

# Resolution No. 119-2023

By Council Member Polensek

## AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Strongly recommending that the administration adopt a strict policy prohibiting City employees from using any Chinese-owned social media platforms on City-issued devices.

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WHEREAS, certain social media platforms, such as TikTok and WeChat are owned by Chinese firms; and

WHEREAS, the Chinese government is making efforts to expand control beyond China into other countries through its digital platforms and has encouraged Chinese firms that own such digital platforms to do national security audits of any data that is gathered; and

WHEREAS, the FBI says the video-sharing app TikTok, poses national security concerns because it is owned by the company ByteDance which is headquartered in Beijing and the Chinese government likely uses the app to influence users, spread misinformation or control users' devices; and

WHEREAS, TikTok, is subject to those same national security data audits because it shares data with its Chinese-owned parent company, ByteDance; and

WHEREAS, the US government has recently banned TikTok from most U.S. government-issued devices; similarly, about 1/3 of U.S. states have banned TikTok use on government devices; and

WHEREAS, over concerns that sensitive personal information and business data will be shared with the Chinese government, Governor Mike DeWine recently signed an executive order prohibiting state workers from using TikTok, WeChat and other Chinese-owned social media apps on state-issued devices; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That this Council strongly recommends that the administration adopt a strict policy prohibiting City employees from using any Chinese-owned social media platforms on City-issued devices.

Section 2. That this resolution 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 adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

MDP:rns  
1/23/2023

