



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Safety and Public Works Committee Agenda

Via Zoom

Friday, January 9, 8:00 AM

This meeting is being held remotely (Zoom) pursuant to Chapters 113 and 115 of the Codified Ordinances and Resolution 22-29.

Join the Zoom meeting as a viewer or listener from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device.

Join online at: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88591195596?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88591195596?pwd=PpE2boWHA0x3jaYQ5YNijE8GSbpyyk.1)

[pwd=PpE2boWHA0x3jaYQ5YNijE8GSbpyyk.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88591195596?pwd=PpE2boWHA0x3jaYQ5YNijE8GSbpyyk.1) Password: 910136; Description: Safety and Public Works Committee; or join by phone at 833-548- 0282 (toll free); Webinar ID: 885 9119 5596; Password: 910136. International numbers available at: <https://zoom.us/u/aUzB20ML>.

Closed captioning is available but Zoom attendees [must turn on this feature](#) in their Zoom settings.

1. December Meeting Minutes

Documents:

[DECEMBER MEETING MINS..PDF](#)

2. City Safety Assessment

Presented by Public Works

Documents:

[SPW_CITY SAFETY ASSESSMENT.PDF](#)

3. Contract for CVD-First Call Program

Presented by Law

Documents:

[LAW DEPT.-CONTRACT-CVD-FIRSTCALLPROGRAM.PDF](#)

4. Backflow Preventer Contract

Presented by Public Works

Documents:

PUBLIC WORKS-BACKFLOW PREVENTER CONTRACT_SPW_FINAL.PDF

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SHAKER HEIGHTS

SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES THURSDAY December 4, 2025 at 8:00 AM VIA ZOOM MEETING

Members Present: Anne Williams, Council Chair
Nancy Moore, Council Member
Tenille Kaus, Council Member
James Sammon, Citizen Member
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member
Sara Schiavoni, Citizen Member

Others Present: Mayor David Weiss
Matt Carroll, CAO
Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire
Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police
Ramona Lowery-Ferrell, Director of Public Works
William Gruber, Law Director
Christian Maier, Assistant Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES.

The minutes of the November 6th meeting were unanimously approved.

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Single Source Bid for First Energy

Presented by Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning

Director Braverman presented a request to approve a single-source bid from FirstEnergy in the amount of \$280,841.62 for the relocation of a high-voltage electrical line located within the Van Aken District. She explained that the line currently runs diagonally across the development site at Chagrin Boulevard and Warrensville Center Road and serves the new RTA substation. Relocating the line to the edge of the site is necessary to support future development opportunities. Director Braverman noted that both the City and RTA have been engaged in ongoing upgrades to the Van Aken transit area since 2014. As the owner and sole provider of the electrical service, FirstEnergy is the only entity able to perform this work. Funding for the relocation is available in the General Capital Fund for the Van Aken–Warrensville construction project. She recommended approval of the bid to allow the relocation to proceed.

Chair Williams invited questions or comments from the committee. She remarked on the positive progress in the district, referencing the recent dedication of new public art. There being no further discussion, Chair Williams requested a motion to award the single-source bid to FirstEnergy in the amount of \$280,841.62. Councilwoman Kaus moved to approve the request, and the motion was seconded by Citizen Member Hren. Motion passed unanimously with no opposition.

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Horseshoe Lake Doanbrook Restoration

Presented by William Gruber, Law Director

Director Gruber brought forth the Horseshoe Lake/Doan Brook Restoration contracts with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS D) and the City of Cleveland Heights. Director Gruber presented the item and noted that Assistant Director of Public Works Christian Maier and Public Works Director Ramona Lowery-Ferrell were also in attendance, along with representatives from NEORS D, including Matt Scharver, to assist with questions.

