



12650 DETROIT AVENUE 44107 216-529-6055

[www.lakewoodoh.gov](http://www.lakewoodoh.gov)

Lakewood City Council

SARAH KEPPLER, PRESIDENT  
KYLE BAKER, VICE PRESIDENT

**Council at Large**

THOMAS R. BULLOCK III  
SARAH KEPPLER  
ANGELINA H. STEINER

**Ward Council**

KYLE BAKER, WARD 1  
BRYAN EVANS, WARD 2  
CINDY STREBIG, WARD 3  
CINDY MARX, WARD 4

Noticed 04/22/25

## **PUBLIC NOTICE – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Committee of the Whole will meet Monday April 28 at 6:00 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:

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[www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos](http://www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos)

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL (Updated 4/2025)**

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

### ***The agenda is as follows:***

Approval of the minutes of the March 24, 2025 Committee of the Whole.

Communication from President Kepple regarding partnership with Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. (*referred to COW 4/21/25*)

Sarah Kepple, Chair

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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*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](mailto:michelle.nochta@lakewoodoh.net).*



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CINDY MARX, WARD 4

April 21, 2025

Lakewood City Council  
Lakewood, Ohio

**Re: City of Lakewood Partnership with Legal Aid**

Dear Members of Council,

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, also known as Legal Aid, has long partnered with the City of Lakewood to assist residents with a variety of concerns. In 2024, Legal Aid was able to substantially increase its presence in the community through the help of grant dollars, including American Rescue Plan Act Funds awarded by the City. Attached you will find additional details regarding the recent impact of Legal Aid in the City of Lakewood.

Building on this success, Legal Aid is poised to continue its strong presence in Lakewood in 2025 with additional outreach and education that could potentially interact synergistically with councilmembers' outreach goals for their wards. As a starting point for collaboration, I have invited Legal Aid to deliver a presentation at our April 28<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole Meeting that covers the basic services provided by Legal Aid and the work that they do to assist low-income residents who face legal issues that threaten their homes, health, safety, and livelihoods.

Move to refer this communication to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kepple

President of Council

Councilmember At Large



*The*  
**Legal Aid Society**  
*of Cleveland*  
*Since 1905*

April 11, 2025

Council President Sarah Kepple  
Sarah.Kepple@lakewoodoh.net

Council President Kepple:

Thank you for your partnership and invitation to come present our Legal Aid 101 program at the Lakewood City Council meeting on April 28, 2025.

Legal Aid appreciates our partnership with the City of Lakewood and other agencies in Lakewood that help residents connect to Legal Aid's services. Legal Aid is proud to provide high-quality representation and advice to Lakewood residents with low-income who face legal issues that threaten their home, health, safety, and livelihood. We are pleased to share the impact that Legal Aid had on the Lakewood community in 2024.

**Legal Representation and Advice:**

Over the past year, we assisted Lakewood residents in 195 unique legal cases involving evictions, poor housing conditions in rental homes, foreclosure, employment barriers, public benefit denials, and domestic violence. Through those 195 cases, Legal Aid helped 384 individuals in Lakewood. Legal Aid helped clients successfully achieve their goals in 90% of all cases.

Here are some of the successful outcomes for Lakewood residents in 2024:

- Remedied defective conditions in 100% of relevant cases.
- Secured safety in 100% of relevant cases.
- Improved legal immigration status in 100% of relevant cases.
- Reduced debt in 80% of relevant cases
- Prevented eviction or involuntary move in 69% of relevant cases.
- Reduced debt, increased income, and increased assets by \$212,562.67.

**Community Engagement, Education and Partnerships:**

Beyond legal representation, Legal Aid also provides people with information, resources, and support to solve issues on their own or seek additional legal assistance. In 2024, we partnered with Lakewood Area Collaborative, Cove Community Center,

**New Clients Call:**  
888.817.3777 (toll free)  
or  
216.687.1900

**General Business:**  
888.808.2800 (toll free)  
or  
216.861.5500

**Cleveland  
& Administrative Office**  
1223 West Sixth Street  
Cleveland, OH 44113

General Business: 216.861.5500  
Fax: 216.586.3220


**Elyria Office**  
1530 West River Road North  
Suite 301  
Elyria, OH 44035

General Business: 440.324.1121  
Fax: 440.324.1179


**Jefferson Office**  
121 East Walnut Street  
Jefferson, OH 44047

General Business: 440.576.8120  
Fax: 440.576.3021

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Lakewood Public Library, and Lakewood Alive to host community presentations that help to empower people. In 2024, we created a “Legal Aid in Lakewood” educational series and hosted 10 community presentations reaching 472 residents. These presentations in the community increase awareness of our services and allow us to stay connected to local needs.

**Advocacy:**

Legal Aid continues eviction prevention work in Lakewood with support from Lakewood’s Mayors office, Lakewood Municipal Court, Lakewood City Council, and other public officials.

We look forward to continuing this relationship with our Lakewood partners to continue serving Lakewood residents with low income.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,

Kimberly Barnett-Mills

Managing Attorney for Community Engagement