

# Ordinance No. 391-2024

## AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

Authorizing and directing the Director of Law to fully enforce the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 9.67, that imposes restrictions on the owner of a professional sports team that uses a tax-supported facility, and that receives financial assistance from the state or the city.

By Council Member Kazy

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 9.67 places restrictions on the owner of any professional sports team in Ohio who attempts to move his/her team out of a tax-supported facility; and

WHEREAS, Revised Code Section 9.67 states:

“No owner of a professional sports team that uses a tax-supported facility for most of its home games and receives financial assistance from the state or a political subdivision thereof shall cease playing most of its home games at the facility and begin playing most of its home games elsewhere unless the owner either:

(A) Enters into an agreement with the political subdivision permitting the team to play most of its home games elsewhere;

(B) Gives the political subdivision in which the facility is located not less than six months advance notice of the owner’s intention to cease playing most of its home games at the facility and, during the six months after such notice, gives the political subdivision or any individual or group of individuals who reside in the area the opportunity to purchase the team”; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the Cleveland Browns football team are currently considering whether to continue to play Browns games at the tax-supported stadium on Cleveland’s lakefront; and

WHEREAS, Revised Code Section 9.67, effective June 20, 1996, was enacted pursuant to a bill sponsored by Senator Dennis Kucinich, in the 121<sup>st</sup> Ohio General Assembly, and remains in effect today; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance constitutes an emergency measure providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department; now, therefore

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

Section 1. That, the Director of Law is hereby authorized and directed to fully enforce the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 9.67, that imposes restrictions on the owner of a professional sports team that uses a tax-supported facility and that receives financial assistance from the state or the city, in order to keep the Cleveland Browns in the City of Cleveland and to protect the interests of the taxpayers of the City with regard to their investment in the lakefront stadium.

Section 2. That this ordinance is declared to be an emergency measures and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