Director Gruber explained that two contracts are being presented related to the Horseshoe Lake Restoration Project, which has been discussed on multiple occasions. He reviewed the history of prior work at the site, including contracts previously awarded to remove portions of the Horseshoe Lake Dam to mitigate flood risks. The current contracts relate to the restoration phase of the project, which is being coordinated among the Cities of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights and NEORS D. NEORS D will manage and construct the project. The cities had previously entered into an agreement with NEORS D for project design, including various amenities that will be funded, constructed, and maintained by the cities.

Director Gruber stated that NEORS D intends to bid the project in early 2026, with construction anticipated to begin mid-2026. The cities will be billed for the cost of the jointly funded amenities, which will be split 65% by Shaker Heights and 35% by Cleveland Heights. The same proportional split will apply to the ongoing maintenance of the amenities and the broader Horseshoe Park area. This marks the first formal joint maintenance agreement between the two cities for their shared parklands.

Director Gruber explained that the maintenance responsibilities will evolve over time and may involve work by each city individually, jointly, or through contracted services. He also noted that the existing Horseshoe Park facilities, including pavilions and restrooms, will be included in the maintenance agreement.

Maps of the project area were reviewed, illustrating the division of the site between the two cities and distinguishing the NEORS D-maintained floodplain and wetland areas from the city-maintained amenities and upland park areas. NEORS D will maintain approximately 26 acres of floodplain and wetland areas in perpetuity.

Citizen Member Sammon asked how the 65/35 cost split was determined. Director Gruber reported that the allocation is based on the proportion of land area located in each city, with approximately 65% of the parkland and former lake bed in Shaker Heights and 35% in Cleveland Heights.

Citizen Member Schiavoni requested clarification regarding the project timeline and the anticipated timing of ongoing maintenance obligations, citing concerns about the workload impact on the already-busy Public Works Department. NEORSD representative Matt Scharver responded that bidding is anticipated in January 2026, with construction occurring in 2026–2027 and plantings completed in 2027. The bulk of city maintenance responsibilities would likely begin in 2028. He stated that the design intentionally considered long-term maintenance impacts to avoid overburdening the cities.

Director Gruber added that the maintenance cost allocations had been the subject of significant discussion between the cities and NEORSD. Public Works Director Lowery-Ferrell confirmed that the department is closely reviewing future workload concerns as the agreement moves forward.

Citizen Member Sammon also asked whether the City of Cleveland, which owns the park property and leases it to the two cities, would participate financially. Director Gruber stated that under the existing long-term lease, the two cities bear responsibility for park maintenance, and there is currently no indication that Cleveland intends to share in the cost. The lease renews in the 2040s, at which point terms could potentially be revisited.

Council members thanked the presenters and NEORSD representatives for their participation and information. The Chair confirmed that the questions raised had been addressed.

Councilwoman Kaus moved to approve the request, and the motion was seconded by Citizen Member Hren. Motion passed unanimously with no opposition.

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Linfield-Lomond SSO 11 Project - Contract Amendment with DLZ Ohio

Presented by Christian Maier, Assistant Director of Public Works

Chair Williams introduced the final agenda item regarding a proposed contract amendment with DLZ Ohio for the Linfield–Lomond SSO 11 Control Project. Assistant Director of Public Works Christian Maier presented the item and explained that DLZ has been providing engineering services for the project since 2021 under an engineering contract valued at approximately \$300,000, about half of which has been reimbursed through funding from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD). The objective of the project is to eliminate the sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) located at the Linfield–Lomond intersection and reduce the risk of

basement flooding in surrounding neighborhoods. Following the receipt of project funding, the construction contract was bid in fall 2024, with construction beginning in spring 2025. The total construction cost is \$8.3 million.

Assistant Director Maier stated that DLZ, as the design engineer of record, continues to play an essential role during construction, including reviewing shop drawings, responding to requests for information, and reviewing significant change orders. Although funding was initially allocated for these services, unforeseen conditions typical of underground construction have required additional engineering review. With project completion anticipated in summer 2026, the remaining work will continue to require DLZ's involvement. However, the existing purchase order does not contain sufficient funds to support ongoing engineering services at the necessary level. Therefore, staff requested that the Safety and Public Works Committee recommend approval of a contract amendment with DLZ Ohio in the amount of \$25,000 to continue providing construction-phase engineering support.

