



Mayor Bibb Previews Housing Legislation in State of the City Address

by Patricia Page, Client Support Specialist – Housing Programs

Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb delivered his first State of the City address hosted by the City Club of Cleveland, Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at the Maltz Performing Arts Center on Case Western Reserve University's campus. The day marked Bibb's 100th day in office which he called the "first major milestone in the marathon for change."

Bibb previewed some coming changes to the city's housing policies, stating his administration would introduce pay-to-stay legislation aimed at helping tenants facing eviction, as well as measures meant to protect federally subsidized renters.



After his remarks, Bibb took a few audience questions curated by the City Club on issues such as housing security. Josiah Quarles, a Housing Justice Community Organizer at Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, posed this question to Mayor Bibb on behalf of NEOCH: "With the recent VAPAC (Vacant and Abandoned Properties Action Committee) report outlining the devastating effects the influx of out of state investors has had on the housing market, particularly on Cleveland's east side where house prices remain depressed while the rents remain high, what steps will your administration take to wrestle properties away from bad actors, end the cycle of wealth extraction and empower communities and grassroots organizations to return equitable and sustainable models of safe and affordable housing to those most in need?"

Rather than misconstrue what I believe I heard was the Mayor's response, I reached out to Josiah for his takeaway on the Mayor's response to his question. Precise and to the point, Josiah stated: "In his answer Mayor Bibb, pointed to Source of Income and Pay to Stay legislation that could relieve some pressure on tenants and slow the eviction cycle by opening all rental properties to voucher programs and allowing tenants the ability to show up in court with means of payment to stop an eviction. He also mentioned local-agent-in-charge legislation that would force out of state property owners to have someone locally responsible to show up to hearings and be accountable to local authorities."

Josiah went on to say, "We wholeheartedly believe that these legislative steps, if passed, will be beneficial for tenants in Cleveland, but also recognize they are not a silver bullet. Other measures like fair chance housing, land bank reform, expanded access to Right to Counsel, title clouds, increased funding for building and housing code inspections, and several other avenues—including measures at the county level—need to be leveraged to create an equitable future for housing in Cleveland."

ADVOCATE FOR SOI PROTECTIONS & PAY TO STAY AT CITY HALL

MAKE PUBLIC COMMENT! CONTACT YOUR COUNCILMEMBER!

The Source of Income (SOI) and Pay Stay legislations have been under review since last fall by the City of Cleveland Law Department. Council President Blaine Griffin needs to proceed in the next steps for passage by Council. It is past time to take action on these important issues.

CALL TO ACTION REQUEST

- 1 Sign up to make public comment at Cleveland City Hall (Mondays 7pm)
- 2 Email or call Cleveland City Councilmembers on the DPS Committee to show your support

On April 26th, NEOCH released an **Advocacy Alert** for SOI and Pay to Stay at City Hall that I have forwarded to all EDEN staff. Here is your opportunity to help those that we serve as well as others facing housing instability and crisis. Consider responding to the CALL TO REQUEST ACTION REQUEST in your email.

Staff Profile

Eddie Thompson

Originally from the state of Delaware, I came out to Ohio in 2003 for a change of scenery and a fresh start. My mother and father are on the east coast, along with the rest of my family. I have two beautiful daughters whose names are Trinity and Camara. I love the outdoors and nature, and I would have probably pursued a career in marine biology or conservation if it were not for my passion to help people in need. I have had dogs my whole life and currently have an American Bully by the name of Prince.



Most people who I work with do not know that I received my GED from Old Dominion Job Corps in Lynchburg, Virginia. After coming to Ohio, I was accepted into Kent State University through the GED Scholars Initiative Program, a program that offers academic, financial and social support to students who have attained and passed the General Educational Development test. After receiving my bachelors in Pan African Studies with history as a minor, I received my masters in Mental Health and Wellness from Grand Canyon University.

Prior to working at EDEN, I was employed by FrontLine Service, where I was a youth case manager for PHYA and at North Point. I felt that I lost more ground than I had gained while in that position, but I have realized that the insight and perspective I gained made it all worth it.

One of my favorite EDEN stories happened even before I came here. I was working with the Domestic Violence Rapid Re-Housing team at FrontLine. A young lady was on the verge of being terminated from the program. After getting her an extension, I was able to assist her in finding EDEN housing for her and her children. The joy in her voice when she finally got housed made it all worth it. I let her know that I, too, knew how it felt to be counted out and in that situation. She used my belief in her as motivation to achieve her goal.

