



City of Kent
Wednesday, October 5, 2022
City Council Committee Meetings
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

At 06:00 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the Democracy Day Public Hearing and City Council Committee Meetings to order.

Present: Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. Robin Turner

Also Present: Mr. Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Bill Myers, Fire Chief; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Absent: Ms. Tracy Wallach

MOTION TO EXCUSE MS. WALLACH MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Mayor Fiala welcomed everyone to the Democracy Day public hearing and asked Clerk Wilkens if there was anyone signed in to speak on the topic. Ms. Wilkens called the first speaker, Mr. Lee Brooker to speak.

Mr. Brooker of Hudson Road, Kent, thanked Council for holding a discussion on big money influence and elections. He also thanked the City for reminding Congress that the voters in the city of Kent have requested a Constitutional amendment saying that corporations are not people and that money is not speech. He thanked Council for providing the minutes to Congress.

Ms. Wilkens called Ms. MaryJane Stone to speak next. Ms. Stone spoke on the topic of light pollution and read from a prepared statement. **(Attachment #1)**

Ms. Wilkens called Mr. Greg Coleridge to speak next. Mr. Coleridge spoke on the topic of abolishing corporate constitutional rights and money as speech. He read from a prepared statement **(Attachment #2)**

There were no further citizens signed in. Mayor Fiala said the comments presented tonight will be sent to our state political leaders and thanked everyone for attending.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

At 06:22 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the City Council Committee Meetings to order.

Community Development Committee

Chair Kuhar opened the Community Development Committee meeting and introduced the first topic: Updated to Design Guidelines.

Update to Design Guidelines

Ms. Bridget Susel reminded Council of the previous work with the consultants, who had returned to finish the presentation they began a few months ago. Alisa Duggey Rogers stated that tonight's slide deck was large and asked Council to allow her to get through the presentation and to save questions for the end.

She began the powerpoint (**Attachment #3**) by stating that we are in phase one of the project, the information gathering phase. In phase 2 they will draft standards and guidelines and in phase 3 those will be presented to Council.

Ms. Duggey Rogers covered the basics of urban design on slides four, five and six, stating the art of designing the public environment of a city, including the interface between private properties and the public environment. We are proposing shifting the paradigm to focus on urban design and the public realm. It is the design of the public realm. It is comprised of more than just independent buildings. We have to think carefully about how the buildings interface. She continued by going in depth about what the public realm does. People need to feel comfortable and they need to be active.

Ms. Duggey Rogers then went into the goals of the existing design guidelines (slides ten and eleven). During the public sessions, all of the goals were listed and by and large everyone agreed except for number 2 (Ensure that visual identity remains cohesive). She asked if the focus on the public realm changes things.

She said the existing goals can be supplemented by the Design Principles shown on the screen (slide 13). She went through pictures of downtown Kent and places the public felt identified Kent (slides 14-15) She said she thinks #2 could be changed to : ensure that visual identity creates a sense of place.

Slide 17 reviewed the difference between design guidelines and design standards. Standards are objective criteria and are mandatory, whereas guidelines guide the conversation but are not mandatory.

Slides 19- 27 cover the Intent, Standards, and Guidelines for the Uses, Building Placement, Transparency of Storefront Design and Building Materials

Ms. Duggey Rogers stated they were writing a report on phase one and getting that to Council and concluding phase one of the project. She said two key things to think about are what we think of this proposed paradigm shift to thinking about Urban Design and the Public Realm and if they found the examples helpful.

Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish began by stating that she did find this helpful to conceive of things in a different way. She likes to think of how it uses space and gives it a sense of place. She asked about transparency in the building- especially the photo of Huntington Bank. She asked about business owners putting offices on the first floor.

Ms. Duggey Rogers stated that at certain intersections you have to have something

besides offices. Other communities say they don't want to constrain themselves. These standards and guidelines can be tailored to Kent. She explained that an arcade would be where you have a cover and is much more prevalent in other parts of the country where the storefronts are set back from the first and second floor and you walk by under a covered area.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if you could see into the bank and see people working if that would be considered a more transparent kind of blended use. Ms. Duggey Rogers said you need to think seriously from a policy level where you want retail experience and if you even think it's necessary. You may think it's not necessary at all. She said depending on what you want to see going in on the inside is where thought will need to be put into thinking about which streets are most important.

Mr. Ferrara asked how you deal with theory and reality. He asked if we should create a standard that says we'd like to have transparency as a guideline, but a business doesn't want to do that. Are we going to turn them away because they don't meet the guidelines?

Ms. Duggey Rogers replied that's why she said we have to think tactically and strategically about where you want transparency. She said in the appeals process, whoever is reviewing them should be allowed to give modifications. Ms. Susel stated that we already have standards and the requirement is setbacks in the CD district and you can't have windows tinted, so we are operating under those standards every day with every developer that comes in. What we are trying to do now is to try to decide what we want as a guideline versus what we have in the zoning code. What happened is the guidelines that have been adopted are guidelines that have been codified so you are assigning subjective guidelines to statutory authorities, and that has resulted in many conflicts and challenges. We now need to figure out which of those guidelines we want to reflect in our community, so the standards are already there for the developers we talk to.

Mr. Ferrara then asked if we failed with the design of the police station, but said she didn't have to answer that question. She thanked him for not making her answer that question.

Ms. Duggey Rogers then asked about the term "diversity in the public realm" and what they didn't like about using that term. She said if they didn't like the idea of a diverse public walkway, to think about it as diverse would be the opposite of cohesive. It would be uniqueness. Those are just examples of ways to start thinking differently. Mr. Sidoti asked if the word 'contrast' would be better. She said no, I don't think we want to use the word contrast, but what we are attempting to say with that statement is that they do not all have to look alike. She said she understands that words connote things to people and we have to think about that.

Ms. Rosenberg asked how we balance the public realm concept with the rights of private property. She said she noticed by standards there is nothing there to respect the private property owner. She also thought it was remarkable that those attending the work session in July agreed on almost everything they find important, except for one.

Ms. Duggey Rogers said those were goals and are at a theoretical level right now, so we have to consider the goals of many. It was very telling that many of the existing goals were respected by and liked by the people attending the workshop. She added that if it had come back differently, it would have made for a much longer and more difficult conversation with Council.

Mr. Sidoti stated he noticed there was no mention of the word "preservation". He added that those places identified as distinctive Kent were older established buildings and may be reflective of a greater time. He asked if there is any room for developing the standards and guidelines for using the term preservation.

Ms. Susel answered by saying the city has a preservation ordinance that allows for a property owner to become designated as a local or state historic building. She added when Kent attempted to establish a historic district, which was after they already codified the guidelines, none of the property owners in that district wanted it. By having the historic preservation ordinance separate and distinct, anyone who wants to seek historic preservation has that opportunity without putting any restrictions or limitations on property owners that do not. She said she prefers ordinances and guidelines that actually match what we've been doing versus the challenges the Community Development department has been juggling for ten years.

Mr. Sidoti asked if somewhere the guidelines address the concept of preservation. Ms. Susel said preservation should be addressed in the preservation ordinance and if a property owner is interested in following that historic preservation, they can do so. She said they do not want to go about reflecting or mentioning historic preservation in the guidelines and definitely not in the standards.

Ms. Susel stated that one of the cohesive issues that has come up repeatedly in the Planning Commission and the Architecture Review Board is mass and size. Many issues in regards to Franklin Ave. and putting six-story buildings next to two stories. One of the Planning Commission members pointed out that when you look at Main Street, the hotel was always six stories higher than the two stories. That is what we are trying to point out why you can have a downtown that has variety and diversity and different approaches to the mass and the building structure, because everything on the block has to be two stories only.

Mr. Ruller mentioned there had been a lot of internal dialogue and help from consultants early on when the downtown was being redeveloped. All the principles used for our share of the public realm are very much in line with what is being talked about here tonight. One thing that is important is that when you really dig into the Kent "brand", what you hear a lot is that you have a unique personality that is human centered. Those are really high value points for visitors, residents and tourists. We have struggled with how you have cohesion but still have personality. He added they really do not want to lose our personality by making everything so homogeneous, because that is what distinguishes us from everyone else. Kent has a very diverse population. He said people don't come back to Kent because of its brick and mortar, but rather its personality.

Ms. Rosenberg responded to the questions asked of them, stating she likes the paradigm shift and how it was stated. She liked the way it moved the discussion forward. She thought the examples were helpful and offered another example of defining office space and added that if someone wanted to come into Acorn Alley and turn that into an entire office building, we have a guideline that prohibits something like this on Main Street. Mrs. Duggey Rogers said we are currently working at a higher level and will come back to Council in the future and suggest to Council where we think those intersections are so important that they need to have a higher level of choices made. She added that the design guidelines will most likely not be the same throughout the city. She does not anticipate things being the same across all levels, but there will be differences based on key intersections and key blocks and streets.

