



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Community Relations and Recreation Committee

February 9, 2026

5:00 PM

City Hall – Executive Conference Room

Community Relations, Office on Aging, Public Properties, Public Relations, Recreation Programs, School Relationships

Council members

Chair: Joe DeWitt-Foy | Vice Chair: Jim Posch | Member: Craig Cobb

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order/Roll Call
- 2) Communications & Community Relations Department 2026 Highlights
- 3) Allocation Process for City-led and Sponsored Events
- 4) Parks & Recreation Department 2026 Highlights
- 5) Youth Scholarship Fund
- 6) Legislation Referred to Committee

RESOLUTION NO. 031-2026(CRR): *First Reading.* An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement to lease an unoccupied room within the City's Recreation Center located at 1 Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118; finding that the room is not needed for public use; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

- 7) Other
- 8) Adjourn



Date: 1/30/2026

To: The Cleveland Heights City Council

From: The Division of Parks & Recreation

Subject: Lease agreement with the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland

Purpose Statement:

To request approval from the Cleveland Heights City Council to enter into a lease agreement for one (1) year, starting on January 1, 2026 with the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland. This lease – at the rate of \$200/month - is for the establishment of an east side location for the LGBT Community Center for the intention of providing programming and space for support groups. The lease would be reviewed for renewal after one-year. Room 8 at the Cleveland Heights Community Center is being reserved for this purpose.

The rental rate was established through conversations with the LGBT Community Center regarding what amount they were able to afford. This rate was the median cost in their affordability range.

In addition to the continuation of the Rainbow Pioneers group that currently meets at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, programming for the east side LGBT Center location would include:

- Open Arms – a support group for parents and caregivers of LGBTQ+ children.
- Pride Recovery – a peer-led group rooted in the SMART Recovery model, designed for LGBTQ+ persons navigating recovery.
- LGBTQ+ Community Support Group – a safe, affirming space to connect, share, and support one another.
- Queer Game Nights & Queer Craft Nights – fun, welcoming spaces to build community and find joy together.
- Advocacy Events on the East Side – gatherings centered on education, empowerment, and visibility for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities.

All of these programs are free and open to LGBTQ+ community members and allies—no membership or fees would be required.

With national funding for LGBTQ+ grants and support services being cut or cancelled – particularly in regards to LGBTQ+ youth – this satellite center is particularly needed for our community at this time.

This expansion is part of the LGBT Center's broader commitment to breaking down barriers and ensuring that LGBTQ+ and BIPOC persons on the East Side have access to the same affirming programs that have been so meaningful at our West Side location. Community members have been asking for these opportunities, and we're excited to make them more accessible and meet them where they are.

Is this legislation recurring: Yes: _____ No: X

Is emergency language necessary: Yes: X No: _____

If yes, why? Our goal is to enter into an agreement with the LGBT Community Center in a timely manner so the Center can be ready to occupy the space on January 1, 2025. Setting up the space for use and planning programming would need to take place before the lease officially begin.

Is passage on first reading necessary: Yes: _____ No: X

If yes, why?

If funding is required, is it already budgeted for? N/A Yes: _____ No: _____

If not already budgeted for, where will funding come from? No funding is needed for this project.

Proposed: 02/02/2026

ORDINANCE NO. 031-2026(CRR), *First Reading*

By Mayor Petras

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement to lease an unoccupied room within the City's Recreation Center located at 1 Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118; finding that room is not needed for public use; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, Room 8 of the City's Recreation Center is currently unoccupied and not used for the normal operation of the Recreation Center;

WHEREAS, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center of Greater Cleveland ("Community Center") has proposed leasing Room 8 from the City for the purpose of providing services to the community; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to lease Room 8 to the Community Center for the purposes described herein.

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

SECTION 1. This Council hereby determines that Room 8 of the City's Recreation Center is not needed for public use at this time and is not expected to be needed for public use during the next twelve (12) months. and that leasing it for the purpose described herein would serve the interests of the City.

SECTION 2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement for, and all related documents necessary to, lease Room 8 of the Recreation Center to the Community Center for the purpose of providing services to the community. The lease shall be for a term of twelve (12) months commencing with a rental fee of Two Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$200.00) per month. The lease agreement and any related documents shall be approved as to form, and contain any provisions deemed necessary or advisable, by the Director of Law.

SECTION 3. It is found and determined 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 of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. 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

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newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights, or by posting the full text of this Ordinance to the City of Cleveland Heights website.

SECTION 5. It is necessary that this Ordinance 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 afford the Community Center sufficient time to set up the space for use and adjust programming in accordance with the lease requirements before commencing operations. Wherefore, provided it 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.

TONY CUDA
President of Council

ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED:

Presented to Mayor: _____ Approved: _____

JIM PETRAS
Mayor