

Department of Finance
Cleveland Police Commission
Legislative Summary

Ord. No.: 658-2026

DESCRIPTION:

Authorizing the Director of Finance to prepare and transmit to City Council the legislation necessary to authorize disbursement of grant awards exceeding \$50,000 under the CPC's combined 2024–2025 Community Grants Cycle. This authorization is required to clear a two-year disbursement backlog that has left forty-one (41) community-based grantees waiting for funds already obligated under the CPC's charter mandate

SOURCE: General Fund

AMOUNT: \$2,226,944.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

“In addition to the amount above (as it may be adjusted), the Commission will receive a budget for its grantmaking to community-based violence-prevention, restorative-justice, and mediation programs that is at least 0.5% of the amount budgeted for the Division of Police.” Charter 115-5 (m)

The CPC's grantmaking authority is established by Cleveland Charter §115-5(h)(xxvi) and funded under §115-5(m), which guarantees the Commission an annual grants budget of at least 0.5% of the Cleveland Division of Police appropriation, dedicated to community-based violence prevention, restorative justice, and mediation programs. The combined cycle is an administrative remedy designed to honor existing grantee commitments and restore the program's schedule. Because the combination of two cycle awards into a single disbursement causes a subset of awards to exceed the \$50,000 threshold that triggers Council legislative authorization, the CPC seeks the Finance Department's partnership in advancing the appropriate ordinance(s).

The grantees affected are small and mid-sized community-based organizations operating in Cleveland neighborhoods most affected by violent crime. They have, in good faith,

designed programming, hired or scheduled staff, and committed to community participants on the basis of awards the CPC announced. Two-year delays in disbursement have caused programmatic stalls, staffing instability, and erosion of trust between the City and the very community partners the Charter directs the CPC to support.

To restore program timing and honor existing grantee commitments, the CPC has determined to combine the 2024 and 2025 grant cycles into a single consolidated disbursement. This approach (a) clears the backlog without adding new application burdens on grantees who have already been selected; (b) restores the program to its annual rhythm beginning with the 2026 cycle; and (c) provides grantees with a more operationally meaningful funding amount that supports stable programming.

The CPC and its staff stand ready to provide any additional information requested, attend Finance and Council committee hearings, and coordinate communications to grantees regarding the timing of disbursement once the legislation is on track.