I chose to work at EDEN to help be a bridge to housing for a population that may have a hard time proving their worth to themselves and to others at a certain part of their lives. My ability to relate with people and eagerness to learn are the strengths I feel I bring to EDEN.

My goals for the future are to become closer to God, a published author, a successful entrepreneur ... and to catch an Ohio state record fish!

EDEN's All-Staff Meeting



We have several exciting announcements for the next All-Staff Meeting. It is scheduled to be held Thursday, May 5, from 9:00 – 10:30 am via TEAMS. Departments will be providing updates on new hires, client services, construction projects, the new Employee Assistance Program, and more. In addition, we will be announcing EDEN's Apparel Program: staff will be able to purchase shirts, hoodies, and jackets with the EDEN logo.

All staff, regardless of position, should attend.



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

INFORMATION SERVICES: The IT area conducted our first of many email security/phishing exercises. The results indicated that 25% of EDEN staff pose a minor information security risk to the agency, while 8% pose a major risk. In response, training resources were provided to these staff members.

The Data area has completed version 1.0 of the EDEN Data Dashboard to track our most critical and frequently requested information.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE: Join us in welcoming Amber Romo as the new Supervisor of Long-Term Housing Programs. The team also thanks David Wakelee for his extraordinary service to our staff and clients during his time as a Supervisor.

STABILITY: Eddie Thompson was hired to work with EDEN's Mainstream clients. Except for our new hire, the entire Stability Team is now HQS certified.

FUND DEVELOPMENT: Managed the Bridge Pointe Commons Open House and working on submitting foundation funding applications—with submissions for operating support being prioritized.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: Our first 10 tenants will move in on April 30th. We estimate that all 62 units will be occupied by the end of May.

REAL ESTATE: 1) Expansion Phase I (Madison Avenue)—project under construction; 2) Norma Herr Women's Shelter Expansion and Renovations—Seeking funding for project; 3) Cuyahoga TAY- Expected to close financing in June/July and start construction in July; 4) Broadway Commons—Awaiting award of Tax credits from OHFA (Anticipated in early May); and 5) Expansion Phase II—Seeking funding for project.

Vote!

by Dennis Morton, EDEN Board Member Emeritus

May 3rd is just days away!! That is the date for the Ohio primary to decide who will be the candidates from each party for national, state, and local offices to be decided in the November 8th election.

Some of you may know me, but many may not. My name is Dennis Morton, I am 79 years old, I have been involved with EDEN for decades, and have been voting since I was 21. I vote because it is an obligation of citizenship, and because our country prefers, as Abraham Lincoln said, government of, by, and for the people.

I am asking that if you are registered, go to your designated polling place on May 3rd and fill out your ballot. We all—the folks at EDEN and the members of the board—want you to be able to say 'YES!' when someone asks if you voted.

Throughout history, American elections have proven over-and-over to be the fairest and the safest in the world. But that doesn't matter unless you make your vote count. As citizens, you are eligible to register to vote in your community and, by doing so, stating your opinion of who should represent you in the government. Sometimes it seems too many people feel that one vote doesn't matter, but history of even the last few years has shown that nothing is more important than counting every single vote, in every election.

Your vote is your voice. If you like your government, your vote can reflect that opinion by supporting individuals or the objectives of the party you prefer. Your vote announces who you prefer to represent you, what economic policies you deem best for your country, and how we should meet the needs of all citizens, including you.



You can get more information about the candidates if you go to https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup and enter your address. It will list all the candidates that are running. You can then click on the link for each one to see what they stand for and how they plan to address your community's needs.

And thank you for your part in shaping our future!

Observe Juneteenth with Greater Cleveland!

On June 19, 1865, about two months after the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Va., Gordon Granger, a Union general, arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African Americans of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended. General Granger's announcement put into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued more than two and a half years earlier on Jan. 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln.

The holiday received its name by combining June and 19. The day is also sometimes called "Juneteenth Independence Day," "Freedom Day" or "Emancipation Day." On June 17, 2021, Juneteenth became the 11th holiday recognized by the federal government to celebrate African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Learn more at www.juneteenth.com.

Join the activities at this year's **CLEVELAND JUNETEENTH FREEDOM FEST**, set to take place on Saturday, June 18 from 12:00 pm – 10:00 pm on Mall C in the heart of Downtown Cleveland. This city-wide, family-friendly celebration and commemoration of Juneteenth will feature a mainstage performance by Karamu House, the country's oldest Black producing theatre. The day will end with a fireworks finale.

Festivities will also include a vendor village to spotlight Black businesses and entrepreneurs; community programming and education, spoken-word performances, interactive art demonstrations, food trucks, and beverage concessions.