Mr. Turner asked about Mr. Ferrara's concern about the use of the word 'diverse' and wanted to get an answer from his point of view about what he meant. Mr. Ferrara answered that we try to manufacture diversity in building design and that it felt artificial. You have to let it evolve naturally with regards to the differences between buildings. He said he would talk to Mr. Turner after the meeting.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked how we define downtown. In regards to the Overlay District, she asked if these are just applicable to the downtown as defined today. Ms. Duggey Rogers replied that would be another key policy choice. She added the existing Overlay District is

downtown as well as west of the river. Initial discussions occurred back in July about whether the standards should apply only in the areas zoned CD, which is your commercial downtown district. This will be another policy choice that will need to be made. We could not get to all of that tonight and limited this discussion to show you what the paradigm shift is. That is one of the large policy choices of whether Kent needs to narrow its district and not include the area west of the river.

Ms. Susel added that the addition of the term "Overlay District" was added when they were trying to decide if they wanted a historic district. The configuration of the buildings that were included was based on what was considered historic at that time. That is the other thing we have to remember. We call it the overlay, but that was based on the original design guidelines that were done for Main Street Kent on the premise that there was going to be a historic district, so even that needed to be evaluated. It also included many residential properties, and we have never in practice applied it to residential areas. The district didn't align with the guidelines and the guidelines were codified, so it's been a challenge to unbuckle. We need to change the use of some terms and decide on what area we want to apply this to.

Mr. Sidoti asked if it would be possible to get rid of the term "Overlay District" and just designate that CD district as where the standards and guidelines would apply. Ms. Susel said yes, and that the application to the CD district is logical in identifying standards that would apply to a street level approach and would expand upon this Urban Realm we are trying to make where people would come and want to stay. The overlay district as a concept really doesn't apply if you move things to standards and set guidelines for this downtown district.

Mr. Sidoti asked if this would change the responsibilities of the ARB. Ms. Susel said that is another thing that would need to be looked at. The ARB was created for a process that is unbundled, then we will have to look at that. She said once we get what we want codified as standards and come up with guidelines, then the next step would be to take a look at the ARB. She said preservation should be reviewed by the Committee on Design and Preservation, because that is what the Certified Local Government requirement is for the State of Ohio.

Mr. Sidoti said it was important to ask these questions to get information out so that people hear the complexities of what we're trying to do in our city collectively. Ms. Susel added, "we have to do what's best to promote the community as a whole going forward and put the authority for certain realms where they belong."

Mr. Kuhar thanked the consulting group and added he is looking forward to future discussions.

KERAMIDA Consultants for City's Climate Action and Response Plan

The Keramida Consultants provided a PowerPoint presentation covering their qualifications and the steps they are taking to develop a Climate Action Plan for the City of Kent.

Mr. McCreary, Senior Sustainability Manager at Keramida, introduced many people at the company working on research and also those present at this evening's presentation. He introduced his team, which included himself and Emilee Brown, the Sustainability Analyst on the project. Their goal is to introduce greenhouse gas reduction strategies that are in line with the 2015 Paris Climate Accord. He reviewed terms such as greenhouse gas reductions, sustainability and climate action. Their scope of work is climate action and that is specifically looking at greenhouse gas emissions. He added that this plan needs to be actionable and implemented in the community. They will not be coming in and telling

everyone what to do. Kent has a long record of environmental advocacy and action, so they are here to learn from Kent and shine a light on all of the amazing work already done, and frame action moving forward. The action is going to be based on science. This action plan will allow Kent to thrive in an ever changing world. The plan addresses both resilience and mitigation.

In regards to benchmarking, they are reviewing what other towns and communities are doing in climate action both in Ohio and the midwest- Toledo, Athens, Oberlin, Bloomington, Lincoln. They will be looking at both what they are doing and what they are not doing.

The next step of the process is community engagement. This is the step they are on right now, meeting with as many stakeholders in the community to get an idea about what will work for Kent and to be excited about doing it. A community event is going to be held on October 6, 2022.

Mr. McCreary next reviewed their Mitigation Matrix, which is where technical work begins to make recommendations and put data behind them. It's not just a scatter plot. There is a lot that goes into this.

Finally, there is the feasibility study, which you can think of as another layer of trouble shooting. They want to make sure it is feasible from a labor perspective and work with those carrying out the recommendation.

Next Steps

Keramida will begin taking input from community engagement and combine it with technical expertise and will bring back the feasibility study and create the plan and bring it back to Kent.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she is really excited about this and that we are taking this seriously. She is a little disappointed that she just heard about this and is not able to attend the meeting tomorrow night. She is concerned about not being able to attend and wants to connect with people who might not be able to connect. Bridget Susel recommended she get information to Ms. Susel and Patti Long. She enforced the idea that this is a climate action plan, not the broad term of sustainability.

Mr. Turner asked about outreach and the educational component to the residents of the community. Mr. McCreary stated that education will be a key area addressed and will be integrated into the strategies of the why and the benefits of it.

Mr. Turner asked about the measurability and how success would be identified and communicated to the community. Mr. McCreary clarified if he was asking what the measurables are for the project. The measurements will be in metric tons of CO2 equivalent. They will determine a baseline and continually update the baseline. He said it varies based on information that is available. Through utility bills, we can evaluate greenhouse gas inventories. They use an emission factor based on grill capacity.

Mr. McCreary said they are very cognizant of needing to explain these technical terms to someone who knows little about the subject and thanked the Council for the time to introduce themselves.

Committee of the Whole

Board and Commission Interviews

Clerk Wilkens introduced Jeff Forstner who was here to interview for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Forstner introduced himself as a Kent resident who wished to get more involved in the community. He has an MBA and is familiar with Robert's Rules of Order as a board member for his church. He would like to see the Kent community develop and has a vested interest in this.

Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish thanked Mr. Forstner for stepping up and applying. She asked what his relationship was with rental housing and if he had any particular attitude towards rental housing in the city of Kent.

Mr. Forstner said he is currently renting a house for his son. He said it is something that is important to keep control over the rentals for college students and understand first hand that you know the importance of being in the right zone and having good control.

Ms. Rosenberg asked what it was specifically about the Board of Zoning Appeals that appealed to him. He said he would like to learn more about the process and wants to help the committee. He has not had any experience with this board.

The next applicant was Laura Scarnecchia, applying for the Board of Zoning Appeals. She introduced herself as being a resident of Kent who resides on Vine Street. She is a 24-year Kent resident, having purchased her house when she was in graduate school with the intent of selling it as an investment when she graduated. By watching the town revitalize and grow, after ten years she is still there, remodeling her house. She has learned a lot about zoning and permits and has a bit of a passion for zoning. She has attended a couple of zoning meetings. She just came off a year of Leadership Portage County and loved it so much that she wants to contribute to the town and stay there.

Ms. Roseberg asked if she had any experience working on a board of zoning appeals. She said she did not.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked the same question about rental housing and Ms. Scarnecchia said she was aware that it does not necessarily fall under the purview of the BZA, but as a home owner she has balanced the concern of balancing family-friendly occupancies along with student housing. She said the city has made leaps and strides as far as attracting home owners and keeping families here.

Mayor Fiala said they would vote on appointments at the meeting on October 19, 2022 and thanked everyone for applying.

City Hall Project Update

Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Director, came to the podium wearing a construction hard hat. She said they are steadily making progress on this project. She said most of the walls that will need concrete are up. She didn't realize how small the site was until they started building. Retaining walls have been placed, put up and poured. We will work with structural engineers on backfilling and waterproofing of the council chambers to try to keep that part dry. The elevator is almost all completed. Epic Steel asked if we wanted to be a part of a topping out ceremony for us and community members to sign. That will then be the last piece of steel placed and she is really excited about this.

There were no questions from the audience or from Council and Mayor Fiala thanked Ms. Baker for the updates.

Proposed Sustainability Part-Time Position

Mr. Ruller said there have been conversations with Kent State University about continuing to devote attention to sustainability and with the increase in action comes an increase in workload for staff. He said it is also an opportunity to continue the tradition of partnering with KSU. He said they feel like they need boots on the street with the climate action plan. They are trying to have a shared position with this person being an employee of the university who would invoice the City for their share.

Ms. Susel discussed the amount of work and effort that went into the Greenhouse Gas inventory. She added that this new position will address behavioral change and education. A lot of this will be to incentivize people to do things.

Ms. Gwen Rosenberg asked about funds with part-time positions and when speaking with residents, she needed to know what the return is on this investment. Ms. Susel discussed the CDBG low income incentives. She is in need of someone to structure new programs, finance them, make sure they follow all the rules and then help residents through the process. This is something that low-income households will definitely benefit from. They will be seeking grants from things such as charging stations. Kent will work with KSU through this shared position.

Mr. Ruller added this will start as a part time position for one year and if, after that year, everybody feels like it is not being used, that will be the end of it. We are giving ourselves options, but he has a feeling this will build on its own.

Ms. Susel says this is really technical and we need someone who can look at plans and look at how we can get a program from implementation to success.

Mayor Fiala asked about the job description if it would be 50/50 Kent State. Mr. Ruller said the job description was in the packet. The employee will work at Kent State University and half of their time would be for the City of Kent, and they will have KSU benefits.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked about KSU's Office of Sustainability and if they saw a need for an additional person. Melanie Knowles, Sustainability Manager at Kent State University, said she is full time and is looking forward to having another half-time person to help with initiatives. They are trying to make the most of the time put into sustainability and their own climate action plan. We will come out of this with a lot of action items and to have someone who can work on education and outreach will be great.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE PROPOSED SUSTAINABILITY PART-TIME POSITION MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Ms Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said it is fabulous that we are doing this at the same time as developing an action plan. She is grateful that the city staff and the university have come forward with this and it will be great for our region.

Ms. Rosenberg said initially she was a little skeptical about the position, but from what she is hearing, there is a tremendous amount of opportunity in this growing field and making this investment now is a great step in the direction of securing our low income residents so they can get the assistance they need and also addressing what's happening with the environment.

Mr. Turner said it is outstanding that the university and the city are seeing things in the same way and identifying goals and objectives and that it is kind of a symbiotic that we can come together to make a tremendous difference down the road. He commended the university for being willing to work jointly on just both other categories and aspects that we have to deal with as a community, and so, would wholeheartedly support what we're doing

here.

Health and Public Safety Committee

Medicare for All

Ms. Joan Seidel came to the podium to introduce the next topic and read from a prepared statement (**Attachment #4**)

Mr. Max Brockwell came to the podium and thanked Council for the time to speak about healthcare and thanked Joan Seidel and the Health Department for their help with this. He said there was a lot to get to so he would dive right into the presentation (**Attachment 5**)

Slide One: Mr. Brockwell reviewed the outline for their talk. He said they will cover why it is important for Kent to pass this resolution, the benefits of Medicare for All and then summarize and give time for questions and counter arguments.

Slide Two: He reviewed how changes in US law typically start at the local level to help build a larger coalition

Slide Three: The next slide gives an overview of national changes that began with local resolutions, such as the 17th Amendment, the Nuclear Freeze Campaign and the Women's Suffrage Movement.

Slide Four: He reviewed the cities in Ohio which have already passed a resolution and those cities which have efforts underway.

Slide Five: Reviewed the many medical societies and organizations that support single-payer healthcare

Slide Six: Map of all campaigns nationwide launching Medicare for All

Slide Seven: Part Two- The Vision and Benefits of Medicare for All

Slide Eight: Covered the details of what is in the Med-For-All Bill

Slide Nine: Expansion of Medicare to cover all services, eliminate out of pocket expenses and is truly universal

Slide Ten: Improved and Expanded Medicare for All

Slide Eleven: Discussed the economic side of the bill

Slide Twelve: Provided a Summary of the Medicare for All Act

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if Medicare for All would have an impact on physician's pay. They responded it would, and it is a common myth that is brought up a lot. The Congressional Budget Office, which is a nonpartisan Federal Agency that works through every piece of legislation that comes through Congress and does budget analysis. They are estimating that providers would increase their revenue by five to nine percent. He said there would also be a lot less time for physicians negotiating with insurance companies or hiring billing clerks.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if the administrative costs would be reduced. They showed information of a hospital system's administrative costs, having a total of 957 beds throughout their entire system but employing 1600 billing clerks. That is where the biggest burden comes from, trying to navigate all of the health insurance plans that are out there.

Mr. Sidoti asked what would happen to those 1600 billing clerk jobs if there is a single-payer healthcare system. Part of the roll out plan would enable those people to have five years of full financial pay. He said part of the bill states those people would get preferential hiring if there were openings for positions.

Both Mr. Kuhar and Mr. Ferrara voiced concerns over the Medicare for All Bill and said they are not in support of the resolution. Mr. Kuhar knew a hospital administrator at University Hospitals that he had discussed this with, and hopes to have him come to the next meeting to explain his reasons as to why this is not a good idea. Mr. Ferrara said he

had heard of situations where care is delayed and people have to wait more than six months to receive an MRI.

Ms. Rosenberg voiced concerns and issues she has run into as a small business owner and is in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Turner voiced his concerns about affordability and receipt of healthcare for the benefit of all. He said we are all in this together.

Mr. Amrhein asked if there were any comments from the audience.

Mr. Jeff Maciano from Mentor, Ohio said this is really about eliminating waste in the healthcare system to free up doctors to be able to see more patients.

MOTION TO PASS A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE FOR ALL MADE BY Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, SECONDED by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 6-2-0.

Land Use Committee

Repeal and Sequencing of Annexation Legislation

Mr. Ferrara opened up the Land Use Committee Meeting at 8:48 p.m. He introduced Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director.

Ms. Hope Jones said that at the last meeting the annexation ordinance was passed out of order. She said she needed two motions, one to rescind ordinance 2022-098 and then one to approve accepting the land.

MOTION TO REPEAL 2022-098 MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACCEPTING ACREAGE FROM FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

There were no questions from Council or from the audience and the Land Use Committee adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

Hudson Road Resurfacing Agreement and OPWC Submittal

Mr. Bowling said they were contacted six weeks ago by the Portage County Engineers Office that Franklin Township would like to do a joint project to resurface Hudson Road. We are requesting approval to submit to OPWC with the township and execute a cooperative agreement.

Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish asked if bike lanes would be added all the way to the bike trailhead. Mr. Bowling said it would go to Judson Road. This is phase 5. Ms. Shaffer Bish said that is a very dangerous stretch and should help.

There were no further questions from Council and no questions from the audience.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE HUDSON ROAD RESURFACING AGREEMENT AND OPWC

SUBMITTAL MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, **SECONDED** by Mr. Jack Amrhein and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

ODOT - Municipal Bridge Inspection Renewal

Mr. Bowling said this is a renewal to perform our bridge inspections. This began in 2014.

There were no questions from Council nor the audience.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ODOT - MUNICIPAL BRIDGE INSPECTION RENEWAL MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, **SECONDED** by Mr. John Kuhar and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

That concluded the Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities Committee.

Finance Committee

Budget Appropriation Amendment

Ms. Rhonda Hall came before Council to request their approval for this month's budget appropriations.

There were no questions from Council or the audience.

MOTION TO BUDGET APPROPRIATION AMENDMENT MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, **SECONDED** by Mr. Jack Amrhein and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Executive Session

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AND EMPLOYEE EVALUATION AND COMPENSATION AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, **SECONDED** by Mr. Roger Sidoti and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

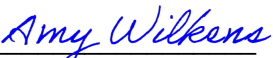
Present: Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Garret Ferrara, Robin Turner

Absent: Ms. Tracy Wallach

MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, **SECONDED** by Mr. John Kuhar and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE an Employee receiving a one-time reconciliation of deferred compensation which will be a total amount from 2008 to 2022 equal to the percentage increase of Employee's salary each of those years **MADE BY** Mr. Garret Ferrara, **SECONDED** by Mr. Jack Amrhein and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

The Committee Meetings adjourned at 9:45 p.m.



Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

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Billion annually on
unnecessary
lighting,

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- PC Amber
- Dimmable
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Changes made
NOW will last
20 years.

80% of Americans
cannot see the
Milky Way.

Brighter
does not =
safer

Millions of birds die
yearly by flying into
needlessly illuminated
buildings.

Overlighting is detrimental to
plant and animal life, disrupts
hunting/feeding, migration
and nesting, pollination
= species die-off.

Exposure puts
humans at risk for
cancer and other
diseases.

Lighting in the BLUE
spectrum interrupts
our circadian rhythm
and hormones.

= 875 million
trees every year.

Releasing 21
million tons of
CO₂ a year,

Light Pollution is
inappropriate or excessive
use of artificial light,
resulting in glare, skyglow,
and light trespass.

Light Pollution is a
solvable
environmental
crisis.

 END CORPORATE RULE. LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY.
MOVE TO AMEND

KENT DEMOCRACY DAY TESTIMONY

Greg Coleridge, Co-Director, Move to Amend

October 5, 2022

I'm Greg Coleridge, Co-Director of the national Move to Amend campaign.

There is a Chinese proverb that says, *"Unless we change direction, we are likely to end up where we are going."*

If we're honest with ourselves about the direction of what little democracy we have, which truthfully was never as much as it should have been from day one in our country, then where we're headed is a monarchy, plutocracy and corpocracy – not to mention an autocracy – all rolled into one.

There is no single cause for this, but major factors are the more than century-long series of bizarre Supreme Court decisions anointing corporations with constitutional rights – corporate personhood some call it – and decades-long series of bizarre Supreme Court decisions anointing money in elections as equal to First Amendment-protected "free speech."

Abolishing corporate constitutional rights and money as speech are the two central components of HJR48, the We the People Amendment – now supported by 95 U.S. Representatives – including Tim Ryan – more than 650 organizations and over 700 communities that enacted either a municipal resolution or passed, like Kent, a citizen-driven ballot initiative.

The leadership of this national effort has come from the bottom-up – from people like Bill Wilen, Lee Brooker and others in Kent who educated, advocated and organized for passing the initiative calling on Congress to pass HJR48.

But people like you, elected officials – both individually and collectively – have an extremely important role – if you so choose – to complement this effort.

Here are six actions you can take to move this movement forward:

1. Publicly call out any “pay-to-play” instances – in which developers or others who want something in Kent donate (or, more accurately, invest) to political campaigns of one or more councilpersons just before or after they receive what they want.
2. Don’t be intimidated to pass ordinances that protect the health, safety or welfare of Kent residents by corporate threats that they will preempt the law by going to the state legislature or to court claiming their corporate constitutional so-called “rights” have been violated.
3. Encourage council colleagues you know in Ravenna and/or any other communities in Portage County and beyond to join the hundreds of other communities that have passed resolutions calling for abolishing money as free speech and corporate constitutional rights. Sample resolutions in support of the We the People Amendment are at <https://www.movetoamend.org/pass-local-resolution>
4. Introduce a resolution supporting passage of HJR48 to your County political party.
5. If Tim Ryan wins his race, pass a resolution encouraging him to introduce HJR48 in the U.S. Senate – since he already cosponsored the measure in the House.
6. Finally, personally, don’t accept large individual contributions and corporate PAC funds for your political campaigns. I realize that under the current political reality, it takes an increasing amount of money to run and the threat of so-called “independent” funding from Super PACs and dark money groups is real, but commit to working at collecting smaller donations from more individuals as much as you can – while at the same time calling for passing HJR48.

It’s time to abolish the corrupting influence of big money in elections – which is legalized bribery – and corporate rule. It’s a major way to change direction before we end up where we are headed.

Feel free to contact me at greg@movetoamend.org for any questions or ways I can assist any of you individually or Kent City Council collectively.

Thank you.

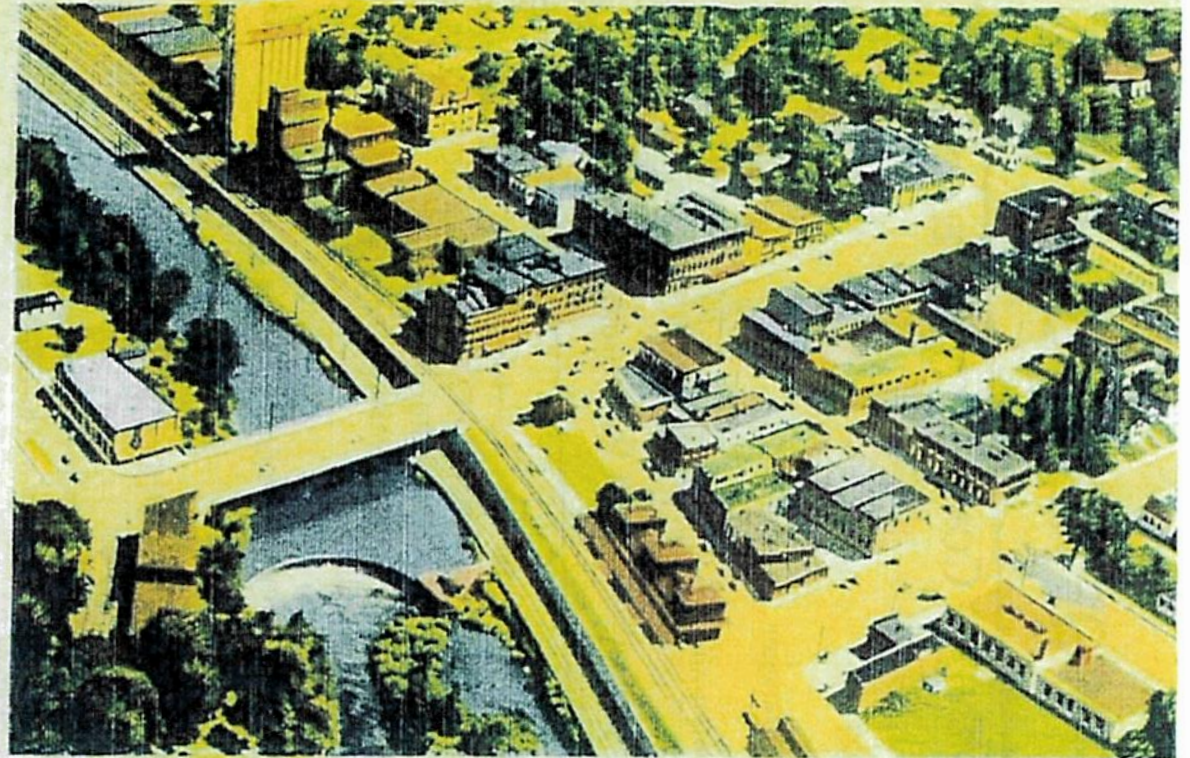
UPDATE TO DESIGN GUIDELINES

Kent, OH

10/5/2022



Aerial View of Business District, Kent, Ohio



ALISA DUFFEY ROGERS, AICP

KRIS HOPKINS, FAICP



LEADING THROUGH
the next 100 years





PHASE 1

Comprehensive evaluation of relevant planning documents and the existing built environment

PHASE 2

Develop the substance of the revised design guidelines, based on Phase 1

PHASE 3

Provide the revised Design Guidelines suitable for adoption

PROCESS FOR UPDATING THE DESIGN GUIDELINES

WHAT IS URBAN DESIGN?



6



THE ART OF DESIGNING
THE PUBLIC
ENVIRONMENT OF A
CITY, INCLUDING THE
INTERFACE BETWEEN
PRIVATE PROPERTIES AND
THE PUBLIC
ENVIRONMENT

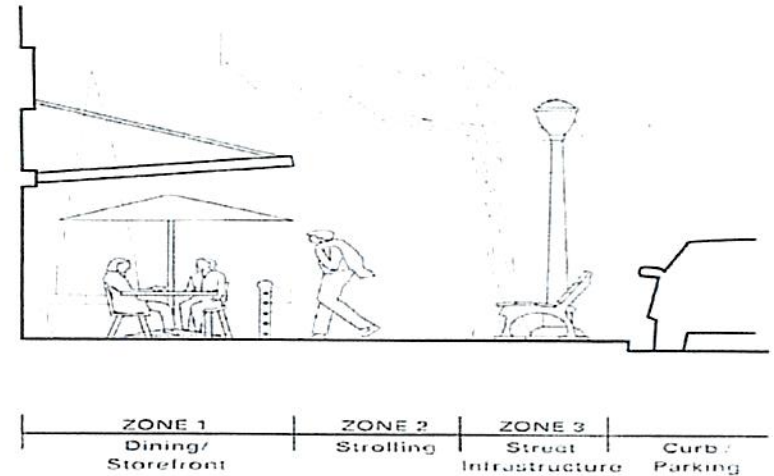


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PUBLIC
REALM;
MORE THAN
INDIVIDUAL
BUILDINGS

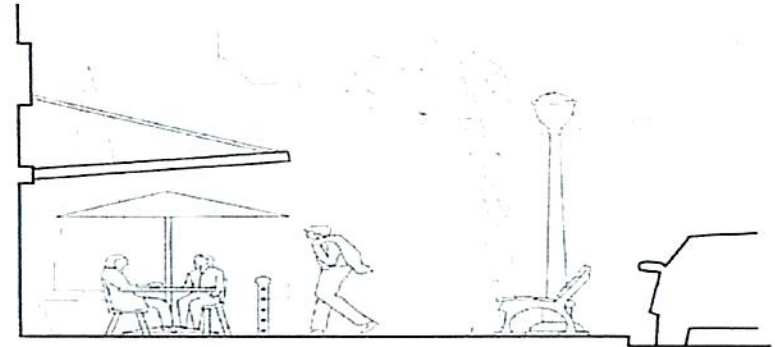
PACIFIC EAST Japanese & Malaysian Restaurant

Public Realm



The Public Realm belongs to everyone. It includes the streets, squares, parks, green spaces and other outdoor places that require no key to access and are available to everyone.

Public Realm



ZONE 1
Dining/
Storefront

ZONE 2
Strolling

ZONE 3
Street
Infrastructure

Curb/
Parking

- People prefer enclosed spaces
- The public realm is positive space defined by building edges
- Buildings define the limits of public space/realm
- Building form makes the public realm
- Street Enclosure: Define the outdoor room
- Activation – View the inside from the outside & vice versa

Achieve good design to help economic vitality and sustain property values.

Ensure that visual identity remains cohesive.

Facilitate connectivity with Kent State University.

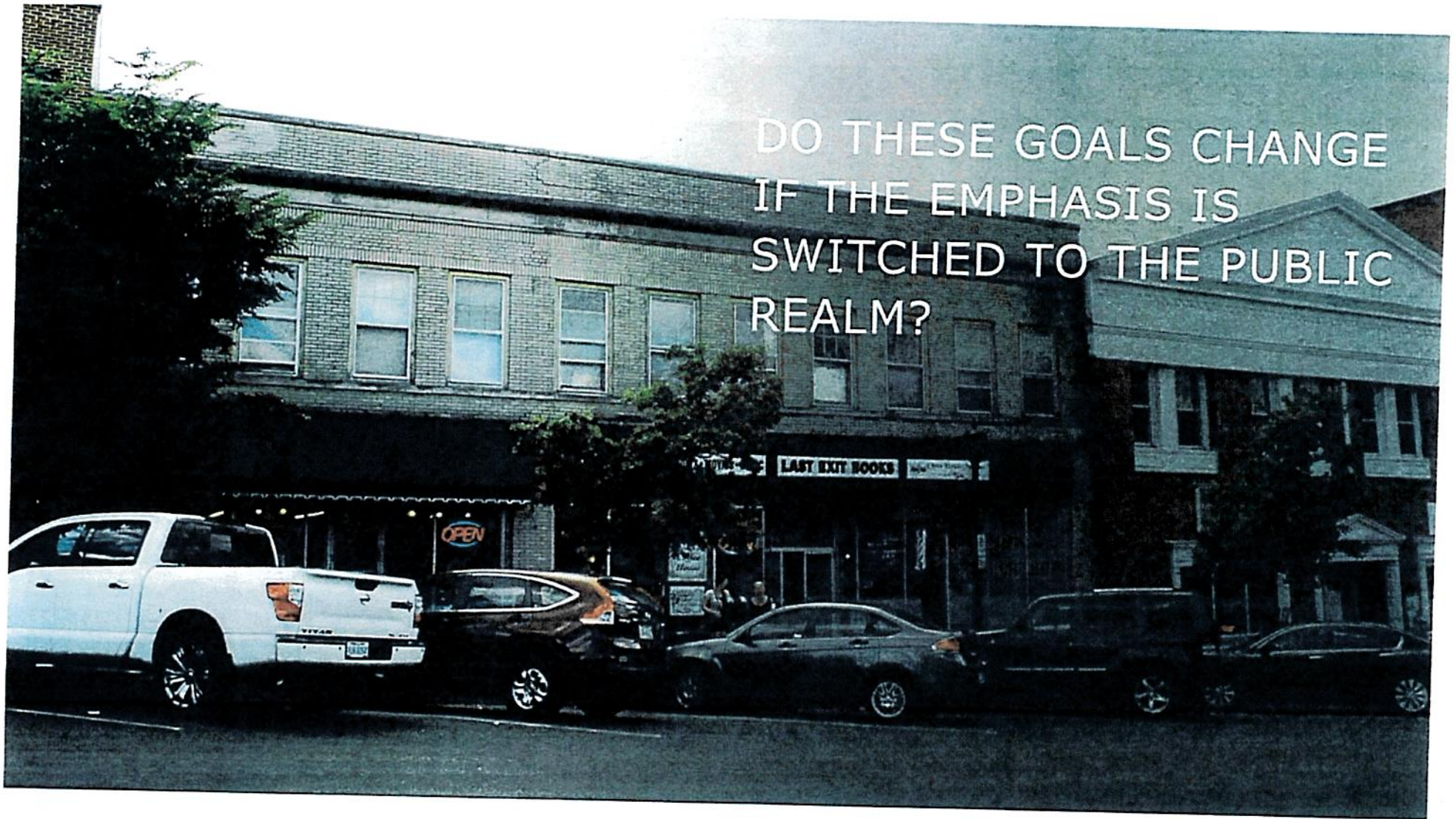
Assist developers with design guidance; educate the public about good design and incentives.

Make Kent a destination place for visitors.

Attempt to preserve significant structures, when possible and practical.

GOALS FOR EXISTING DESIGN GUIDELINES

1. The first step is to identify the problem.		Depends Unsure
2. The second step is to analyze the problem.		
3. The third step is to develop a solution.		
4. The fourth step is to implement the solution.		
5. The fifth step is to evaluate the results.		
6. The sixth step is to make adjustments.		
7. The seventh step is to monitor the progress.		Unsure Maybe



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Which Downtown Building says "This is Kent"?



East side of Water Street



West side of S. Water Street



West side of N. Water Street



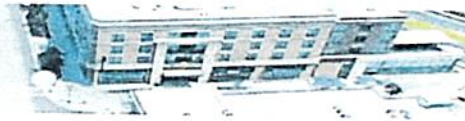
West side of Franklin Street between W. Main Street and W Erie Street



East side of Franklin Street between W. Main Street and W Erie Street



West side of S. Depeyster Street



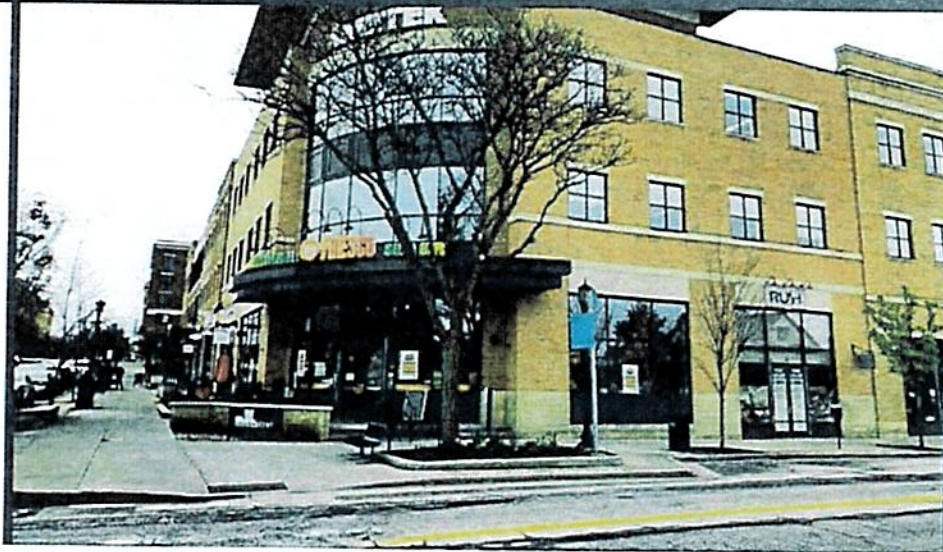
East side of S. Depeyster Street

Kent is a place where people want to live, work and visit.
 Kent is a place where people want to live, work and visit.

Achieve good design in Kent communities clearly and visibly improve places		Depends Unsure
Ensure Kent visual identity creates a sense of place		
Facilitate connectivity with Kent State University		
Assist developers with design guidance, educate the public about good design and incentives		
Make Kent a destination place for visitors		
Adopt or promote significant structures, when possible and practical		
Kent is a place where people want to live, work and visit		Unsure Maybe

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What are Design Guidelines/Standards?



