

Proposed: 4/03/2023

RESOLUTION NO. 054-2023(HB), *First Reading*

By Council Member Cuda, President Hart, Vice President Cobb, Councilor Larson, Councilwoman Russell, Councilwoman Boyd, Councilman Mattox and Mayor Seren

A Resolution expressing this Council's support of Ohio Senate Bill 36 which requires that prospective owner-occupants and specified non-profit housing organizations be permitted to match winning bids at Sheriff's Sales for the purchase of one- to four-unit foreclosed residential properties; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of 1-4 unit residential properties nationwide are being purchased by investors, who are often out of state, which results in higher rents and less home ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Vacant and Abandoned Property Action Committee of Cleveland ("VAPAC") has determined that in the eastern suburbs of Cuyahoga County rents have increased by 59% over the past twenty years while income has risen only 20%, and that LLC residential property purchases have nearly doubled in the past 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 36, introduced in 2023, permits prospective owner-occupants and non-profit organizations whose primary activity is the development and preservation of affordable housing to submit a bid after a foreclosure sheriff's sale of a 1-4 family dwelling house has taken place under specified conditions; and

WHEREAS, such proposed bill would support owner-occupancy of residential properties in the City and promote affordable housing, and be of benefit to the City of Cleveland Heights and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council strongly supports Ohio Senate Bill 36, as it believes its as it believes it will promote owner-occupancy of residential properties and assist in the provision of affordable housing.

SECTION 2. The Clerk of Council is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Mike DeWine, SB 36's sponsor State Senator Louis W. Blessing, III, District 21 State Senator Kent Smith, and District 22 Representative Juanita Brent.

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SECTION 3. Notice of passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 4. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to address the current affordable housing crisis. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

MELODY JOY HART
President of the Council

ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: _____

Presented to Mayor: _____

Approved: _____

KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor