

ORDINANCE NO. 262-2025(COTW), *First  
Reading*

By Council President Larson

An Ordinance declaring a vacancy on Cleveland Heights City Council effective January 1, 2026; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights provides for the creation and filling of vacancies in the office of Member of Council; and

WHEREAS, Jim Petras currently serves as a Member of Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, for a term expiring on December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, at the general election held on November 4, 2025, Jim Petras was duly elected to serve as Mayor of the City of Cleveland Heights for a term commencing January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2025, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections certified to the City Council the official canvass of the November 4, 2025 election; and

WHEREAS, upon assuming the office of Mayor on January 1, 2026, Jim Petras will no longer serve as a Member of Council, and a vacancy shall thereupon exist in the office of Member of Council pursuant to the Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, State of Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. Council hereby declares that, effective January 1, 2026, a vacancy shall exist in the office of Member of Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, formerly held by Jim Petras, by reason of their assumption of the office of Mayor on that date.

SECTION 2. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. Notice of the 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, or by posting the full text of this Ordinance on the City of Cleveland Heights website.

SECTION 4. It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective as an emergency measure 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 declare the vacancy on City Council as of January 1, 2026. Wherefore, provided it

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receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Ordinance 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.



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GAIL L. LARSON  
President of Council



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ADDIE BALESTER  
Clerk of Council

PASSED: December 15, 2025

Presented to Mayor: 12/17/2025 Approved: 12/17/2025



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TONY CUDA  
Mayor