

Resolution No. 605-2020

**By Council Members Kelley, Slife,
B. Jones, Griffin, Polensek, Zone, Bishop,
Conwell and Cleveland**

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging the Ohio General Assembly to immediately repeal House Bill 6, a billion-dollar ratepayer bailout of two failing Ohio nuclear power plants of First Energy Corporation.

WHEREAS, according to recently released information from the U.S. Department of Justice, First Energy Corporation (First Energy) and a cabal of corrupt elected officials, lobbyists, and consultants, allegedly devised and executed a complex scheme to capture the Ohio House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this public corruption racketeering conspiracy was to pass House Bill 6 (HB 6), a piece of legislation which bailed out the failed nuclear plants of First Energy, with the ratepayers paying the \$1.3 billion dollar cost of this bailout; and

WHEREAS, this anti-consumer legislation also cut support and funding for renewable energy in Ohio, including wind and solar; and

WHEREAS, in order to pass this anti-consumer and anti-environmental piece of legislation, First Energy spent approximately \$60 million, which was laundered through various shell entities and funneled into political operations; and

WHEREAS, additional tactics were also used by the HB6 conspirators, including litigation, the creation of phony public opinion and contrived grassroots support, the use and misuse of signature collection for and against HB6, and various other public relations strategies; and

WHEREAS, the combined effect of all these corrupt practices was the successful passage of HB6, and the stymying of repeal efforts of that legislation, with a resulting \$1.3 Billion bailout for First Energy, which was a long-term public policy goal of First Energy; and

WHEREAS, First Energy has another long-term public policy goal specific to the City of Cleveland - namely, the restriction or destruction of Cleveland Public Power; and

WHEREAS, several of the tactics used in the charged racketeering conspiracy to enact HB6 are similar to tactics used by First Energy and their allies in Cleveland, including the use of phony citizen groups and the use of significant campaign funds and political pressure; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland City Council has resisted these efforts at the local level, just as we oppose those efforts as embodied by the passage of HB 6; and

WHEREAS, this body asserts the City of Cleveland's right to operate its own municipal utility, Cleveland Public Power, and First Energy's attempts to restrict and/or destroy Cleveland Public Power through litigation, political pressure, or any other means, will be resisted to our utmost; and

WHEREAS, this body shall endeavor to investigate the scope and scale of First Energy, and/or their agents and allies, attempts to apply the tactics used in the racketeering conspiracy to enact HB6, here in the City of Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council urges the Ohio General Assembly to immediately repeal House Bill 6, a billion-dollar ratepayer bailout of two failing Ohio nuclear power plants of First Energy Corporation.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to send a copy of this resolution to all members of the Ohio General Assembly.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

