

Ordinance No. 925-2021

**By Council Members Santana, Griffin,
McCormack, B. Jones, Spencer, Conwell,
Kelley, Bishop, Hairston, Gardner**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

Establishing a program to make feminine hygiene products free and accessible in all restrooms in City Hall and Neighborhood Youth and Adult Education Resource and Recreation Centers; and authorizing the purchase by one or more standard purchase and requirement contracts of feminine hygiene products for the Division of Recreation and the Division of Property Management, Department of Public Works.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland seeks to implement a program to make feminine hygiene products free and accessible with dignity in all restrooms in City Hall and Neighborhood Youth and Adult Education Resource and Recreation Centers throughout Cleveland's neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, toilet paper and other sanitary products are universally expected, while feminine hygiene products like tampons and pads are rarely provided despite being medically necessary for women during menstruation; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable populations who face barriers to menstrual health, including low-income women, school-aged girls, homeless women, incarcerated women, and women experiencing cycle irregularity, are especially affected by lack of access to free feminine hygiene products; and

WHEREAS, access to free products in public buildings is important considering the financial burdens on women; on average, one woman spends \$13.25 each month on menstrual products, totaling about \$6,360 in her reproductive lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in a widely cited St. Louis study of low-income women, 64 percent of respondents did not have the money to buy feminine hygiene products in the past year and 46 percent of respondents were not able to afford both food and feminine hygiene products in the past year; and

WHEREAS, unexpected menstruation disrupts a woman's day if hygiene products are not available; a national study by Free the Tampons, a Columbus-based nonprofit that aims to end restroom inequality, found that 86 percent of menstruators have started their periods while out in public without the supplies they need, and 79 percent end up creating makeshift and poor substitutes out of toilet paper when products are unavailable; and

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WHEREAS, access to menstrual products prevents infection caused by inadequate access to or overuse of singular products; and

WHEREAS, access to feminine hygiene products has been shown to improve the lives of young women during menstruation by increasing school attendance, reducing stigma, and increasing their confidence; and

WHEREAS, other cities, including Columbus, New York City, West Lafayette, Indiana, and Salt Lake City, Utah, provide free feminine hygiene products in city-owned buildings in order to reduce barriers in accessing products; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland seeks to implement a program to provide free feminine hygiene products with dignity in restrooms in City Hall and Neighborhood Youth and Adult Education Resource and Recreation Centers to ensure menstrual equity, meaning that menstruation does not lead to financial, social, and safety burdens; and

WHEREAS, this Council encourages other public entities and businesses to offer feminine hygiene products at no cost in their restrooms; 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 this Council and the Administration establishes a program to make feminine hygiene products free and accessible in all restrooms in City Hall and Neighborhood Youth and Adult Education Resource and Recreation Centers.

Section 2. That the Director of Public Works is authorized to make one or more written standard purchase contracts and written requirement contracts under the Charter and the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, the period of requirements to be determined by the director, for each or all of the following necessary items: feminine hygiene products, including product dispensers, tampons and napkin supply, and supporting materials on the importance of free hygiene products and menstrual equity, to be purchased by the Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies on a

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unit basis, for the Division of Recreation and the Division of Property Management, Department of Public Works. Bids shall be taken in a manner that permits an award to be made for all items as a single contract, or by separate contract for each or any combination of the items as the Board of Control determines.

Section 3. That the costs of the requirement contract or contracts shall be charged against the proper appropriation accounts and the Director of Finance shall certify the amount of any purchase under the contract, each of which purchases shall be made on order of the Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies by a delivery order issued against the contract or contracts and certified by the Director of Finance.

Section 4. That the cost of the standard contract or contracts authorized shall be paid from Fund No. 01-7004-6460.

Section 5. That this ordinance is 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 passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

/jho
10-18-2021
For: Councilmember Santana

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REPORT
after second Reading

By Council Members Santana, Griffin, McCormack, B. Jones, Spencer,
Conwell, Kelley, Bishop, Hairston, Gardner

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READ FIRST TIME on OCTOBER 18, 2021

and referred to DIRECTORS of Public Works, Finance, Law:
COMMITTEES on Municipal Services and Properties, Finance

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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COMMITTEE ON
**MUNICIPAL SERVICES
AND PROPERTIES**

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COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

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