

Ordinance No.1522-2025

By Council Members Howse-Jones,
Hairston and Griffin
(by departmental request)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

Authorizing the Director of Economic Development to enter into a loan agreement with Village of Joy Corporation, or its designee, to provide economic development assistance to partially finance the construction of a birthing center at 1802 East 65th Street and other associated costs necessary to redevelop the property.

FOR PASSAGE
November 24, 2025

WHEREAS, Birthing Beautiful Communities (“BBC”) full owner of Village of Joy Corporation, which operates withing the BBC, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving maternal and infant health outcomes in underserved communities, particularly among the black, indigenous, and other people of color population. The BBC builds community capacity by training and deploying perinatal support persons, including doulas who are non-medical professionals who provide assistance to mothers and families through the childbirth process, providing culturally-appropriate education and advocacy, and directly offering midwifery-led pregnancy and birthing care. The BBC is governed by a mission of improving systemic and community structures that lead to poor birth outcomes, and it has already assisted over 2,000 women, babies, and families. The BBC seeks to expand access to midwifery and wellness services, addressing racial disparities in birth and gynecologic outcomes by delivering trauma-informed, relationship-based, and prevention-focused care; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified the Village of Joy Corporation as an entity that can serve the BBC by constructing a birthing center partially financed by a loan agreement with the Director of Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the birthing center will be located at 1802 East 65th Street in Cleveland’s Hough neighborhood, an area with disproportionately-high infant and maternal mortality and limited access to non-hospital birthing options. There are currently no other freestanding birthing centers in the City or even in the Greater Cleveland area, giving this project a potentially unique role in the local service ecology. The BBC will link the birthing center with area hospitals and specialists to manage risk and transfers, and growth targets, include attending to approximately fifty (50) births in the first full year and expanding births and clients significantly afterward; and

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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 Economic Development is authorized to enter into a loan agreement with Village of Joy Corporation, or its designee, to provide economic development assistance to partially finance the construction of a birthing center at 1802 East 65th Street and other associated costs necessary to redevelop the property.

Section 2. That the terms of the loan shall be according to the terms set forth in the summary contained in File No. **1522-2025-A**, made a part of this ordinance as if fully rewritten, as will be presented to the Finance Committee of this Council at a public hearing on this legislation, and are approved in all respects and shall not be materially changed without additional legislative authority.

Section 3. That the costs of the loan shall not exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) and shall be paid from Fund No. 17 SF 008, which funds are appropriated for this purpose. (RQS 9501, RL 2025-100)

Section 4. That the Director of Economic Development is authorized to accept such collateral as the director determines is sufficient in order to secure repayment of the loan. Any loan agreement, security instrument, or other document shall be prepared and approved by the Director of Law.

Section 5. That the Director of Economic Development is authorized to accept monies in repayment of the loan and to deposit the monies in Fund No. 17 SF 006.

Section 6. That the Director of Economic Development is authorized to charge and accept fees in an amount not to exceed the maximum allowable fees under federal regulations and the fees are appropriated to cover costs incurred in the preparation of the loan application, closing and servicing of the loan. The fees shall be deposited to and expended from Fund No. 17 SF 305 (Loan Fees Fund).

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Section 7. That the contract and other appropriate documents needed to complete the transaction authorized by this legislation shall be prepared by the Director of Law.

Section 8. That the Directors of Economic Development, Finance and Office of Equal Opportunity are authorized to enter into a Community Benefits Agreement with Birthing Beautiful Communities, or its designee, as a condition to receive funds under this ordinance.

Section 9. 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.

SMa:nl
11-24-25

FOR: Director Bourdeau Small

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REPORT
after second Reading

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READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

READ FIRST TIME
as referred to REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on NOVEMBER 24, 2025

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR