



12650 DETROIT AVENUE 44107 216-529-6055
www.lakewoodoh.gov
Lakewood City Council
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Noticed 01/29/25

PUBLIC NOTICE – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Committee of the Whole will meet Monday February 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of Lakewood City Hall at 12650 Detroit Avenue. The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting will be livestreamed on the City's website at the following link:

www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos

PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL (Updated 6/21)

The public is invited to comment on agenda items in person or by submitting a written comment in advance of the meeting using the eComment platform available [HERE](#). New users must create an eComment account.

The agenda is as follows:

Approval of the minutes of the January 13, 2025 Committee of the Whole.

Communication from President Kepple & Mayor George regarding City Hall space assessment.
(referred to COW 12/16/24)

Sarah Kepple, Chair
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations for participation in meetings must request accommodations at least 3 business days ahead of the scheduled meeting. Contact Michelle Nochta at (216) 529-5906 michelle.nochta@lakewoodoh.net.



CITY OF LAKEWOOD
12650 DETROIT AVENUE 44107
www.lakewoodoh.gov

December 16, 2024

Lakewood City Council
Lakewood, Ohio

Re: City Hall Space Assessment

Dear Members of Council,

The City of Lakewood regularly works to evaluate and align its municipal offices, facilities, and real estate holdings to create efficiencies, address capacity needs, ensure high-quality resident services, and maintain our shared goal of strong fiscal stewardship.

A recent example of success in this effort was the unification of the Department of Human Services offices and public spaces at the Cove Community Center. The result was improved services to residents and operational efficiencies. It also allowed the City to sell the multiple buildings that previously served those purposes. Another example is the current work to shift our Lakewood Animal Shelter to sit jointly on the same site as our Berea Road Refuse and Recycling, which will allow the City to expand its water treatment and storm water capacity in the Rocky River Valley to eventually use the soon-to-be-vacated current animal shelter campus. In the same vein, last year the City completed a space assessment of the Lakewood City Hall campus (Administrative Offices, Lakewood Municipal Court, Lakewood Police Headquarters, and the nearby Annex building). After review, the City engaged Weber Murphy Fox Architects (“WMF”), who completed the assessment report attached to this letter.

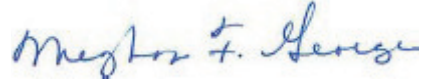
The WMF report reflects that the demands of our many users of this campus have now meaningfully outpaced our existing facilities. One of the most pressing challenges revealed in the report and through day-to-day experience is that there are currently insufficient and inequitable facilities for the increased number of female police officers serving our community. The needs of the police are only the first of many space issues and challenges faced by the multiple departments housed in Lakewood City Hall, and there are additional structural complexities around achieving ADA compliance, workplace efficiencies, and secure public access.

The most pressing and immediate challenge lies with the Police Department headquarters, where the space demands are significant and a solution on site in our current configurations would demand an expansion project with a current cost estimate in excess of \$10M. That is a significant number, especially given Lakewood’s other major capital demands presently putting pressure on our budget and financing capacity (e.g., sewers/IWWIP, etc.), and the City must explore its options in the face of such a number.

The consultants at WMF have provided some initial potential options to address our space challenges, which the Planning and Development Department is currently exploring. We are presenting this joint communication and respectfully ask that it be referred to committee for further review, analysis, and discussion of possible options and associated pricing.

While this situation poses a challenge to the City, we remain committed to developing a space plan that will allow the City of Lakewood to continue providing the high quality of service that its residents and constituents have come to expect and enjoy.

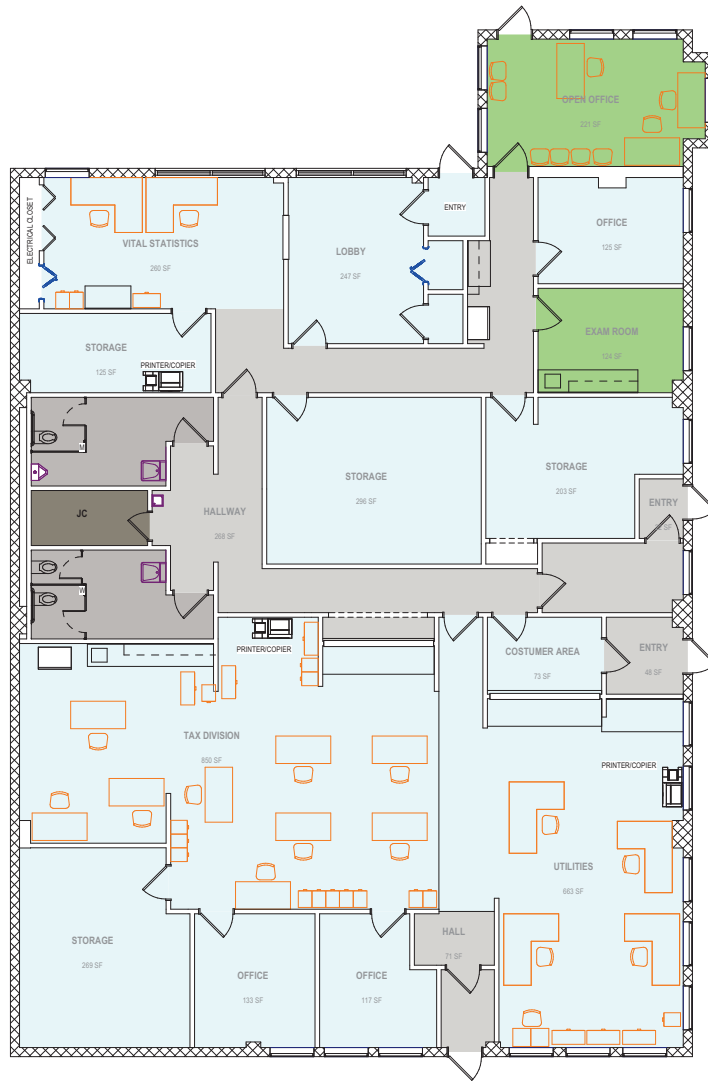
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Meghan F. George in blue ink.

