C OF C 125-174

Ordinance No. 987-2025

By Council Members Polensek and Griffin (by departmental request)

FOR PASSAGE
AUGUST 13, 2025

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

To amend Section 670.14 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as amended by Ordinance No. 171-04, passed February 2, 2004, relating to limitation of authority; and to supplement the codified ordinances by enacting new section 670.20, relating to authority to permit commissioned armed security guards to carry firearms outside the municipal boundaries of the city.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland operates and maintains critical infrastructure facilities, including utility and public service sites, located in municipalities outside its corporate boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the City employs Protective Services Officers (PSOs) responsible for the security of such sites, who are not sworn police officers but who meet prescribed training and qualification standards pursuant to Cleveland Codified Ordinance Chapter 670 ("Chapter 670"); and

WHEREAS, the safety of City personnel, infrastructure, and the public may necessitate authorizing PSOs to carry firearms while on duty on such locations even if they are outside the municipal boundaries of the City; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Sections 715.01, 9.482, and related provisions authorize municipalities to enter into agreements with other political subdivisions for mutual aid and the exercise of powers outside their territorial boundaries; 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 Section 670.14 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as amended by Ordinance No. 171-04, passed February 2, 2004, is amended as follows:

Section 670.14 Limitation of Authority

The Director of Public Safety may designate the property, including properties or facilities that are owned and/or operated by the City but are outside the municipal boundaries of the City, or the geographical area of the City within which an armed security guard commissioned by the City may exercise his or her authority.

Commissioned armed security guards shall not obtain search warrants or warrants for arrest or perform any other specific function which the Director of Safety may, by rules and regulations, reserve exclusively to the Division of Police or which are exclusively reserved by the ordinances of the City and the City Charter to the Division of Police.

Commissioned armed security guards shall exercise their authority consistent with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Section 2. That the existing Section 670.14 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as amended by Ordinance No. 171-04, passed February 2, 2004, is repealed.

Section 3. That the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio 1976, are supplemented by enacting new Section 670.20 to read as follows:

Section 670.20 Authority to Permit Commissioned Armed Security Guards to Carry Firearms Outside the Municipal Boundaries of the City

The Director of Public Safety, or their designee, is authorized to permit commissioned armed security guards to carry firearms while on duty at properties or facilities that are owned and/or operated by the City located outside the municipal boundaries of the City.

The Director of Public Safety, or their designee, may enter into written agreements expressly authorizing armed security guards to carry firearms while on duty within the political subdivision where the property or facility that is owned and/or operated is located.

Section 4. 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.

SL:uo
8-13-2025
FOR: Director Drummond

Ord. No. 987-2025

[File No. 987-2025-A]

REPORT
after second Reading

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READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

READ FIRST TIME **REPORTS**
and referred to

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on AUGUST 13, 2025

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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