

Resolution No. 203-2020

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Council Member(s) B. Jones, J. Jones, Bishop, McCormack, Johnson, Cleveland, Griffin, Polensek, Conwell, Hairston, Mooney, Brancatelli, Kelley, Santana, Zone, Kazy, Slife

Supporting passage of Cuyahoga County's Health and Human Services levy on the March 17, 2020 ballot, to ensure many critical services throughout Cuyahoga County.

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County has placed on the March 17, 2020, Primary Election ballot a 4.7 mills Health & Human Services (HHS) levy that that would replace Cuyahoga County's current 3.9-mill levy; and

WHEREAS, every year, more than 400,000 people from more than 200,000 families access Cuyahoga County's HHS system; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County's HHS system primary provides services to five groups with critical needs: 1) children who are at risk of abuse and neglect; 2) people with mental illnesses or an addiction; 3) people with serious health issues; 4) victims of crime; and 5) senior citizens and people with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, demand for Health & Human Services in Cuyahoga County has grown as a result of increasing poverty, opioid addiction, changing demographics, and inadequate state and federal funding; and

WHEREAS, passing this replacement HHS levy will ensure current critical services continue and will fund investment in targeted, interconnected areas that will amplify the impact of our health and human services efforts, help reduce long-term needs and costs, and provide us with measurable, accountable results; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County's health and human service levies are practical investments in strengthening the resilience of our economy and community, and in reducing future economic and social costs; and

WHEREAS, underfunding HHS programs – and walking away from those in need—increases our risk of more costly future problems involving our justice system and hospital emergency rooms, and

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes the far-reaching importance of the passage of the Health and Human Services levy in order to continue the vital health and human services provided to Cuyahoga County's and Cleveland's citizens; 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 supports passage of Cuyahoga County's Health and Human Services levy on the March 17, 2020 ballot, to ensure many critical services throughout Cuyahoga County.

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.

