential tax abatements for new**

and substantially rehabbed housing for many years. Is it time to re-examine this policy? Please explain the policy you would pursue, and why. **Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** I am a proponent of re-writing the policy to limit the neighborhoods where the tax abatements are available. Neighborhoods such as Ohio City and Tremont have become financially viable for development without tax abatements, the program has served its purpose in these neighborhoods and should now be shifted to only focus on areas where

development isn't yet financially viable without the abatement.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** The tax abatement system has been abused in our city. We need to change the focus from residential development in areas that no longer need the incentive and use this program strategically for areas that need to be incentivized. Why would a developer want to go to an area that is depressed when they can go somewhere like Ohio City, Tremont or Detroit Shoreway and get the same corporate welfare if they went where we really need to develop?

**Since 2013, the City of Cleveland has been tacking onto property owners water bill, a \$8.75 per month fee for waste collection. Garbage collection used to be paid for from the general fund --from property and payroll taxes. For a low-income family making less than \$10,000 a year, this represents 1% of their annual income. It is a regressive tax. Is it fair to be charging this fee to low income households when the city is offering 15-year tax abatements to homeowners purchasing \$750,000 homes? Why, or why not?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** I am a proponent of a fee waiver program for families that would qualify under a poverty guideline.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** Everybody should pay or there should be no tax. **The original plan for the West Shoreway called for traffic lights and crosswalks requiring a 35mph speed limit. Now that pedestrians will instead use tunnels at W. 65<sup>th</sup> or W. 76, or an extended W. 73<sup>rd</sup> Street to get to Edgewater Park, should the speed limit remain at 35 mph? Why?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** Given the access to safe pedestrian tunnels, an increased speed limit would be acceptable. **Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** There is nothing wrong with the 35-mph speed limit, and hopefully someday the vision of a true boulevard will come to pass.

**What is your plan to improve safety and security in Cleveland's neighborhoods?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** Increased safety and security for our neighborhoods starts with better communication and better relations between the community and police. I believe this starts with more community policing (i.e. more police officers on foot, bicycles, golf carts, etc.) and increasing the number of police officers within the department. However, it should also be noted that we cannot police our way to safer neighborhoods, increasing safety needs to be looked at in a holistic approach including access to jobs, community resources, recreational activities, etc.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** I would like to see the return of mini stations, more foot, bike and horse patrols. We also need to encourage more residents and businesses to install security cameras and increase block watch programs. **If elected, over the next four years, how do you plan to communicate with and receive input from residents about their concerns? What is your plan to assure residents receive better services from the City of Cleveland?**

**Ward 3 City Council Candidate Logan E. Fahey:** Being a City Councilman is about being responsive and active in your neighborhoods. Through community meetings in each neighborhood to having direct access to my office, my number one priority is to be responsive to ALL our residents, not just when its election time.

**Ward 14 City Council Candidate Jasmin Santana:** I will have a mobile office that goes out into the community on a regular basis bringing city department representatives and non-profit partners with me right to the community and address issues then and there.

There will be monthly community meetings. We will have a ticket system for residents to be able to follow the progress on an issue or concern they have reported. Plus, all phone calls or emails will be returned within 24 hours.



**KERRY**  
McCORMACK  
CLEVELAND CITY COUNCIL  
WARD 3

**As a Cleveland City Councilman, Kerry fights for all of us.**  
He works to improve our quality of life, promote progress for our neighborhoods and bring people of all backgrounds together.

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**Councilman Anthony Brancatelli**  
Action and Results for Our Neighborhood

**Taking Action Against Blight and Corruption**  
Over the last decade, Councilman Anthony Brancatelli has been a leader in the fight against urban blight, brought on by a national foreclosure crisis and followed by a global recession. Councilman Brancatelli has led the effort to demolish vacant, nuisance properties, rebuild neighborhoods and hold fraudulent real estate speculators responsible for their devastation.




**Focused on Community Development**  
Councilman Brancatelli worked to secure community block grant funding to aid homeowners and support the small businesses that are vital to our growing neighborhood.

**Rebuilding and Strengthening Our Neighborhood**  
We've made improvements to our parks and recreation centers, updated streetscapes, and resurfaced and repaired badly worn streets and bridges.

**Retain Anthony Brancatelli**  
Cleveland City Council Ward 12

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