Standards

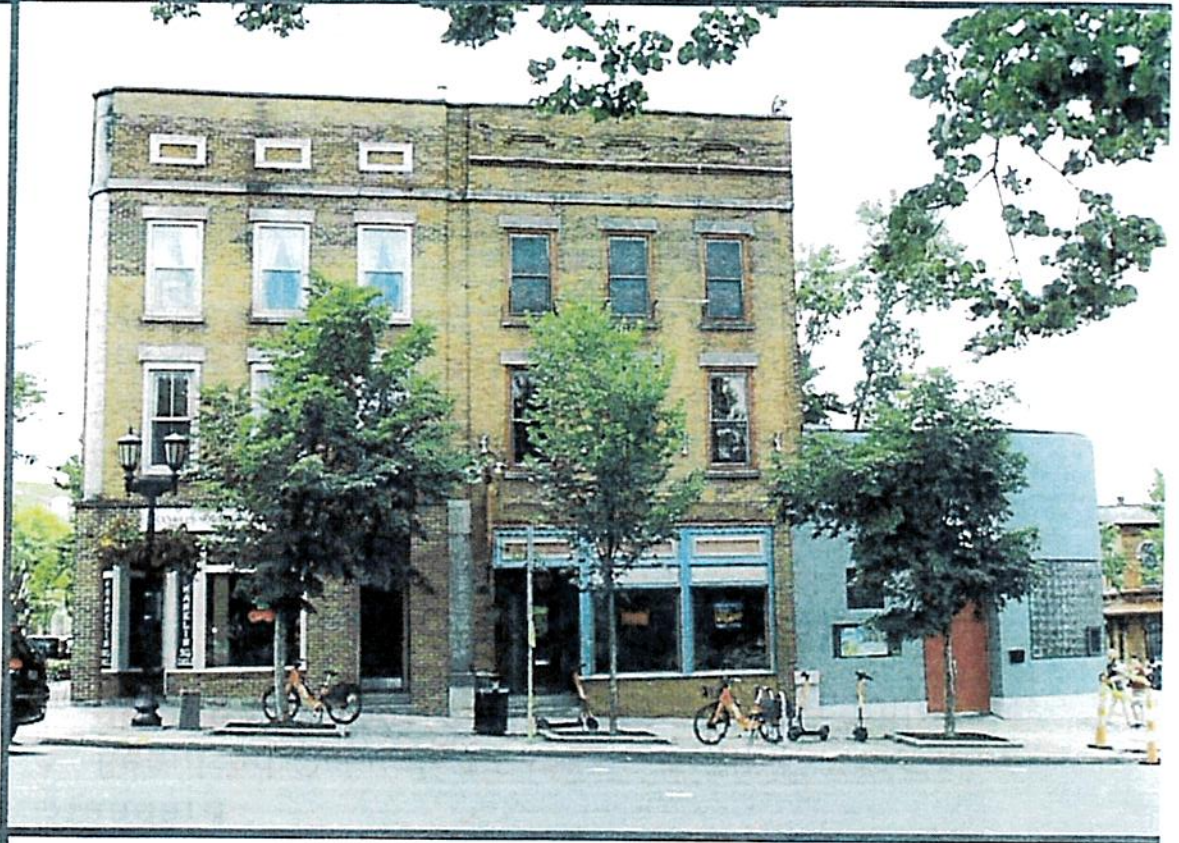
- Objective Criteria
- Mandatory

Guidelines

- Guide the Conversation
- Not Mandatory

Topics for Standards & Guidelines

- ☐ Building Placement
- ☐ Mass & Scale
- ☐ Pedestrian Oriented Design
 - Uses
 - Façade Articulation
 - Storefront Design
 - Awnings
- ☐ Building Materials
- ☐ Lighting
- ☐ Signs





Uses

Intent

- To activate the public realm through a variety of uses
- To encourage flexible street level designs that can accommodate a variety of uses over time
- To encourage street level design and uses that contribute to public safety

Standard

- Required Occupied Space – Minimum 30 feet deep on ground/first floor from the Building's façade

Guideline

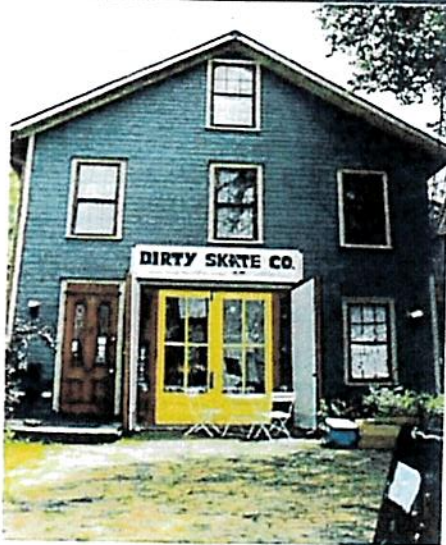
- On key streets, the street level should be developed with as much street-oriented commercial frontage as practicable.
- Designs that require shoppers to enter internal malls or lobbies before entering shops should be avoided.



Building Placement

Intent

- To promote active pedestrian-oriented streets
- To promote engagement between building uses & the Public Realm
- To encourage additional space for pedestrian activity and related amenities



Existing Zoning Standard - No setback from the front building line of a parcel is permitted except to allow for a pedestrian use area or for variations in entry features. Buildings must be built flush with the sidewalk and have their facades aligned with, and when possible, jointed to those of adjacent buildings.



Building Placement

Standards

- Minimum Primary Lot Line Coverage = 90%
- An Enhanced Commercial Setback shall be arranged to promote pedestrian activity and engagement of interior uses as follows:
 - Provide at least 5 feet but no more than 10 feet to extend the public realm between the sidewalk and building where significant pedestrian traffic or outdoor uses are anticipated, especially along key streets
 - Locate Enhanced Commercial Setback at grade with the adjacent sidewalk
 - Incorporate pedestrian-oriented design features, including public art, building entries, plazas, outdoor seating, landscaping, etc.

Guidelines

- Enhanced Commercial Setback areas should be located in areas where limited sidewalk width otherwise inhibits outdoor use areas.

Storefront Design - Transparency



Intent

- To provide a minimum level of transparency on all facades
- To ensure that building activities are visible from the Public Realm and vice versa
- To ensure that building facades do not cause glare or negative impacts to the Public Realm



Storefront Design - Transparency



Standards

- Storefronts shall contain transparent glazing that reveals the activities of the establishment.
- Commercial building façades fronting on public streets shall not be less than 70% clear glazing on the ground floor to reveal the activity of the building to pedestrians and to activate the street. All glazing shall have a minimum of sixty percent (60%) light transmittance factor at street level.
- No portion of the building façade shall have highly reflective glass (maximum reflectance factor of 0.25) and there shall be no reflective coatings on the first surface (i.e. exterior) of the glass.





Storefront Design - Transparency

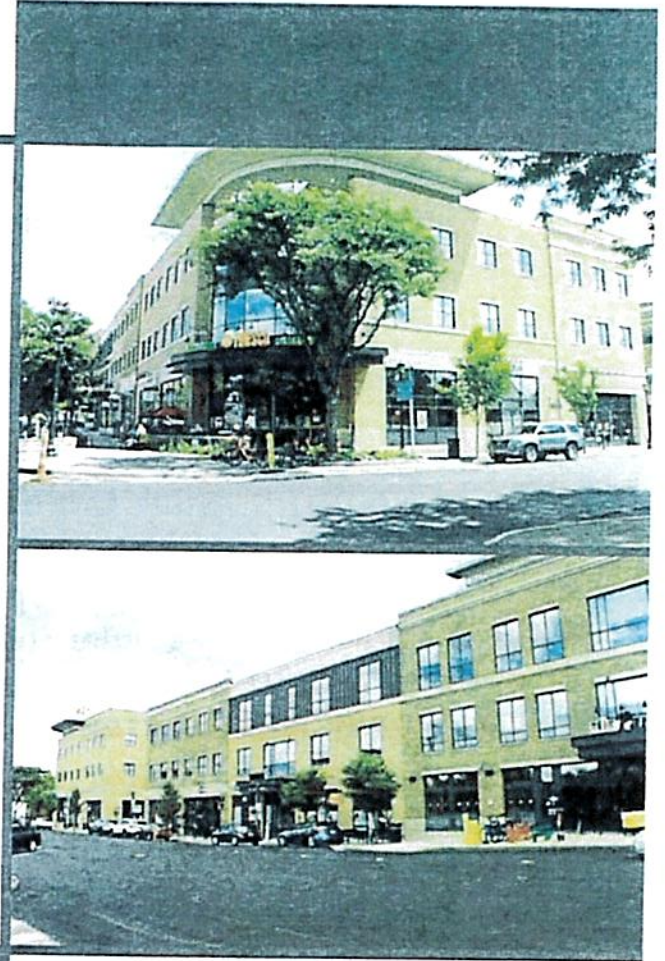
Guidelines

- Good visibility into retail spaces should be provided.
- A generous ground-floor-to-ceiling height should be provided to encourage an attractive retail space.
- Arcades are discouraged unless crafted as an integral part of the design of an entire block face.
- The location and patterns of glazing should enhance building function and scale.
- Recessed glazing, substantial glass framing and mullion patterns should be used to provide depth and visual character to building façades and should consider the play of sunlight across the façade.

Building Materials

Intent

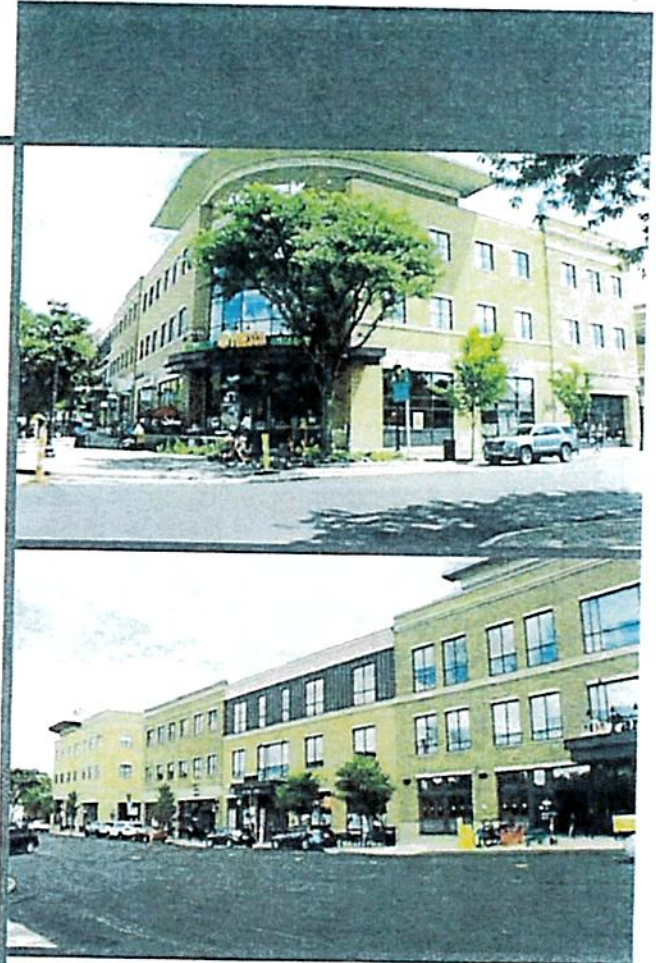
- To encourage use of well-detailed exterior materials with texture and depth that enhance the public realm
- To integrate changes in exterior building materials with the overall design and articulation of the building
- To promote use of a variety of high-quality durable exterior materials that enhance and reinforce the Overlay District's image
- To ensure the consistent use of quality materials appropriate to the pedestrian environment
- To encourage human-scaled buildings through the use of well-detailed and articulated materials, individually and in combination. This is to ensure that monolithic, monotonous walls are avoided.