Chair Williams invited questions or comments from the committee, noting that this was a modest request within the scope of a large and important infrastructure project. No questions were raised. Chair Williams then requested a motion to recommend approval of the contract amendment to Council. The motion was made by Citizen Member Hren and seconded by Citizen Member Sammon. Motion passed unanimously, with no opposition.

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Miscellaneous Items

Chairwoman Williams shared that this would be her last meeting as Chair, and her final meeting as a member of the Committee, as she would be concluding her term on Council at the end of the year. She explained that beginning in January, the Committee would have a new Chair and new Council representatives. Chair Williams thanked the Committee members and staff for their collaboration, engagement, and thoughtful discussion over the years, noting that it had been a pleasure to work with everyone.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 am. The next meeting will be January 9, 2026.

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Respectfully submitted,

Anne Williams, Council Chairperson

Safety & Public Works Committee



Memorandum

To: Members of Safety & Public Works Committee
From: Ramona Lowery-Ferrell, Director, Public Works
cc: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Matt Carroll
Date: January 9, 2026
Re: **City Safety Assessment - Request to Enter into an Agreement with Partners**

In September 2025, Public Works distributed Requests for Proposals to consultants to provide services to develop and help implement a health & safety assessment of city facilities. The general scope of the project is for a consultant to provide safety professionals who can provide onsite assessments, develop manageable standard operating procedures and inspections forms that would be conducted by City staff bi-annually. The specific tasks stated in the RFP consisted of a Safety Assessment & Program Development, Training and Safety Inspections. The following buildings will be evaluated:

- City Hall (3400 Lee Road)
- Police Department (3355 Lee Road)
- Fire Station 1 (17000 Chagrin Blvd.)
- Fire Station 2 (2801 Warrensville Center Road)
- Thornton Recreation to include the Ice Rink & Pool (3301 Warrensville Center Road)
- Stephen Tubbs Jones Community Building (3450 Lee Road)
- Service Center (15600 Chagrin Blvd.)
- Shaker Family Center / Early Childhood Enrichment Center (19824 Sussex Road)
- Shaker Heights Development Corporation (3558 Lee Road)

Three consultants provided proposals in October. Using a quality-based selection process, staff from Public Works, the Fire Department and Building Department reviewed the proposals. The scoring criteria consisted of Project Manager, Strength / Experience of Assigned Staff, Firms Current Workload, the Consultant's Past Performance and References and Project Approach. The consultants and associated average scores are listed below:

Category	Points	Partners	Rizikon	SCR
Project Manager	10	9	6	9
Strength/Exp. Of Subconsultants	25	23	13	22

Firm's Workload	10	9	7	7
Past Performance	30	27	20	24
Project Approach	25	23	20	23
Total =		91	67	86

Based on the scoring, the review team and Public Works Director interviewed Partners on November 13. From the interview, it was clear that Partners had qualified staff, had provided similar services to other municipalities and was genuinely interested in help the City with this project. As such, Public Works requested a fee proposal. Partners submitted the fee proposal in the amount of \$45,250.00; upon review, their request was fair and reasonable.

We are seeking support from the Safety & Public Works Committee to enter into an agreement with Partners to perform a City Safety Assessment in the amount of \$45,250.00.



Memorandum

To: Members of the Safety and Public Works Committee

From: William M. Ondrey Gruber, Director of Law

cc: David E. Weiss, Mayor
Matthew P. Carroll, CAO

Date: January 9, 2026

Re: **Contract with Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD)
for Employment Services for the First CALL Program**

Summary

The Safety and Public Works Committee is requested to recommend to Council that it enact legislation authorizing a contract with the Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD) Council, a regional dispatch center in which the City is a member, to provide employment services for the City's First CALL Program, to replace the contract currently held with Recovery Resources.