Meghan F. George
Mayor
City of Lakewood

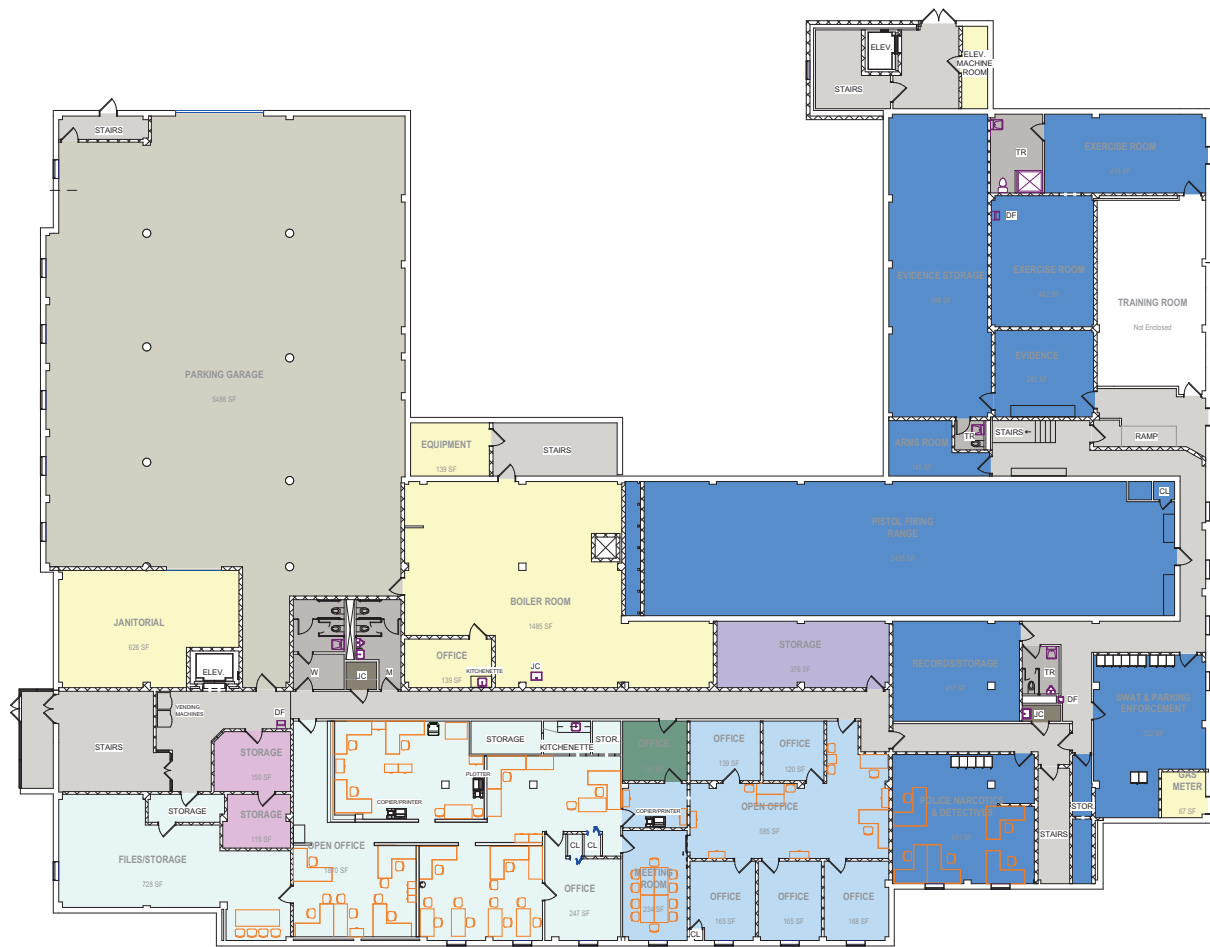
Handwritten signature of Sarah Kepple in blue ink.

Sarah Kepple
President of Council
Councilmember At Large



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 - TOILET ROOM
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 - HUMAN RESOURCES
 - INFORMATION SYSTEMS
 - LAW DEPARTMENT
 - PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
 - POLICE DEPARTMENT
 - LOBBIES & CIRCULATION
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