Building Materials

Standards

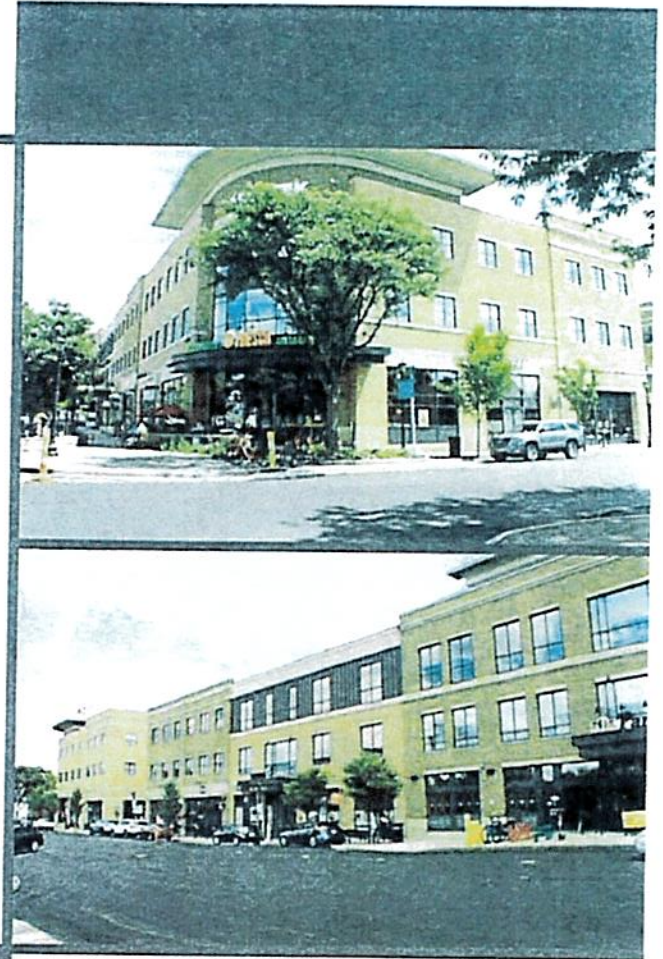
- Façades at street level that face the public right-of-way, private streets or open space shall be constructed of material that is durable and appropriate to pedestrian contact.
- Exterior building materials and finishes shall be detailed to articulate texture and depth.
- Architectural cast-in-place concrete shall incorporate textural detailing, color, and finish elements to ensure a high-quality final surface.
- Cementitious stucco, Exterior Insulating Finish Systems (EIFS), vinyl siding, and cinder blocks shall not be used on any visible facade. Mirrored glass shall not be used on the ground or first floor.



Building Materials

Guidelines

- All visible facades of a building should be treated equally in terms of materials, color, and design details.
- The use of highly reflective materials that generate glare and heat, especially at the street level, should be avoided.
- Synthetic materials should be used in ways that reflect their intrinsic characteristics and avoid application of imitation or false replication of natural materials.
- Changes in building materials should be coordinated with changes in building mass and articulation.
- Use materials that convey a sense of human scale; that is, meant to be experienced by the pedestrian, not the vehicular user.
- While excessive uniformity and monotony are discouraged, variations in materials and colors must be composed and balanced to create a unified whole.



FINAL COMMENTS



LEADING THROUGH
the next 100 years

Ghandi said, "It is health that is the real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver." As I experience life I agree more and more with his statement.

Good health is the foundation for us to be productive, active members for society. Yet, optimal health is elusive for many. Good health is not just a factor of the daily choices we make, many, even those with insurance do not always have access to the care they need, or afford the medical care choices a diagnosis presents. Please understand I am not saying all people should have the exact same level of health, but instead I am saying social determinants must not be what holds individual back from achieving their best health.

Medicare for all is a plan that addresses much of what is lacking in health care currently. Our Senators and Representatives need to know there is local support for healthier communities. Most defiantly it is important to contact our legislators and let them know our concerns one to one. But to amplify our goals for a healthy Kent, we need to join with other cities who have already passed similar resolutions on Medicare for all.

Having access to preventative care would lend itself to healthier workforce which would make for a stronger economy. If you are fortunate enough to have employer provided healthcare you know there are still parameters set in place by the plan. What is in network and what is not influences our health. Personally, in other jobs I had the "choice" of a healthcare plan that had an annual \$10,000 deductible. Myself and those of my family covered by that plan had the minimum of interaction with providers because even with the high cost of healthcare and procedures, it was not possible to meet the deductible. Every visit was out of pocket. Choice, under these conditions, was an illusion.

Before I turn the microphone over to Max who will share more details that will be helpful in your deliberations on the resolution I just want to mention I sent out a memo on holding a flu vaccine drive through clinic here at station one for employees and their family on October 19th from 1100-1300. We will have high dose as well as standard quadrivalent flu vaccine.

Resolution to Support Medicare For All

Presented by medical students & Kent residents:

- Max Brockwell
- Michael Massey

Coming Up: Part One

- Part One→ 1. Why it is Important for Cities, like Kent, to Pass this Resolution
- Part Two 2. The Vision & Benefits of Medicare For All
3. Pause for Q&A - Summarize & Outline Common Myths
- Part Three 4. Supplemental Slides: Addressing Counter-Arguments
5. Summary & a call to action!



Part One: Importance of a Grassroots Movement, with local resolutions

1. Large historical precedent for local organizing building towards large change
 - Most well-known changes in US law started with resolutions
 - Each local win builds a larger coalition; Closer to the end goal
2. Resolutions are more effective at shifting the narrative than individual advocacy; however, every avenue is being pursued
 - Resolutions across the country
 - Local Legislator Communication
 - Advocacy on the National Stage



1. Examples of Nat' Changes that Began w/ Local Resolutions

- The 17th Amendment - Direct Election of Senators
 - Was drafted and passed by congress, only after 25 states passed a resolution calling for this amendment
- The Nuclear Freeze Campaign - Grassroots campaign calling for the de-escalation of the Cold War
 - 1979: it started with public demonstrations and city resolutions.
 - 1982: A Freeze Resolution was passed in Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown, Columbus, and 24 other cities in Ohio before... **being passed right here in the City of Kent!**
 - 1982: Sens. Kennedy & Hatfield introduced a national resolution, which passed in the house.
 - By 1983: Freeze had been endorsed by 370 city councils, 71 county councils, and by one or more houses of 23 state legislatures.
 - 1984: it was supported by most of the Democrats and became part of their platform
 - 1988 & 1991: 2 treaties were signed between the US and Soviet Union to dismantle various nuclear weapons
- Both the Women's Suffrage Movement and the Civil Rights Movement involved grassroots campaigns in cities, within school districts, and state governments before gaining national momentum