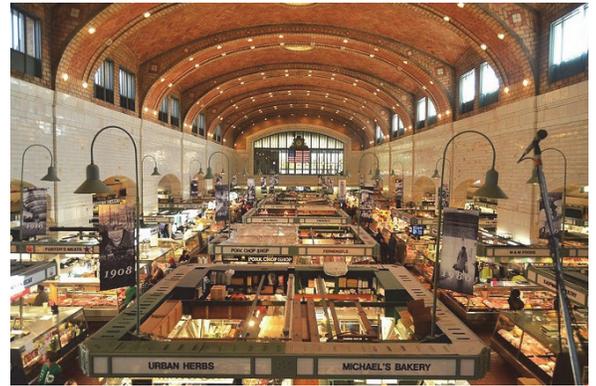
To view updates about the celebration, visit www.juneteenthCLE.com.



Free Fruits and Veggies to Families in Need

The city of Cleveland is launching a 10-week pilot program to provide low-income families with free fresh fruits and vegetables from the West Side Market. The city is partnering on the project with Cleveland-based grassroots organization Food Access Raises Everyone (FARE), and Ohio-based non-profit Produce Perks Midwest. Once it's over, FARE will analyze the program's success and provide recommendations for similar initiatives in the future, according to a city news release.

"We are excited to bring the Produce Perks pilot to the West Side Market and expand access to nutritious fruits and vegetables at no cost to families," Bibb stated in the release. "Increasing food access programs is a priority for my administration and we are grateful to FARE, Produce Perks Midwest and the participating vendors for making this initiative possible."



Produce Perks Midwest obtained a \$12,000 TANF grant from Ohio Jobs and Family Services and will distribute those funds in coupon booklets to households eligible for benefits through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Eligibility is limited to families with children or pregnant women. Each recipient may spend up to \$240 over the 10-week pilot.

- A-1 Quality Produce
- A & J Produce
- Angelo Produce
- Boutros Brother Produce
- Christiano Produce
- Ehab Produce
- Greg's Produce
- Habib's Produce
- Harb's Produce
- Lucas Produce
- Luca's Produce

FARE staffers will be stationed at the market to assess shoppers' eligibility for the program and distribute coupon booklets. The West Side Market's social media accounts will advertise specific dates on which the booklets will be handed out. If participants buy less produce than a coupon is worth, no change will be provided, the release said. FARE will then reimburse the participating vendors for the value of the coupons.

EDEN Job Opportunities

All positions are listed on the EDEN intranet and www.EDENcle.org/work. Contact Megan Russo at mrusso@edencle.org if you have any questions or want to apply.

- Accountant I – Accounts Payable
- Accounting Manager – Grants
- Accounting Supervisor – Development
- Community Housing Agent
- Construction Manager
- Custodian (multiple openings)
- Custodian – Lorain County
- Director of Property Management & Maintenance
- Fill-In Front Desk Clerk
- Front Desk Clerk – PT
- Front Desk Clerk Lorain County – PT
- Housing Eligibility Specialist
- Housing Locator
- Housing Stability Specialist for Families
- Maintenance Technician
- Painter
- Property Manager – Emerald Commons
- Property Manager – Inez Killingsworth

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Do you have a story about a special client who EDEN helped or a staff member who deserves recognition? Perhaps it's someone who has a unique background or challenge that needed help, and EDEN was able to step up and offer an appropriate solution. Or perhaps someone who stands out as a memorable client. Share your stories!! The first five people to send stories to JACQ@EDENcle.org will win a lottery ticket!

Bridge Pointe Commons Open House

Thank you to all staff who volunteered to help out at the Community Open House at Bridge Pointe Commons in Elyria on Tuesday, April 26th.

EDEN was delighted to welcome more than 100 people to the Open House. Representatives from government entities, nonprofit partner agencies, area businesses, and the neighborhood came to tour the building, meet the staff, and ask their questions. We are so honored to bring permanent supportive housing to the community and build partnerships with our neighbors.

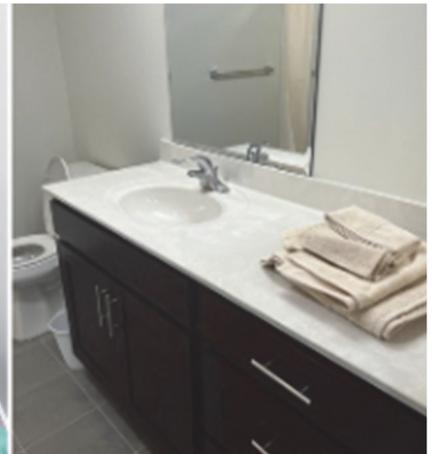
Most exciting and rewarding of all, we are thrilled to welcome the first residents to this beautiful building. Ten previously homeless individuals with disabilities will have a place to call home and can feel safe and supported by April 30th. We expect all 62 units will be filled by the end of May.



