Legislative Summary: Ordinance No. 720-2025

This ordinance enacts new Codified Ordinance Sections 164.01 to 164.04 and 173.19 to create the Cleveland Commission on Black Males (CCBM). It declares the public policy and purpose and establishes the composition and terms, organization and procedures, duties, and compensation of this new commission.

Mission and Purpose: Black men have been subject to systemic discrimination and issues due to historic and current policy decisions that have led to disparate impacts, especially when it comes to criminalization, incarceration, education, and community violence. CCBM will study the varied conditions affecting Black men and boys in the City of Cleveland, and advocate for policies and programs designed to address their specific needs. CCBM serves to recommend strategies enhancing educational, social, economic, employment and housing conditions, health and wellness, and social justice outcomes for Black men and boys. CCBM will serve in an advisory capacity to assist Cleveland City Council, the Mayor, the Community Relations Board, the Department of Health, and various City departments in addressing the many issues that impact Black men and boys in the City.

CCBM's duties: Specifically, CCBM's duties include:

- Conduct data research and public hearings, and issue reports, including quarterly reports on its activities and the status of Black men and boys in the City of Cleveland;
- Develop community education and training programs and workshops to address existing disparities;
- Recommend policies, new programs, or legislation to ensure equal rights, equity, and opportunities for all men;
- Conduct outreach, awareness, and public engagement campaigns aimed at ensuring active community participation;
- Establish partnerships with local organizations to optimize resources and impact;
- Coordinate dialogues and actions in collaboration with other City agencies and City departments on issues of concern; and
- Solicit grants or contributions on behalf of the City to further the mission of the Commission.

CCBM's 15 Members:

- The Mayor or designee;
- Three Council Members or designees;
- Community Relations Board employee;
- Department of Public Health employee;
- a representative from the faith community;
- a representative from the business community;
- a representative who is a member of a trades union;
- a representative from a social service agency or who is employed as a social worker;
- a representative from a grass-roots organization located in the City;

- a Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) student between eleven (11) and fourteen (14) years old who lives in Cleveland, and has permission from their parent or legal guardian;
- a CMSD High School student who lives in Cleveland, and has permission from their parent or legal guardian;
- a college student who attends one (1) of the four (4) year Cleveland based universities and lives in Cleveland; and
- a college student who attends Cuyahoga Community College and lives in Cleveland.