Origin and Organization of First CALL Program

In 2021, the City created a pilot Mental Health Response Program (MHRP) by contracting with MetroHealth System's Recovery Resources, and in November 2022, the City hired a full-time Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW) to continue the work of the MHRP. The MHRP responded to eligible crisis calls simultaneously with, and separately from, first responders, engaged with persons in crisis and first responders to assist persons in crisis, and provided ongoing follow-up and referrals to other programs, to address any barriers to getting help, and to offer ongoing support.

In March 2023, in response to the success of the MHRP, the City, along with the cities of Cleveland Heights, Richmond Heights, South Euclid, and University Heights, decided to establish a program similar to the MHRP. These five cities had been working together since 2016, when they jointly formed the Heights Hillcrest Communications Center (HHCC), a regional dispatch center. HHCC merged into CVD in 2022.

On July 12, 2024, the five cities entered into an agreement to form the First Crisis Assistance and Local Linkage (CALL) Program, to be operated by the City of Shaker Heights on behalf of the five cities. The cities applied for and received a grant from the Department of Justice, COPS office, FY23 Implementing Crisis Intervention Teams - Community Police Development in the amount of \$399,846, as the first source of funding for the Program. The Program subsequently

received additional funding from Cuyahoga County, the Gund Foundation, the ADAMHS Board, and a SCIP Grant. The five cities also contributed funds to the Program.

Operation of the Program and Recovery Resources Agreement

To operate the Program, the City hired the Program Coordinator, Annette Wallace. The City then contracted with Recovery Resources (RR), which is a part of MetroHealth System, to hire and train staffing for the Program.

Pursuant to the authority of Ordinance 24-16, enacted on February 26, 2024, the City and RR entered into a two-year contract on May 15, 2024, through May 15, 2026. Under the contract, RR agreed to provide services, including the hiring of licensed mental health professionals and peer support specialists to work in the First CALL Program in the Program's five communities and at the joint dispatch center operated by CVD.

The City and RR entered into three contract amendments to allow for the hiring of qualified personnel, including a supervisory, for the Program at salaries consistent with the market, and to add a Mental Health Specialist position.

On July 23, 2024, the City entered into a contract with CVD in which CVD agreed to provide working space at the Cleveland Heights Center of CVD for one person to work as a mental health response support liaison between CVD and the Program.

Recovery Resources Services

Under the Agreement, RR has provided professional services for the Program, as directed by the Coordinator of the Program, Annette Wallace, a City employee. RR has handled the hiring, training and overseeing of licensed mental health professionals and peer support specialists that work exclusively on the Program. The Program Coordinator is involved in hiring and performance reviews. The RR Agreement spells out the standards for the professionals to be hired, and the maximum salary.

Clinicians and peer support specialists serve as mobile alternative response team members, responding in real-time to emergency calls placed to 911, with each two-member team assigned to two of the cities in the Program. The teams respond independently but simultaneously with first responders to crisis calls. The teams may also be asked to respond independently to a 911 call if deemed appropriate by dispatch and Program protocols.

The teams work with the Program Coordinator for clinical supervision, risk assessments, and daily task assignments. Also, one Clinician is intended to serve as an alternative response team member inside of the CVD joint dispatch center. All employees complete training agreed upon by the Program Coordinator and RR, including, but not limited to, risk assessment, motivational interviewing, de-escalation techniques, mental health disorders, addiction, first aid/CPR, trauma informed care, HIPAA, physical disabilities, stages of change, screening tools, documentation standards, and applicable policies/procedures.

The teams work collaboratively with police departments, fire departments, CVD, community agencies, and other city/community stakeholders. They complete post crisis follow-up phone

calls and/or in-person visits as assigned by the Program Coordinator to those referred/engaged in the Program. They also engage in preventative outreach to community members as assigned

RR also assists with related trainings for city first responders and the Program.