At right: Executive Director Elaine Gimmel begins a tour through the building.

Below, left to right: Welcome sign; Mayor Frank Whitfield of Elyria with Marcus Madison of the Community West Foundation; Lorain Council Representative JoAnne Moon with Jalisa Neal of EDEN; Teamwork makes the dream work at EDEN. And we are so grateful that our Executive Director leads by example!

Bottom row: the furnished kitchen, bedroom, and bath of a unit.



The Nord Center

The Nord Center has been operation in Lorain County for over 73 years, and provides industry-leading behavioral health programs, prevention, education and client advocacy that focuses on individual recovery and well-being. We focus on creating positive outcomes that lead to healthier lives and a stronger community.

Similar to FrontLine Services at EDEN's PSH buildings in Cuyahoga County, the Nord Center will provide the onsite supportive services at Bridge Pointe Commons, EDEN's new PSH building in Elyria. Nord will deliver case management services to tenants in a way that is flexible and individualized to each resident. The Nord Center will "meet each resident where he/she is," and work to progressively build trust and engagement.

The Nord Center will offer both housing-based and behavioral health case management services to Bridge Pointe Commons residents. For residents who do not need, or choose not to engage in, behavioral health case management services, housing-based case management services that focus primarily on maintaining housing will be made available.

Residents who are in need of linkages to Medicaid, Social Security, and other benefits will be assisted on-site by their case manager. Case managers will also assist residents to link with, and travel to, community service providers to ensure all their needs are met.

An individualized assessment will be conducted with each resident prior to, or shortly after, move-in. Resident assessments will also examine factors related to resident health and well-being, including general physical health, mental health, substance use/abuse, and other relevant issues impacting resident health. Assessments will focus on strengths and deficits the residents have in the skills needed for independent living. This includes the range of daily living skills, self-care, housekeeping, meal preparation and nutrition, and accessing and acquiring goods and services in the community. It also includes developing an understanding of the resident's 'disabling conditions' and developing a plan with the resident for accessing services to minimize the impact of those conditions on remaining housed.

The case managers will work with each resident to develop an Individualized Service Plan (ISP), which will include the tenant's housing-related goals. These goals can range from remaining in PSH on a permanent basis, or ultimately living independently in the community, reuniting with family, or establishing a new family/household. Depending on the goal selected by the resident (and this goal can change over time), the case manager will assist the resident in developing a plan to achieve or maintain it.

The Individual Service Plans will identify the skills needed for each resident to maintain their housing. This includes any deficiencies the residents may have in daily living skills or long-term supportive services needed in order to remain stable. Care coordination with external treatment providers (mental health, substance use, HIV/AIDS, therapy, veterans specialists, etc.) in addition to the Nord Center team, increases residents' opportunities for success.

An independently licensed clinician from the Nord Center will oversee clinical programming for the Bridge Pointe Commons and will supervise the case management and life skills staff to ensure the clinical work supports the identified goals of each resident's Individual Service Plan.

We are very excited to partner with the Nord Center to welcome residents to their new homes at Bridge Pointe Commons, and ensure that they begin this new phase of life in a safe and supportive environment!



The Nord Center
Transforming Lives. Together.

The Nord Center
(440) 233-7232
www.NordCenter.org

EDEN eNews:

The eNewsletter for the Staff of EDEN by the Staff of EDEN

Jacquie Skrzypiec, Editor

We want to hear your stories! Please submit articles, ideas, and questions to Jacquie at jacq@edencl.org.

Tech Tip

Splitting Data in Excel

Have you inherited a spreadsheet with people's names combined into one cell but you need to separate them? This handy trick can save you lots of manual typing!

- First, make sure the next column is empty.
- Click on the column header to highlight the column.
- Click on the **DATA** menu at the top and then click on **[Text to Columns]**.
- Select **Delimited** and **[NEXT]**.
- Check the box for **Space** and then click **[FINISH]**.

If you have any problems with this, contact Jacquie on TEAMS.

Still haven't formatted your email signature? Call Jacquie on TEAMS and she will help you.

Name
Mary Smith
John Doe
Bob Dole
Jane Bell
Stan Mann



Name	
Mary	Smith
John	Doe
Bob	Dole
Jane	Bell
Stan	Mann