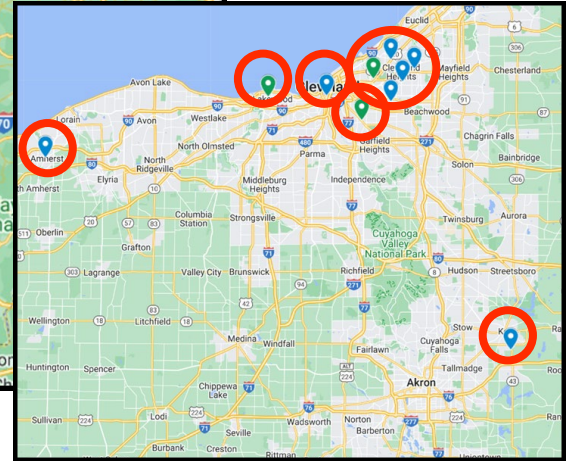
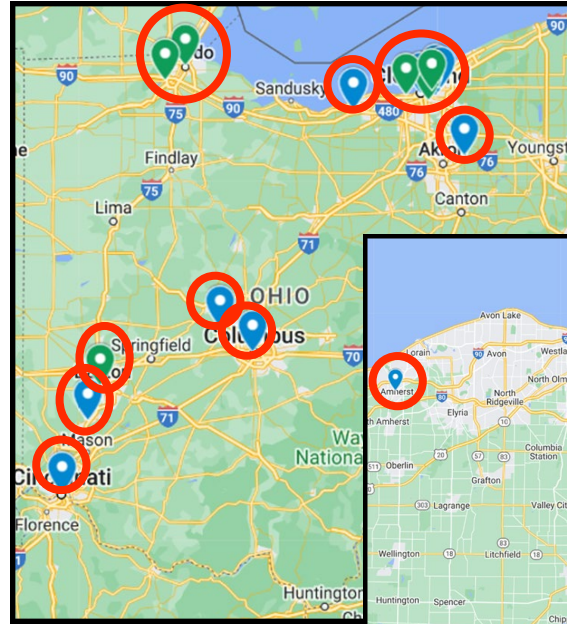
2. All Campaigns we are Launching to Pass Medicare For All

Passed Ohio Resolutions:

- Cleveland Heights
- Lakewood
- Newburgh Heights
- Toledo
- Dayton
- Lucas County

Resolutions Efforts Underway:

- **Kent**
- Cleveland
- East Cleveland
- South Euclid
- University Heights
- Shaker Heights
- Amherst
- Columbus
- Cincinnati
- Plain City
- Franklin County



2. All Campaigns we are Launching to Pass Medicare For All

Many Medical Societies and Organizations support Single Payer Healthcare

Passed Medical Society Resolutions

- Hawaii Medical Association
- New Hampshire Medical Society
- Vermont Medical Society
- Washington State Medical Association
- American Medical Student Association

Medical Society Resolutions Underway

- **Ohio State Medical Association**
- Pennsylvania Medical Society
- Indiana State Medical Association
- Michigan State Medical Society
- Illinois State Medical Society
- Wisconsin Medical Society
- Kentucky Medical Association
- ... AND MORE

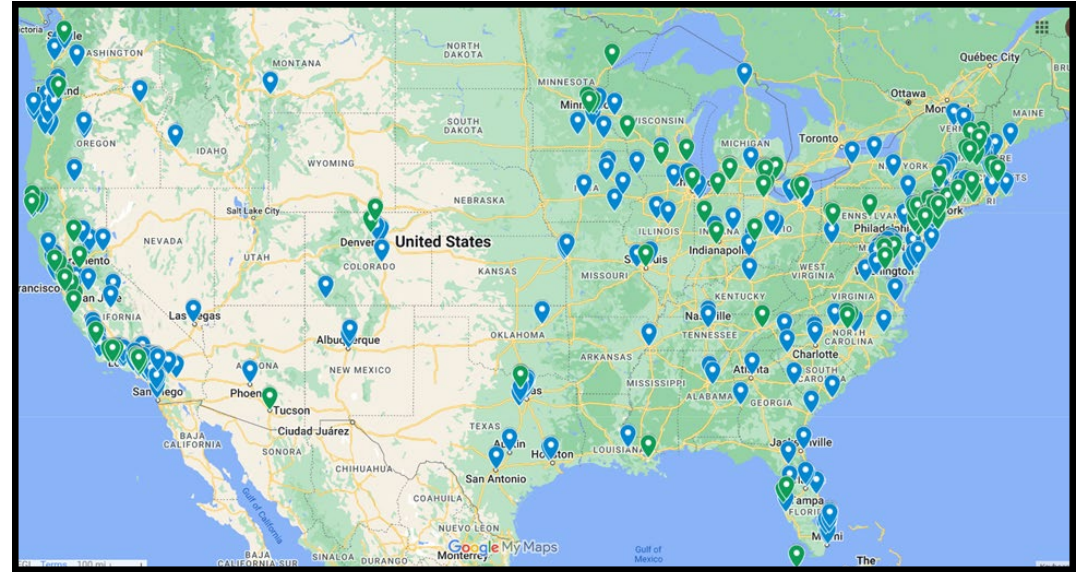


HEALTHCARE-NOW!



2. All Campaigns we are Launching to Pass Medicare For All

Truthfully, we could be here for hours discussing the details of national efforts of this movement



Coming Up: Part Two

- Part One
1. Why it is Important for Cities, like Kent, to Pass this Resolution
- Part Two→
2. The Vision & Benefits of Medicare For All
 3. Pause for Q&A - Summarize & Outline Common Myths
- Part Three
4. Supplemental Slides: Addressing Counter-Arguments
 5. Summary & a call to action!

1. What is actually in the new Med-For-All Bill? (Outline)

- TITLE I- Establishment of the Medicare For All Program; Universal Entitlement to Benefits; Enrollment
- TITLE II- Comprehensive Benefits, Including Benefits for Long-Term Care
- TITLE III- Provider Participation
- TITLE IV- Administration
- TITLE V- Quality of Care
- TITLE VI- National Health Budget; Provider Payments; Cost Containing Measures
- TITLE VII- Universal Medicare Trust Fund
- TITLE VIII- Conforming Amendments to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974
- TITLE IX- Additional Conforming Amendments
- TITLE X- Transition to Medicare for All
- TITLE XI- Miscellaneous



2. Comparing the Different Healthcare Proposals

Bernie Sanders' & Pramila Jayapal's bills are the only proposals that:

- ✓ Expands Medicare to cover all services
 - ❑ Others neglect vision/dental/mental/long-term care
 - ★ If these services are left uncovered, patient health suffers
- ✓ Eliminates all out-of-pocket expenses
 - ❑ Others keep some or all out-of-pocket expenses (premiums, etc.)
 - ★ Currently, Medicare only covers 80% of costs→ Still penalizes seeking care
- ✓ Is truly universal, everyone gets this expanded Medicare plan
 - ❑ Others keep private health insurance in place for much longer, or permanently
 - ★ Keeping a fractured payment system is one of the leading reasons for wasteful administrative spending in the US

3. Improved and Expanded Medicare for All

Comprehensive coverage

- Preventive services
- Hospital care
- Physician services
- Dental services
- Mental health services
- Medication expenses
- Reproductive health services
- Physical/Occupational Therapy
- Home Care/Nursing home care/Long term care

“All medically necessary services”

No co-pays or deductibles



3. Improved and Expanded Medicare for All

Economic Side

- Funded by progressive taxes based on ability to pay and modest taxes on Wall Street
 - (At least the lowest 80% of income earners save money)
- Provides immense administrative savings (estimated ~\$500 billion annually)
- Eliminates patient out of pocket expenses (co-pays, premiums, deductibles)
- Allows for more bargaining power for lower drug prices

4. Summary - The 2022 Medicare for All Act

- ✓ Implements universal, comprehensive healthcare coverage with a 4-year rollout plan
 - ✓ Automatically enrolls children and newborns into program
 - ✓ Creates a temporary Medicare-Buy-In and Public Option program
 - ✓ Improves Medicare for the 4-year transition period by:
 - ✓ Caps out-of-pocket expenses: \$1,500 Co-Insurance, \$305 Prescription, \$0 Deductibles
 - ✓ Improves access: Dental/Vision/Hearing Services & Enrolls people w/ disabilities
 - ✓ Provides 5 years of complete worker assistance to health insurance workers
- ✓ Drastically reduces out-of-pocket expenses for patients
 - ✓ Eliminates Co-Payments, Co-Insurance, Premiums, and Deductibles
 - ✓ \$200 cap for out-of-pocket payments on prescription drugs
- ✓ Covers all medically necessary procedures w/ an appeal process for experimental ones
- ✓ Allows the government to negotiate down drug and medical supply prices, which is not allowed under current Medicare law, and not possible for individual private health insurance company to do



Coming Up: Part Three

- Part One
1. Why it is Important for Cities, like Kent, to Pass this Resolution
- Part Two
2. The Vision & Benefits of Medicare For All
- Part Three→
3. Pause for Q&A - Summarize & Outline Common Myths
 4. Supplemental Slides: Addressing Counter-Arguments
 5. Summary & a call to action!

Open up for Q&A, We have more information on the following:

The common concerns of Medicare For All that we have slides to address are:

- Concerns that “Medicare For All would move us towards a socialist economy”
- Claims that “we cannot afford it”
- Addressing the line that “it increases taxes”, *while not addressing that people would pay less overall*
- Claims “it takes away freedom of choice in insurance by forcing everyone onto one plan”
- Claims that “hospitals would go bankrupt” or that “Doctors will get paid less and leave the US”
- False comparisons to other countries “worse” universal healthcare systems
- Readdressing why a universal plan is better than one that keeps the private health insurance in use

We also have slides that outline the Medicare For All bill at the very end, in case you want to learn more without reading the entire 134-page bill