The City, with Program funding, provides the teams with vehicles, laptop computers, cell phones a clothing allowance to employees, office supplies, a Motorola Radio, and other supplies as needed.

Recovery Resources Transition to CVD

On October 2, 2025, it was announced that Recovery Resources would conclude all of its direct services and programming by December 31, 2025, and then go out of business entirely by summer 2026. The City then began considering the alternatives for continuing the employee hiring services for the Program.

As the five First CALL Program cities are all CVD members, and some other CVD members are interested in joining the Program, the City reached out to CVD to discuss the possibility of contracting with CVD for the same employment services currently provided by RR.

CVD has tentatively agreed to contract to provide the employment services for the First CALL Program, subject to approval by the CVD Council. The CVD Executive Committee will consider the proposed agreement on January 14, and the full CVD Council will consider it on January 27.

Request and Recommendation

It is recommended and requested that the Safety and Public Works Committee recommend to City Council that it should enact legislation authorizing the City, on behalf of the 5-city First CALL Program, to enter into an employment services agreement with CVD, substantially in the same form as the agreement with Recovery Resources.

The legislation would go to the Finance Committee on January 20, and then to City Council on January 26, the day before the CVD Council is expected to consider the agreement. Thus, the details of the agreement would be finalized in advance of the City Council meeting.



Memorandum

To: Members of Safety and Public Works Committee
From: Ramona Lowery-Ferrell, Director of Public Works
cc: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Matthew Carroll
Shannon Marlin, Public Works Building Superintendent
Date: January 9, 2026
Re: Backflow Preventer Inspection and Service Contract

The Cleveland Water Department's water distribution system provides water to the City of Cleveland and most of the communities around the Cleveland area. CWD draws its water from Lake Erie. CWD then filters, treats and tests the water before it enters the distribution system. This allows communities to conveniently receive reliable quality potable water for their use. Each of the Shaker Heights' city buildings receive their water supply from the Cleveland Water Department's distribution system.

There are many factors that help keep the water supply safe. One of these factors is water system integrity control. If pressure within the system reduces then water which is within buildings could flow backward and enter the distribution system. All commercial and industrial buildings are required by law to have a functioning backflow preventer valve. The backflow preventer stops water that is in the building from flowing back into the CWD system and taking any impurities with it. Commercial buildings also use backflow preventers on treated water loops, like boiler water heating loops, to keep chemically treated water from entering the building's potable water system. All of these backflow locations are designed and intended to keep the water supply and its users safe. By law, every backflow must be tested once each year to ensure that it is functioning properly. Any valves that fail testing must be repaired or replaced. The city's backflow preventer valves range in size from $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 6" in diameter. Valves that are over 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter are considered large valves. In total, there are 31 backflow preventer valves in the City's different facilities.

The City issues multi-year Requests for Quotes to ensure reasonable rates for the Backflow Preventer Maintenance Program. The contracted backflow maintenance program provider for the 2024 - 2027 period is Brakefire Inc dba Silco Fire and Security.

Many of the city building's backflow preventer valves are coming to the end of their useful life. In 2024, the city spent \$4,612.50 to test the backflow preventer valves. Thirteen of 28 valves failed testing. Eleven of the 13 valves were able to be repaired, but two valves required replacement. The total for testing, repairs and replacement was \$30,214.50. The average price to repair a small valve is \$1,731.50 and for a large valve

is \$7,122.50. The average price to replace a small valve is \$1,731.50 and for a large valve is \$15,352.00.

The testing cost remained the same for 2025, however 15 valves failed testing. Twelve valves were able to be repaired, but three valves needed replacement. The current costs of the 2025 backflow preventer valve repairs and replacements are \$43,259.00. There are additional valve repairs and replacements which will make the 2025 total \$62,188.00; this is over the \$50,000 threshold that would require formal competitive bidding.

We are requesting support from the Safety & Public Works committee to increase Brakefire Inc's contract from \$43,259.00 to \$62,188.00 for the 2025 Backflow Preventer Maintenance Program.