

Ordinance No. 715-2025

**By Council Members Starr, Howse-Jones
and Hairston**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

Appropriating funds obtained from Cleveland Casino Revenues for use by Cleveland City Council for projects properly benefitting the public and adopting new protocols for the use of such funds.

WHEREAS, under the Ohio Constitution and Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5753, the State levies a tax at the rate of 33% of the casino operator's gross casino revenue and the tax proceeds are distributed, in part, as follows: (1) 51% of the tax is distributed among the 88 counties in proportion to their population at the time of the distribution, and Cleveland will receive 50% of the Cuyahoga County share; and (2) 5% of the tax is distributed to the host city, like Cleveland, where the casino facility that generated such gross casino revenue is located; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of this ordinance, "Cleveland Casino Revenues" means Cleveland's share of the tax on gross casino revenue levied by the State of Ohio and distributed to Cleveland in accordance with Article XV Section 6 of the Ohio Constitution and Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5753; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 1477-11, passed October 17, 2011, Cleveland Casino Revenues received by the City shall be deposited into the general fund and 15% shall be allocated for use by Cleveland City Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 869-13, passed July 10, 2013, as amended by Ordinance No. 133-2023, passed February 27, 2023, the Council of the City established the Cleveland Casino Revenues Fund for the purpose appropriating its share of the Cleveland Casino Revenues to benefit the neighborhoods and residents of the City of Cleveland; 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, pursuant to Ordinance No. 869-13, passed July 10, 2013, as amended by Ordinance No. 133-2023, passed February 27, 2023, the Council of the City established the Cleveland Casino Revenues Fund to be funded by 15% of the monies received from the Cleveland Casino Revenues as authorized in Ordinance No. 1477-11, passed October 17, 2011, and as calculated and distributed by the Director of Finance on a quarterly basis. Such funds shall be expended for projects that constitute a proper public purpose benefitting the general health, safety or welfare of the residents of the City in accordance with all federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.

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Section 2. That, within the Cleveland Casino Revenues Fund, the Director of Finance shall create projects to correspond to each Ward within the City (currently seventeen (17)), and each is funded in equal distribution of the amount allocated pursuant to Section 1 above. Members of Council may identify in writing projects for which they seek funds from the Cleveland Casino Revenues Fund. Project proposals will be submitted to the Council and reviewed by Council staff and the Department of Law to determine that the projects constitute a proper public purpose benefitting the general health, safety or welfare of the residents of the City. All projects will be submitted, reviewed and authorized by separate legislation in accordance with the process set forth in **File No. 715-2025-A**, as may be amended from time to time. The Director of Finance shall submit monthly a report to the Clerk indicating all expenditures from the Cleveland Casino Revenues Fund.

Section 3. That this ordinance 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 passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

RS:rns
6-2-2025

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[File No. 715-2025-A]

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READ FIRST TIME on JUNE 2, 2025

and referred to DIRECTORS of Finance, Law;

COMMITTEE on Finance Diversity Equity and Inclusion

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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REPORT after Second Reading

**PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY
COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE, DIVERSITY, EQUITY
and INCLUSION**

FILED WITH COMMITTEE