

Proposed: 12/4/2023

ORDINANCE NO. 197-2023(AS), *First Reading*

By Vice President Cobb

An Ordinance enacting and adopting a new Chapter 140, Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC) of Part One, *Administrative Code*, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights.

WHEREAS, the issues of climate change and environmental sustainability have become integral to the future of our planet and our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights has long placed an emphasis on sustainability, as elucidated by the “Environmentally Sustainable Community” Goals and Actions component of the City’s 2017 Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, many communities within Cuyahoga County, Northeast Ohio, the State of Ohio, and the United States have established Sustainability committees to accomplish similar goals; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of a stand-alone Sustainability Committee, the City by Ordinance No. 111-2021 expanded the responsibilities and duties of the Transportation Advisory Committee (“TAC”) established in 2013 to include climate and environmental sustainability issues with the Committee renamed “Transportation and Environmental Sustainability Committee (TESC),” and

WHEREAS, with the hiring by the City of a Sustainability and Resiliency Coordinator there is a need to update the mission, duties, structure and membership of TESC by forming separate committees; one “Transportation and Mobility”, and another “Climate and Environmental Sustainability (CESC);” and

WHEREAS, Council believes that a separate Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee will be better able to make the City a more sustainable community through the consideration of practical new programs and policies as well as public engagement and outreach to address environmental, resource and energy challenges.

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, this Council desires to enact Chapter 140 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights to establish a separate committee devoted to climate and sustainability issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, THAT:

ORDINANCE NO. 197-2023(AS)

SECTION 1. This Council hereby adopts and enacts new Chapter 140, Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC) of Part One, *Administrative Code*, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights is hereby established to read in total as set forth in Exhibit A hereto.

SECTION 2. The appointment of new members to the Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee as a result of this Ordinance shall be for initial terms not exceeding two years.

SECTION 3. Notice of passage of this Ordinance 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. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time permitted by law.

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MELODY JOY HART  
President of Council

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ADDIE BALESTER  
Clerk of Council

PASSED:

Presented to Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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KAHLIL SEREN  
Mayor

**EXHIBIT A to ORDINANCE NO. 197-2023**

**Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee**

**151.01 ESTABLISHED**

There is hereby established a Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC). The purpose of this Committee shall be to: (i) advise the Mayor and Council on recommendations with regard to improving the environmental sustainability of City programs, services, equipment and facilities; (ii) increasing the awareness of issues of environmental sustainability with the residents and businesses located in the City; and, (iii) encouraging increased environmentally conscious activities by the residents and businesses located in the City. The CESC shall also serve as an advocate for environmental justice, and promote through education and outreach best use practices for sustainable living, business, and economic development.

**151.02 MEMBERS.**

(a) The Committee shall consist of eight members (8), four (4) of whom shall be appointed by City Council and three (3) by the Mayor subject to approval by a majority of Council. The remaining member shall be the City's Climate Resiliency and Sustainability Coordinator who shall serve as a co-chair and non-voting member. The appointed members shall all be residents of Cleveland Heights with a demonstrated interest in and/or knowledge of environmental sustainability. A good faith effort shall be made to have the appointments reflect the City's goal of racial, social and geographic diversity.

(b) Appointed membership shall be for a two (2)-year term, expiring from the date of appointment.

(c) Any appointed member who misses a majority of Committee meetings in a calendar year shall be considered unable to serve. Subject to (d), in the event a member is unable to complete his/her term, City Council shall appoint a replacement to complete that term after seeking qualified candidates.

(d) In the event, the member unable to serve is a Mayoral appointee, the Mayor shall appoint a replacement to complete the term subject to Council approval.

(e) No compensation shall be paid to any appointed member of the Committee for services performed.

(f) Subject to approval by the President of City Council, the Chair of the Municipal Services Committee shall serve as a non-voting liaison between Council and the Committee.

**151.03 MEETINGS; CHAIRPERSONS; SECRETARY; BYLAWS.**

Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held and notice given in accordance with Open Meeting requirements. The Committee shall meet at least once a quarter and shall submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council. The Committee shall elect an appointed member annually to serve as a Co-chairperson along with the City's Climate Resiliency and Sustainability Coordinator. The Committee may establish its own bylaws

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after review and approval by the City Director of Law. The Committee may elect a Secretary to keep or cause to be kept a record of all meetings of the Committee. An audio recording may be substituted in lieu of written minutes.

**151.04 STAFF.**

The Mayor and City Council shall jointly determine any staffing needs for the Committee and who shall be responsible for notifying members of meetings and complying with public notice requirements.

**151.05 COUNCIL LIAISON.**

The role of the council liaison is to communicate the City Council's needs, policies and interests to the Committee members and to communicate back to the City Council the recommendations made and discussions held by the Committee. This ensures thorough communication between the elected officials and the members of the Committee.