

**County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

**Ordinance No. O2026-0001**

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| Sponsored by: <b>County Executive Ronayne/Fiscal Officer</b> | <b>An Ordinance</b> amending Chapter 703 of the Cuyahoga County Code, entitled Justice Center Capital Projects Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective. |
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**WHEREAS**, Chapter 703 of the County Code, entitled Justice Center Capital Projects Fund, was established by Ordinance O2024-0004, enacted by the Council September 10, 2024 and became effective October 12, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council now desires to amend Chapter 703 of the County Code; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by the County can continue and to provide for the efficient and effective operation of the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:**

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 703, Sections 703.01, 703.02, and 703.03, of the Cuyahoga County Code are hereby amended to read as follows (inserted text is bold; deleted text is stricken):

**Chapter 703: Justice Center Capital Projects Fund**

**Section 703.01: Fund Established**

Pursuant to the home rule power of local self-government vested in Cuyahoga County by the Charter and the Ohio Constitution, the Fiscal Officer is hereby directed to establish a separate fund in the General Fund designated the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund, for collecting and expending funds for the purposes set forth herein. **The Justice Center Capital Projects Fund shall not be subject to any requirement to maintain a minimum account balance.**

**Section 703.02: Use of Justice Center Capital Projects Fund**

Funds in the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund shall be used solely for:

- A. ~~costs of capital projects~~**expenses** for a County corrections center or courthouse, **including related debt service and financing costs,** which shall include the cost of acquiring, including acquiring land and interests in land, constructing, reconstructing, rehabilitating, remodeling, renovating, enlarging, improving, furnishing, and equipping facilities at a cost of \$100,000 or greater and an estimated useful life of five years or more, provided however that funds shall not be used for routine maintenance.;
- B. **maintenance and operating expenses for a County corrections center or courthouse;**
- C. **expenses otherwise directly related to public safety and justice services; or**
- D. **any lawful purpose as determined in the discretion of and as directed by this Council.**

**Section 703.03: Source of Justice Center Capital Projects Funds**

Beginning December 1, 2027, the Fiscal Officer shall deposit monies from the General Fund and other legally available sources into the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund no less frequently than biannually, in an amount equal to 100% of the amount collected annually under Section 727.01(B) and Section 727.02(B) of the County Code **(the “Sales Tax Extension Amount”)**, less:

- A. **the amount required to be paid from the Sales Tax Extension Amount under the Trust Indenture between the County and Argent Institutional Trust Company, as successor to The Huntington National Bank, dated December 1, 2014, as the same may be amended or supplemented; and** ~~net of debt service, financing costs, and any refinancing premium directly relating to any obligations for capital projects as described in Section 703.02, above (i.e., for either the County corrections center, or courthouse, or both, with such obligations aggregating at least \$100,000 for said capital project or projects), and~~
- B. ~~expenses associated with administering collection of any such sources. Additionally, the entire remaining balance of the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund previously established pursuant to ORC Section 5705.13(C) shall be transferred to the General Fund and further to the new Justice Center Capital Projects Fund within the General Fund after the rescission of the previously established fund, which is to occur upon the effective date of this Section.~~

**Section 703.04: Reporting of the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund**

The Fiscal Officer shall report quarterly to Council the revenues, expenditures, and balance of the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund. The quarterly reports shall be sent to the Clerk of Council.

**Section 703.05: Termination of Justice Center Capital Projects Fund**

The Justice Center Capital Projects Fund shall terminate if Chapter 703 is repealed by County Council. Any funds remaining in the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund upon its termination shall be returned to unrestricted sales and use tax uses within the General Fund.

**SECTION 2.** It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Ordinance receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

**SECTION 3.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of the 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.

On a motion by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing Ordinance was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Council President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee:  
Committee(s) Assigned:

Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_