

President's Page:

Is Your City Poised to Collaborate with County Council?

Danita Love, NOCCA President and Highland Hills Council President

Our county is facing some unique challenges, some as a result of the national economy and the changing social conditions. It is my belief that our countywide priorities must involve job creation, retaining and attracting more businesses, economic development and strengthening and adequately funding our health and human services.

This is the time to bring life back to our region. Working collaboratively with fellow council members, legislators from communities within Cuyahoga County and legislators from our core city, Cleveland, as well as the private sector, will ensure that our region realizes the best outcome.

The new county council gives us the chance to work together with the objective of building a sustainable Cuyahoga County, bringing new businesses and jobs back to our region.

Municipal Topic:

What Is Function of the Port Authority in Ohio?

Steve Bennett, Associate Member and Past President, University Heights

In Ohio any municipal corporation, township, county, or combination thereof, may form a Port Authority, provided none of the them were included in a port authority in existence on December 16, 1964. The purpose of a port authority is twofold. First, a port authority is authorized to engage in activities that enhance, foster, aid, provide, or promote transportation, economic development, housing, recreation, education, governmental operations, culture, or research within its jurisdiction. Second, under the Ohio Constitution a port authority is authorized to borrow, issue bonds, tax with restrictions, and provide financial services through which, not from, entities within its jurisdiction may obtain financing, aid, and credit for economic development. The emphasis is clearly on economic development. Note though, that a port authority may be formed regardless of whether or not a lake or river port actually exists within a port authority's jurisdiction. There are over twenty port authorities with no water port.

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority (CCCPA) was established in 1968 by the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. It does not include airports as do Columbus and Toledo but it does have a lakefront port and commercially navigable river. The CCCPA Board of Directors consists of nine members. Six are appointed by the Mayor of Cleveland and three are now appointed by the Cuyahoga County Executive with the consent of the respective councils. Each serve a four year term. The Port Authority is a separate government entity. Its board does not report to the appointing authority. Annual compensation for a board member is \$4,800, VP and Sec \$8,000, Pres and Chair \$15,000. Their staff of twenty is headed by a President/CEO. The CCCPA mission is to "assist private industry in retaining and creating jobs by providing waterborne cargo transportation/services and by providing economic development facilitation through financing services and other development tools in partnership with local and state development agencies" (from Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority website). CCCPA projects and financial services range from its recently introduced plan for the lakefront port west of Cleveland Browns Stadium, to an action plan for fixing a crumbling bank on the Cuyahoga River, to a parking structure at University Square in University Heights.

Especially in this tough economic environment, NOCCA members should take the time to look over the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County website to become familiar with the CCCPA as a resource for economic development not only for their individual cities but for collaborative efforts amongst several cities.

Forum Wrap-Up:

Engaging Your City for Regional Prosperity!

Peggy Cleary, Secretary and Councilwoman, Fairview Park

Our February annual meeting focused on efforts to draw on state and local resources to develop a comprehensive, collaborative and sustainable regional economic development program to promote new job growth and development in Northeast Ohio.

Guest speakers, Ed Jerse, Director of Regional Collaboration for Cuyahoga County; Eileen Patton, Mayor of Fairview Park; and Nina Turner, Ohio State Senator offered strategies and models that advance the region's economic competitiveness.

Director Jerse spoke to the economic benefits of regional collaboration that supports economic development and job growth in the region.

Fairview Park Mayor Eileen Patton cited the collaborative effort between the city and board of education to contribute a portion of their income and property revenues to build and maintain a community recreation center. The collaboration between the city and board of education led to the creation of the Gemini Center, that is shared by city residents, municipal and school board personnel, physical education classes and the school swim team.

State Senator Nina Turner reported on a bill she co-sponsored in the Ohio Senate that would make changes to the Ohio Revised Code. The bill would allow municipalities broader authority to sell trash collection and other services to their suburban neighbors. Once this bill becomes law, municipalities will have broader authority to reduce expenditures by sharing services, reduce administrative costs and allocate diminishing resources more effectively. She noted the value of this legislation given the expected cuts in state funding to Ohio's municipalities, townships and villages.

NOCCA is committed to supporting efforts to develop a regional economic development program. NOCCA will partner with other organizations in the region to support the framework for a regional planning process that advances the region's economic competitiveness; enhances the economic stability of all jurisdictions in the region; minimizes the cost of infrastructure and energy consumption; and promotes the effective, efficient delivery of municipal services across municipal borders.

Membership Corner:

Partnering with NOCCA

Anthony Aiken, Member At-Large and Councilman, Oakwood Village

As communities struggle with their budget and try to pinch pennies for the coming year, please remember to include \$400 for your annual NOCCA membership. This is a very small price to pay for all of your council representatives to participate in the ONLY area-wide Council Association dedicated to the education, sharing and resolution problems for all of our communities. This year we have approximately 250 members representing about 34 area communities!

NOCCA's four quarterly forums offer current information and networking opportunities with fellow council people regarding topics such as the foreclosure crisis, infrastructure problems, tax sharing and regional zoning issues, to name a few. Our collaboration with Cuyahoga County Council and Administration, places our local communities in a positive position to help plan the future of our region.

As current members, we need you to stay involved, attend **AND** participate in our forums and encourage other community leaders to participate by joining NOCCA. We need everyone to work together for the benefit of the entire region!

PLAN TO ATTEND THE FALL FORUM

Thursday, September 15 2011
Cuyahoga County Council Chambers
1219 Ontario Street, First Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

How the Six Year County Property Reappraisals and the Appeals Process Impacts Municipal Budgets

Special Guest Speakers
of the Cuyahoga County Administrative Staff:

Wade Steen, Fiscal Officer
Marty Murphy, Board of Revision

Registration	6:30 p.m.
Program	7:00 p.m.
Speakers	7:10 p.m.
Q&A	8:00 p.m.

This forum will offer an overview of the system that will be used by Cuyahoga County to manage the reappraisal and appeal process of all properties and increase their understanding of its impact on property owners as well as municipal budgets.

Contact Linda Young at 216.548.7800 or via e-mail at lindacrossyoung19@att.net to make your reservation.

Parking is FREE in the Huntington garage, which is located off Ontario across from the Justice Center.

NOCCA E-NEWS

September 2011, #1

2011 NOCCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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This e-newsletter is published by the
Northeast Ohio City Council Association, Inc.
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Parma, OH 44134

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